

## **2020 Executive Committee**

### *President*

Mike Guethle  
Wright-Pierce

### *First Vice President*

Phil Tucker  
York Sewer District

### *Second Vice President*

Dave Beauchamp  
Ted Berry Co.

### *Immediate Past President*

Stacy Thompson  
Saco WRRD

### *Secretary/Treasurer*

Jeff McBurnie  
Casella Organics

## **Committee Chairpersons**

### *Awards*

Paula Drouin  
LAWPCA

### *Collection Systems*

Kevin Eaton  
York Sewer District

### *Communications*

Mo Dube  
Mo Dube Septic Inspections  
Bryanna Denis  
Wright-Pierce

### *Convention*

Phil Tucker  
York Sewer District

### *Government Affairs*

Tim Haskell  
York Sewer District

### *Laboratory*

Andy Wendell  
Clear Water Lab

### *Membership*

Rob Pontau  
Brunswick Sewer

### *Treatment Plant Operators*

Alex Buechner  
Biddeford

### *MEWEA State Director*

Jeff McBurnie  
Casella Organics

### *Personnel Advancement*

Scott Firmin  
Portland Water District  
Ryan Wadsworth  
Wright-Pierce

### *Pretreatment*

Terry Tucker  
Sanford Sewerage District

### *Public Relations*

Paula Drouin  
LAWPCA

### *Residuals Management*

Jeff McBurnie  
Casella Organics

### *Safety*

Tom Connolly  
Yarmouth, WPCF

### *Stormwater*

Gretchen Anderson  
Windham  
Zach Henderson  
Woodard & Curran Inc

### *Young Professionals*

Maxwell Kenny  
Woodard & Curran Inc



# Maine Water Environment Association

Local Government Center

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[www.mewea.org](http://www.mewea.org)

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**April 29, 2020**

It saddens me to inform the membership of two passings in the industry over the past month, as well as an update on one member's health condition.

Frank Woodard, professor, engineer, and founder of Woodard & Curran, passed away earlier this year. His impact to the industry over his lifetime includes numerous memories and achievements, with several memories catalogued at the link below:

<https://www.woodardcurran.com/blog/remembering-our-friend-and-colleague-frank-woodard>

Kate Biedron, engineer for CDM Smith, MEWEA Executive Committee member, passed away on April 23. Her roles in environmental stewardship, organizational leadership, and developing a very welcome environment in the clean water industry will be greatly missed. Additional information on Kate's incredible levels of involvement in the industry and community can be found here:

<https://www.dracutfuneralhome.com/obituary/Katelyn-Biedron>

Steve Broadbent is currently in hospice care. Steve is a Past President of MEWEA, holding several wastewater industry jobs throughout his storied career. Steve is well-known for his sense of humor, and many of us have been subject to his elaborate practical jokes. He is always optimistic, no matter the challenge or setback. Even with his current serious illness, he remains positive and thankful for all the friends he has made over the years.



Our thoughts and prayers are with all these individuals, and their friends and family, and all can be proud of their legacy and commitment to the clean water industry.

## **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

The COVID-19 virus outbreak has officially been considered a Civil Emergency in Maine as of Sunday, March 15, 2020, and has most recently. As such, MEWEA finds it prudent to update the membership on our current conversations regarding upcoming MEWEA events; we find it equally prudent to provide the general guidance from WEF, our parent association, for specific safety protocols for clean water facilities and water professionals.

While business as usual has slowed for the association, several additional initiatives we are working on are listed below:

- Planning options for potential limits to operator staffing ability;
- Sending information to membership regarding COVID developments in the industry;
- Reviewing alternatives to provide our membership with training credits;
- Reviewing additional public relations support for impacts from non-flushables;
- Discussing additional coordination with government officials regarding anticipated impacts to the clean water industry;
- Coordinating with DEP and other utility associations on a weekly basis;
- Reviewing potential federal stimulus legislation and providing input.

While I end every message with a request to join committees or ad-hoc discussions, it is critical to note the association would appreciate anyone who would like to assist in the above initiatives. Similarly, please reach out if the outbreak is affecting your facility, as MEWEA is simply an organization of several folks who may be able to help. None of us know everything, but combined, we can work through a lot of issues plants are facing.

### **UPCOMING MEWEA EVENTS NOTIFICATION**

Our May 15, 2020 executive board meeting will take place on-line instead of in-person. We will continue to monitor the state and federal requirements for future meetings. Due to security concerns with posting open meeting invitations on our website, please contact me for the login information if you are not a committee chair or board member and would like to participate in the meeting.

We are also strongly suggesting MEWEA committee meetings be suspended or held through remote teleconferences until the State of Maine Civil Emergency is lifted. This decision and specific information for MEWEA committee meetings will be the responsibility of each Committee Chair.

### **UPDATED INFORMATION FOR WATER PROFESSIONALS**

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) has released materials to inform and update water professionals about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Whereas we are aware this information is continually developing, we find it prudent to provide a link to WEF information, which will be updated with the most recent information available to them, from the MEWEA Website, <https://www.mewea.org/>

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2020 MEWEA President  
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