

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

60 Community Drive • Augusta, ME 04330

1-800-452-8786 (in Maine) • 207-623-8428 • Fax 207-624-0128

www.mewea.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June 12, 2020

The Maine Water Environment Association has made the difficult decision to move our Fall Convention online, replacing the originally scheduled events for September 16-18, 2020 at the Sunday River Summit Hotel.

This decision was made due to the realities and uncertainties of the ongoing COVID-19 regulations, and to ensure the safety of our membership and conference attendees. Even as some restrictions begin to lift, there is substantial uncertainty surrounding the availability to gather in larger crowds by September, and we have further been made aware that several utilities, municipalities, and companies within the State have restricted unnecessary work travel until 2021. As essential professionals and defenders of both public and environmental health, it is our responsibility to ensure that our events do not impact the well-being of our attendees; if the convention were to occur and become a source of an outbreak, the negative impacts to the clean water industry would be insurmountable.

This decision has been reviewed and discussed at prior Executive Board meetings, and was finalized in a board meeting earlier today. The Sunday River Summit Hotel has given the Association very favorable conditions to postpone the contract to 2021, and as such the financial impacts to the Association are anticipated to be minimal.

VIRTUAL CONVENTION PLANNING, TRAINING CREDITS AND NEXT STEPS

I, and all of the Association's leadership, appreciate impacts to membership by moving the Fall Convention to a virtual platform, especially when compounded with cancellation of other similar events. We remain dedicated to working closely with our membership to best define a virtual convention that will suit membership needs. If you would like to provide feedback on the Virtual Fall Convention, we have created the following survey to identify what membership would like to see for training, social networking, and professional networking:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WD3LH5G>

If you booked your conference accommodations, please be sure to cancel those reservations.

If you have any other questions regarding the conference, please feel free to be in direct coordination with myself at 207-319-1512, or the e-mail at the end of this notice.

I also appreciate that a lot of MEWEA's regular activities have been postponed or limited during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As the Association works through the summer, we plan on discussing or providing opportunities for membership in the following categories:

- Additional virtual training, in partnership with other State associations;
- Virtual or distanced public outreach to replace our standard public outreach programs;
- Modified approaches to government outreach;
- Continued coordination with regulatory agencies.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Operations Challenge is still looking for one more team member for 2020. Please contact Rob Pontau, rpontau@brunswicksewer.org, if you have interest in this exciting opportunity.

The MEWEA Young Professionals Committee will be meeting virtually on Tuesday, June 16, at 5:00 PM. Please contact Max Kenney (mkenney@woodardcurran.com) if you would like to participate!

The Urban Runoff will be a virtual event on June 20. For more information on joining the MEWEA team virtually, please contact Max (e-mail above) or register online at <https://cumberlandswcd.org/site/events/urban-runoff-5k-race-walk/virtual-race-info/>

2020 CLEAN WATERSHEDS NEEDS SURVEY

As was notified in an e-mail to facilities in May, MaineDEP (DEP) is reaching out to all Maine municipal and quasi-municipal wastewater entities and stormwater groups to gather information on the state's wastewater and stormwater infrastructure via the 2020 Clean Watersheds "Needs Survey" (CWNS). What we need from membership is the wastewater and stormwater needs information that reflects the current situation in your system by completing the survey. The CWNS is located at <https://www.maine.gov/dep/water/wwtreatment/index.html>.

Please note that if federal funding becomes available for wastewater and/or stormwater projects through National Infrastructure Stimulus funding, MaineDEP will only be accepting applications for stimulus funded projects that have been reported to us in response to the 2020 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey.

AWARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

MEWEA has a substantial recognition program, providing a number of awards for outstanding association members. With many of us taking on new responsibilities and stepping up to new challenges, now is as good a time as ever to submit an application for a worthy member. Please find additional information at the following link: <https://www.mewea.org/recognition-program/>

MEWEA awards nomination deadline has been extended through June 19. For more information, please follow the link here: <https://www.mewea.org/about-us/awards/>

UPDATED CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION FOR WATER PROFESSIONALS

WEF, MEWEA, and the CDC have released materials to inform 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 this information from the MEWEA Website, <https://www.mewea.org/>

Have a great weekend, and as always, please feel free to reach out with any MEWEA questions.

Best,

Michael Guethle, P.E.
2020 MEWEA President
michael.guethle@wright-pierce.com