

Approved

**MWWCA Executive Board Meeting
Friday, October 18, 2013
Maine Municipal Association
Augusta, Maine**

MINUTES

Attendance: Travis Peaslee, Aubrey Strause, Al Jellison, Jeff McBurnie, Matt Timberlake, Mary Waring, Alex Buechner, Mac Richardson, June Mooney, Mike Hanson, David Anderson, André Brousseau, Tom Wiley, Brian Kavanah, Dan Welch, Chuck Applebee, Scott Firmin, John Leslie, Mike Stein and Melissa Carver.

Absent: Matt Bodwell, Steve Lane, Paula Drouin, Chris Higgins, Peter Goodwin, Tom Connolly

Guests: Nate Nichols, Keith Morin

Call to Order: President Travis Peaslee called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Al Jellison, all approved the minutes of July 19, 2013 with changes.

Treasurer's Report: Al Jellison reported on the June, July & August 2013 financial reports, indicating that everything was in order and updated in the financial reports after making a minor change to the August Travel/Expense account. There was a brief question and answer period. Motion made by Mac Richardson, seconded by Jeff McBurnie, all approved the June, July & August 2013 financial reports with changes to the August financials as discussed.

DEP Representative: Brian Kavanah emailed the following report:

DEP Update for MWWCA Meeting 10/18/13

Submitted by:

Brian Kavanah, Director-Division of Water Quality Management (DWQM)

brian.w.kavanah@maine.gov 287-7700

Comments from EPA on MEPDES Permits Regarding CSO Related Bypasses

As reported in the July meeting minutes, DEP received comments from EPA on a draft permit that has a CSO related bypass. While these comments were received in regards to the renewal of a single facility, they may have implications for 15 other facilities that have similar types of discharges.

The DEP has discussed this issue extensively with EPA and drafted a letter to EPA that summarizes our understanding of the issues. EPA has recently provided comments on that letter in early July and based on a subsequent discussion with DEP, EPA is revising their comments on the letter. EPA's final comments have not yet been received.

Once we have EPA's final review of the letter, DEP will provide the 16 facilities and MWWCA a copy of the draft letter that will serve as a basis for a meeting between DEP, EPA, MWWCA and the 16 facilities. This meeting has not yet been scheduled.

DEP Representative: Brian Kavanah emailed the following report:

Comments from EPA on MEPDES Permits Regarding 85% Removal Requirement

DEP has also received comments from EPA on a draft permit regarding the requirement for POTWs to provide 85% removal of BOD and TSS. While these comments were received in regards to the renewal of a single facility, they have implications for all other POTW's. Since the state received NPDES authorization in 2001, Maine's permits have contained a waiver from the 85% removal requirement when influent concentrations of these parameters are less than 200 mg/L. EPA has noted that this waiver is not fully consistent with federal requirements. For POTW's with combined sewers, the waiver provision will remain. For POTW's with separated sewers, the 85% removal requirement may be modified if the POTW can demonstrate that inflow and infiltration are not excessive as per national guidelines. DEP recently sent a letter to all POTW's informing them of this change. This change will not take effect until a permits is renewed.

Toxics Rulemaking – Inorganic Arsenic Criteria

Permit modifications have been finalized for all dischargers with an arsenic limit. The permit modifications were based on the revised Chapter 584 and Public Law 2011, Chapter 194, that revised the inorganic arsenic criteria.

On May 16, 2013, EPA issued a letter to DEP approving the revision to the inorganic arsenic criteria. However, EPA stated in the letter that the approval does not extend to waters that are within Indian territories and that EPA was seeking public input on the applicability of the revised arsenic criteria to waters within Indian territories before completing its review. DEP submitted comments to EPA that DEP regards these standards to be in effect throughout the state.

EPA is currently reviewing all of the comments they received on this issue.

Reasonable Potential Analysis for Water Quality Based Phosphorus Limits

DEP has recently received comments from EPA on a draft permit regarding the requirement to evaluate the need for water quality based phosphorus limits through a reasonable potential analysis. Since receiving these comments, the DEP has been engaged in discussion with EPA on the most appropriate process for this analysis in order to ensure that any potential limits are derived in a manner that is legally defensible, appropriately protective of water quality and ensures that limited infrastructure funds are spent to correct real problems.

NEWEA State Director: Peter Goodwin emailed the following:

NEWEA -Maine State Director Report
Peter Goodwin
October 2013

The following is a summary of activities since our last meeting.

- We had a successful operator exchange with Phil Ryan from the Haverhill, MA Wastewater Division. Thanks to the staff at Kittery, Saco, PWD, and LAWPCA for providing educational tours of their facilities. Phil indicated that the Maine exchange was one of the most comprehensive he has had as this was his 3rd exchange.
- I attended the Fall NEWEA Executive Committee Meeting in Marlborough, MA. Key discussions included :
 - The “Water’s Worth It” campaign initiative with NACWA, AMWA, NEWWA, APWA, and the Ad Council has been cancelled. The parties could not come to an agreement on the campaign focus with one side pushing for “Water Conservation” while the other wanted to focus on the “value of water”. It was an amicable separation with both sides looking to move forward and leave the door open for future discussions.
 - Elizabeth Cutone, the NEWEA Executive Director, announced that she will be retiring in June 2014 to be a stay at home mom for her 5 year old. Elizabeth has been ED for over 20 years and will be missed.
 - Upcoming NEWEA Meetings
 - Integrated Wet Weather Specialty Conference 10/23-24/2013 in Providence
 - NEBBRA 10/29-30/2013 Concord NH
 - Nutrients Removal November 8, 2013 in Cromwell CT
 - NEWEA/WEF Washington Congressional Breakfast is currently planned for March 18-20, 2014. We need to identify a municipal official to join us.
 - The nominations for NEWEA awards (Peloquin and Operator of the Year) were accepted. Additionally, MWWCA and MWUA were nominated for the NEWEA Public Education Award for the PPH Flyer. Fantastic work Matt and others from MWWCA and MWUA.
- Working with Aubrey, I shared the “Good, Bad, and Ugly” display information with Ray Gordon the NHWPCA DES liason. NHWPCA and NHDES were appreciative and have developed a similar display that is being used at the NHDES offices and will travel to trade shows. NHDES is also reaching out as a partner to other professional associations like the pediatricians and nursing home providers to get the word out.
- I attended WEFTEC in Chicago. Aubrey and Scott were able to participate in several sessions on Non-Dispersibles. The Force Maine Team competed well and came in First Place on the Process Control Event. There were somewhere in the vicinity of 33 teams competing in Division 2.
- I need some input for an upcoming NEWEA Journal Article on any ongoing initiatives. Please forward along updates from committee activity

It continues to be an exciting time representing MWWCA as your State Director.

Respectfully,

Peter Goodwin

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Old Business:

2013 Strategic Planning Session Review

Conduct a session at the fall convention with members: Travis Peaslee reported they did attempt to have an informal session but was not well attended.

Build on previous affiliation activities: Tom Connolly was absent.

Develop accurate Vendor email list: André Brousseau reported the vendor list is up-to-date.

Sponsorship Opportunities levels: André Brousseau reported that this is on-going.

Website Member Services: Aubrey Strause reported she is looking for a volunteer to write a description for a website master/designer for a shopping cart piece, on the MWWCA website, that will allow members to register/pay for workshops and then that information needs to be able to get to the MMA website. Nate Nichols, guest from Premier Pump & Supply volunteered to assist. Aubrey Strause will provide the details needed and Nate Nichols will work with Mac Richardson on this project.

New Business:

Government Affairs Committee Representative: David Anderson emailed the following **Legislative Update:**

John Melrose has provided us with an update on the next Legislative session. He has reviewed the list of bills submitted by Legislators and State agencies before closure on September 27th. At this point it is only a list of titles so we have no specifics. Also, bills filed by Legislators must be approved by the Legislative Council before they can be introduced.

Some titles of interest are:

- LR 2669 “Sharing of Liquor License Revenue” by Sen. Alford. We have to guard our SRF match funds.
- LR 2627 “An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund” by Sen. Cleveland. There are also bond issue LD’s carried over from the last session.
- LR 2437 “Standard Water District Enabling Act” by Rep. Dunphy.
- A Dig Safe bill by the PUC. There is also a Dig Safe bill carried over from the last session.

The full lists are at

<http://www.maine.gov/legis/lis/126publications/126R2RequestsBySponsor.pdf>

and

<http://www.maine.gov/legis/lis/126publications/126R2agencybillsbydepartment.pdf>

Submitted by,

David Anderson

Update on Non-Perishables: Aubrey Strause emailed the following report:

MWWCA Executive Committee Meeting

October 18, 2013

Aubrey Strause, PE (Verdant Water)

- Scott Firmin and Aubrey Strause represented Maine in a well-attended “Wipe Out” presentation and Panel Discussion at **WEFTEC 2013** in Chicago, IL in October. WEF blocked out four hours in the WEFTEC schedule for this session because of the rapidly-growing interest on the issue. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), pump equipment vendors, and representatives from the wipes manufacturers also participated. Scott was one of the presenters interviewed by CBS news prior to the session. We hope that we can make the full presentation available to interested parties, but are awaiting confirmation from WEF before we distribute.
- Nearly 90 unique **articles on non-dispersibles** have been published in papers and websites around the country since mid-June. All of these are compiled on the MWWCA website: http://www.mwwca.org/?page_id=777. Aubrey also developed a Google Earth layer showing US Towns that have had to do education and outreach on this topic. The layer is called “Outreach on Wipes in Sewers”. It’s probably not completely comprehensive, but is still effective at showing the impact.
- Please be cautious when talking about the issue to **not paint all wipes with the same brush**. The water quality groups and INDA all agree that paper towels, baby wipes, and cleaning wipes shouldn’t be flushed. Where we disagree is on the topic of “flushable” wipes. Only two products on the market that are labeled as “flushable” really break down like toilet paper, per water quality group testing. INDA says all wipes that have gone through the 3rd Edition of its testing guidelines should be considered to be truly flushable; the water quality groups don’t believe the testing is accurate and say many of these products should not be flushed. Until we resolve this, the water quality groups are saying “don’t flush any wipe”, but it’s important to acknowledge the distinction.
- The MWWCA Non-Dispersibles Working Group participated in the kickoff meeting for the **MWWCA/INDA “Don’t Flush Baby Wipes” 2013 Pilot Education Campaign** on September 5, 2013. Michelle Clements (PWD), Tom Connolly (Yarmouth), Jen McDonnell (Casella), and Aubrey Strause (Verdant Water) represented the group. INDA’s Director of Marketing and representatives from manufacturers Kimberly-Clark, Procter & Gamble, Suominen, Rockline, Nice-Pak, and Nehemiah also attended, in-person. The current estimated cost of the Public Education Campaign Pilot is \$113,000. A formal proposal from Burgess Advertising and Marketing revised the original proposal and estimate to include purchase of television spots in the target market, as was discussed by the group at its kickoff meeting. INDA and several of its member companies have agreed to fund most of the cost of the Pilot. However, it was MWWCA’s goal to contribute \$15,000 to the Pilot in order to have and maintain a strong voice and role. MWWCA therefore reached out to partners around the state and the country, seeking donations to the Pilot, and met the goal as of October 16. Additional donations will still be accepted. Checks have been arriving at MMA. Aubrey is writing thank-you letters to each donor from MWWCA. (Samples in the Correspondence Folder). Materials generated during the Pilot will be made available to our partners and other wastewater utilities to use. An information sheet on the Pilot, a “do it yourself” invoice, and other information are summarized on the MWWCA website: <http://www.mwwca.org/?p=1393>
- Scott Firmin met with some members after the kickoff to design the sampling protocol for the Cottage Place Pump Station **forensic tests**. The first sort date was October 17, 2013. We are seeking additional

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volunteers to help with the sampling effort, which is part of the Pilot Project. Commitment is approximately three hours, once a week. Assistance for even one event is appreciated. Contact Aubrey for more information.

- NACWA and WEF are developing a **Technical Panel**, to be funded through WERF, to work with the manufacturers to revise the flushability testing process and develop a definition of flushable both sides agree with. More on this as it develops.
- Scott Firmin coordinated an article for publication in the **NEWEA Journal**. This feature summarizes the ND issue in an effort to raise regional awareness, and hopefully increased engagement, through the NEWEA CSC Flushable Subcommittee that he chairs. It will introduce and summarize the NEWEA position paper, update NEWEA members on the efforts to work on the issue (including the Maine pilot education campaign), national efforts (led by NACWA) as well as those listed in other bullets below, and announce a survey NEWEA will host (similar to the one Maine did a few years ago). The survey is in development.
- MWWCA has been invited to participate in updating an article on the topic for **Public Works Magazine**. Editor Stephanie Johnston attended the WEFTEC session.
- Scott has been receiving completed **Pump Clog SOP** forms from around the country (!), but we always need more! Go to <http://www.mwwca.org/PumpClogSOP.pdf> to download a blank form.

We are always looking for people willing to help with legwork and outreach on this issue. Please contact me (aubrey@verdantwater.com) or Scott (sfirmin@pwd.org) if you'd like to get involved.

Motion made by Mac Richardson, seconded by Jeff McBurnie, all approved to give approval to have the President and/or Vice President to sign the memorandum of understanding of the INDA.

Laboratory Committee: June Mooney emailed the following **COMMITTEE REPORT**:

The Laboratory Committee has a new member, Rick Gaeth from Gardiner WWTP.

At the Fall Conference at Sugarloaf, the David Anderson Award for Laboratory Excellence, was awarded to Peter Sherwood from Kennebec Sanitary District, and since he was not in attendance at the conference we will present it to him at a later date.

Submitted by June Mooney, Chairperson.

Membership: Chris Higgins was absent. Al Jellison reported MWWCA has a total of 600 members to date.

Pretreatment Committee: Tom Wiley emailed the following COMMITTEE REPORT:

Pretreatment Excellence Award- The committee was pleased to present the 2013 Pretreatment Excellence Award to Savage Safe Handling of Auburn, Maine. They are a transportation equipment cleaning facility. They handle bulk chemicals and transfer them to smaller containers for industrial uses. The facility receives bulk chemicals by truck or rail cars for dispersal to Maine facilities. It is the cleaning of the large vessels which require this facility to be a categorical industry as defined by USEPA. Throughout the process they maintain many environmental features to eliminate the release of vapors or chemicals to the environment. The award presentation was made in September at the annual conference.

Upcoming Tri State Pretreatment Conference- Many of our committee members will be gathering in Chelmsford, MA in a few weeks for the 15th Annual EPA Pretreatment Conference. This is a regional program sponsored by EPA for the purposes of bringing the different facilities together for training and education. Among the sessions will be:

- Federal and State Pretreatment Program Updates
- Fracking Technology and Treatment
- Color Removal
- Electronic Reporting
- Trucked in Waste
- Asset Management
- Drug Take Back Programs

NEWEA Industrial Wastewater Webinar- A series will kick off on November 13th with subsequent classes on December 11th and January 9th. The sessions include challenges of pH control in the pulp and paper industry; coagulation and flocculation; whole effluent toxicity and toxic inventory reductions; and implementation of federal pretreatment standards. For more information, visit the NEWEA website.

Next MWWCA Pretreatment Committee Meeting- Thursday December 5th at National Semiconductor. This will be our second facility tour for this year.

Personnel Advancement Committee: Mike Stein reported he reviewed the MWWCA Fall Convention evaluations and reported an overall good.

The MWWCA/MWUA Joint Conference will be taking place February 4th - 5th and MWWCA will be sponsoring four sessions.

The Spring Conference will be taking place at the Black Bear Inn in Orono.

Convention Committee: Andre Brousseau emailed the following **COMMITTEE REPORT:**

October 2013 Prepared by: Andre' Brousseau

1. Critique of Fall Convention:
Attendance: 227 in attendance at the Fall Convention
Vendors: 57
Evaluations: Composite was completed and emailed out to the Executive Committee to review.
Invoices have been mailed for Vendors, Golf, and Attendees.
Howard Carter, Chair of the Golf submitted a report for expenses & revenues. The total golf revenue is \$4,565.84.
2. MWUA & MWWCA Joint Conference: Holiday Inn by the Bay
February 4, 2014
3. Ski Day: Saddleback, Rangeley
March, 2014
4. 2014 Spring Conference: Black Bear Inn Conference Center & Suites, Orono, Maine
April 18, 2014. Strategic Planning Session will be April 17th.
5. 2014 Fall Convention: Sunday River Resort, Newry, Maine
September 17-19, 2014

Public Relation Committee: Matt Timberlake email the following COMMITTEE REPORT:

1. Draft 2013 Clean Water Week Poster Contest Rules. Have had multiple requests for information and I would like to aggressively market this to schools and get statewide involvement. Past participation has been in pockets and not consistent. Will consider adding a “celebrity” name to assist in marketing and have a few ideas.
 - 1) Have winners by age group to promote participation of all ages grades K-12
 - 2) Accept all entries from schools
 - 3) “Digital” contest?
2. What is PR Committee role in name change to MeWEA? Is there an implementation plan and how will it be implemented.
3. Assist in getting bios and testimonials at the MWWCA website, this should help get our message about careers out.
4. MWWCA video update.
5. Proposed changes to the Public Relations Committee structure have been forwarded to the Executive Committee for action. Have not received feedback but would like to consider a discussion in greater detail regarding future mission and working together with Executive Committee and other associations PR campaigns.
 - 1) WEF
 - 2) MWUA
 - 3) Others?

Budget – Did we send out prizes to Clean Water Week Winners?

Matt Timberlake matt@tedberrycompany.com 207-897-3348 office 207-754-4282 cell

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Communications Committee: Aubrey Strause emailed the following **COMMITTEE REPORT:**

MWWCA Executive Committee Meeting

October 18, 2013

(Submitted by Aubrey Strause)

Newsletter

The August 2013 newsletter is out. We had many contributors- thanks very much!

The next issue will be in November: deadline will be October 25, 2013.

Articles we have lined up:

- Article on “Odor Measurement and Qualification”, by Yann Contrato, summarizing his presentation done at Fall Convention.
- Review of the Fall Convention (with photos), by Gene Weeks
- WEFTEC Highlights, by Al Jellison
- Article on the name change process and transition
- Article on Maine’s Impervious Cover Stormwater TMDLs, by Bill Taylor and Bill Arcieri
- JETCC Management Candidate School Graduates
- Maine Pilot Project/Nondispersibles Update
- Startup of the LAWPCA digester (if we have room)
- Committee article: Collection System Committee (*to be confirmed*)
- “On my Soapbox”, by Mac Richardson
- President’s Corner
- “What’s Going On in The County?”, by Gilles St. Pierre (*tentative*)
- Member Profile (Gilles St. Pierre, *tentative*)

Please contact Mac or Aubrey if you have a submission!

Safety Committee: Al Jellison reported there is safety meeting scheduled to follow this meeting today regarding the restructuring of the safety committee.

Collections Committee: Matt Bodwell was absent. No report submitted.

Residuals: John Leslie emailed the following report:

There was a concern that legislation was being considered for banning organics. I am not aware of any proposal to do so. I am aware of the scrutiny that the Solid Waste Subcommittee of the NRC is giving to disposal, specifically whether or not the State should impose a fee on landfilled waste that would then be used to pay a subsidy to incinerators. That position is being promoted by the waste to energy (WTE) incinerators - the energy contracts paid to Ecomaine and MMWAC, expire this year and each is expected to lose substantial revenue. PERC's expires in 2018. Without the fees, the WTE incinerators argue they won't be able to compete.

The bill was originally sponsored by Bob Duschene, a former legislator from Hudson who has consistently proposed legislation focused at limiting Juniper Ridge's activities, and was carried over from the prior session. The Subcommittee has authorized 5 meetings and, to date, they have met twice. In the first meeting, the proponents and opponents gave presentations. In the second meeting, last Wednesday (10/2), the Subcommittee met to hear presentations from ReEnergy and Casella Organics. ReEnergy recently purchased KTI, a C&D waste processor from Casella and explained their mission of recycling demo debris into their various constituent markets.

Jay Kilbourn, Casella Organic's VP and I presented to the Subcommittee. The focus of the meeting was to hear how organic waste recycling policy could be impacted by the landfill tax/incinerator subsidy. We gave a brief update on the development of organic waste processing facilities in Maine and presented our basic view, which is that the Subcommittee should not focus on tilting the lower end of the hierarchy to favor incineration but instead focus on promoting the 3 R's. We also stated that biosolids recycling facilities and programs need affordable disposal as a backup for seasonal needs or in case of biosolids facility down time. At the end of the meeting, Exeter AgriEnergy took the stand and gave a short presentation on their anaerobic digester.

The Subcommittee was very thankful for the presentation. As a follow up to the meeting, two representatives, Rep. Roger Reed from Carmel/Etna and Rep. Dick Campbell from Orrington have asked for a tour of Hawk Ridge Compost Facility. The tour has been scheduled for October 16th.

Jeff McBurnie reported that he testified in Augusta on certified laboratories, mining issue and odor regulations for compost and septage receiving facilities.

Residuals Committee Chairmanship

In December, my 3 year term as Chair of the Residuals Committee will be coming to an end. I have always enjoyed supporting MWWCA and have been proud to assist in any capacity. At this point, however, I will not be offering to continue as Chair and would ask the Exec Committee to find a new chair that will work on determining the future and mission of the Committee.

Please know that I will continue to be involved in Augusta and believe I can be a good resource to monitor activities and report back to the organization.

Operator Challenge: Alex Buechner reported they were 1st place in the written exam piece and 4th place for overall. There were 31 teams involved.

Industrial Representative: Dan Welch had no report.

Young Professionals Committee Chair: Paula Drouin was absent.

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Awards Committee: Mary Waring had no report but noted that she had quotes for new medallions (\$600 for 100 medallions).

JETCC Committee Representative: Leeann Hanson submitted the following written **COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**JETCC Report
Maine Wastewater Control Association Monthly Meeting
October 18, 2013**

- **A new Management Candidate School began this week in Brunswick with 16 students. JETCC will soon be billing sponsors for their committed funds**

Management Candidate School is sponsored by:

Maine Wastewater Control Association

Maine Water Utilities Association

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

The Board is concerned that as we begin the 5th year of MCS, it is getting more difficult to attract the required number of students for this program. At the next Board meeting they will discuss the subject. There is some discussion of taking a break before offering a 6th year of the school. However for Budgeting purposes we will still submit a funding request but will only bill for the allocation if the course is run again.

- **Also beginning this week was a 4-week Basic Wastewater Treatment** to prepare operators for the next exam
- There are many new and different classes and new training locations available through the Fall, including schedule
 - Lab Equipment, Calibrations with QA/QC in Harrison on October 30
 - Dealing with Fats, Oils, Grease in your WWCS? November 20 Northeast Harbor
 - And an advanced courses to help operators gain a better hands-on understanding of the wastewater treatment practices! *Optimizing Activated Sludge Systems with Solids Flux Analysis at Portland Water District in December*

Detailed descriptions of all courses on JETCC's table or visit www.jetcc.org

- **The next Wastewater Operator Exam is Wednesday, November 13, 2013.**
- **The Spring Exam is Wednesday, May 14, 2014.**

Applications are due to JETCC on March 28, 2014

WEB Developer: Steve Lane was absent. Aubrey Strause reported she is working on revising the event calendar to a new google calendar set-up that is more user friendly. Joan Kiszely has provided Aubrey Strause with the tentative 2014 calendar and once confirmed she will put the calendar on the website. Aubrey Strause is working on an awards section for the website. Anyone else who has a committee and wants a page and/or description on the website, contact Aubrey Strause.

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MMA Rep: Melissa Carver had no report.

1st Vice President Report: Aubrey Strause reported that she will be staffing a booth at the Maine Storm Water Conference in November.

2nd Vice President Report: Tom Connolly was absent.

Immediate Past President Report: Jeff McBurnie had no report.

Other New Business:

2014 Budget Request Forms: Travis Peaslee asked for everyone to submit the budget request forms attached to the back of today's packet to Al Jellison prior to November's budget meeting.

Name Change Subcommittee: Travis Peaslee wants to create an Ad Hoc committee for the name change committee due to the approval for the association's name change. Whoever is interested in participating can stay after today's meeting. Mary Waring noted that the by-laws need to be finalized, sent to Joan Kiszely and published on the website.

Adjournment: Motion made by Mac Richardson, seconded by Al Jellison, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 12:19 p.m.