

**Approved**

**MEWEA Executive Board Meeting  
Friday, June 12, 2020  
Skype Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Michael Guethle, Jeff McBurnie, Paula Drouin, Phil Tucker, Stacy Thompson, Scott Firmin, Leeann Hanson, Theresa Tucker, Gregg Wood, Tim Haskell, Gretchen Anderson, Kevin Eaton, Alex Buechner, Alex Buechner and Melissa White - MMA.

**Absent:** Max Kenney, Rob Pontau, Zach Henderson, Travis Jones, Dustin Price, Andy Wendell, Bryanna Denis, Mo Dube, and Ryan Wadsworth.

**Guests:** Bruce Berger

**Call to Order:** President Michael Guethle called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Correspondence Folder:** There were no documents listed.

**Minutes:** Motion made by Phil Tucker , seconded by Terry Tucker, all approved the May 15, 2020 minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeff McBurnie indicated that everything was in order. Discussed the financial impact of canceling the in person Fall Convention.

**DEP Representative:** Gregg Wood reported on the following:

- Few staff are working in the office, most are working from home
- Compliance staff starting to do site visits and inspections to field issues, mutual agreements regarding PPE and protocols are being enforced.
- John True has completed plan regarding project funding; 19 projects, 40 million
- Future buget concerns
- MS4 Permit, re-drafted and being formatted

**Committee Reports:**

**NEWEA Committee Representative: Jeff McBurnie submitted the following written COMMITTEE REPORT:**



**STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**  
Local Government Center  
60 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 06/12/2020 (Skype Meeting)

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: State Director (liaison to NEWEA)

NAME: Jeff McBurnie

RECENT ACTIVITIES: NEWEA Exec. Committee Mtg. (virtual), 6/2/2020; NEWEA Awards Committee Mtg. (virtual), 6/3/2020.

DECISIONS MADE: N/A

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: See Activities above

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: National Water Policy Fly In has been cancelled. Plans to hold Drive Ins (meetings at local Congressional offices) are being discussed but are on hold until it is safe to resume face-to-face meetings.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Deadline for award nominations is 6/19/2020; next NEWEA ECM is in September.

RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: I need your committee members to identify candidates for the Pelouquin and Operator of the Year Awards (nomination criteria on the NEWEA website; must be NEWEA/WEF members). NEWEA has 3 Passes for 1 year NEWEA/WEF memberships that its Membership Committee is giving away competitively to Utility Operators or Managers who have never been WEF members. Please nominate someone that you think would benefit from this regional and national networking opportunity. WEF Ops Challenge is still planned and discussions are ongoing on how that will be conducted.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff McBurnie

DATE SUBMITTED: 6/8/2020

DISTRIBUTION:

- X MMA Affiliate Liaison
- X Executive Committee Meeting
- Newsletter
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

Mike Guethle reported that Marry Barry with NeWEA has reached out regarding the current racial equality issues, events and protests that have been occurring in the U.S.

**Old Business:**

None

**Admin Guide -**

Jeff McBurnie has some updates for the Administrative Guide. Tim Haskell reported he would like to wait until the transition of the Government Affairs chair prior to updating that SOP. Scott Firmin noted he will be providing an updated SOP.

**Clean Water Week Poster contest -**

Cyndi Fortier with MMA delivered the posters to Alex Buechner to review. Alex will go through the posters and create a presentation for all to vote on them.

**Government Affairs Committee Representative: Tim Haskell reported on the following:**

Would like to write the Gov Affairs SOP for the Administrative Guide during transition.  
No current bills or descision made – Legislature is not in session.  
Gretchen provided updates, pilot study and paperwork prior to presenting the program (Chloride Certification – see committee report for further information).  
Discussion of Essential workers

**Laboratory Committee Representative: Andy Wendell was absent**

**Membership Committee Representative: Rob Pontau was absent**

**Pretreatment Committee Representative: Terry Tucker reported on the following:**

Their next meeting will be June 24<sup>th</sup>. She asked if the Board wants to continue to move forward with an awards ceremony.

There was discussion of trying to host a virtual awards ceremony.

**Personnel Advancement Committee Representative: Scott Firmin reported on the following:**

Waiting on the final Fall Conference decision and waiting for further direction.

Has been having discussions of virtual meetings with presenters. Scott thinks they should span it out over a few weeks and limit the sessions to a few hours.

Will work on SOP's for the Administrative Guide.

**Convention Committee Representative: Phil Tucker reported on the following:  
Dustin Price was absent.**

Ad hoc meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> to work with Sunday River on the best way to proceed with the Fall Convention. There is an option from Sunday River to cancel with no financial penalty, reschedule to 2021 and the deposit will follow.

Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Stacy Thompson to hold a virtual convention and reschedule the 2020 conference to 2022, all approved.

MeWEA already signed a contract for 2021.

Mike Guethle is working on updating membership and requesting training needs and contacting vendors. DEP will also be contacted to discuss training credits and concerns surrounding virtual training.

**Public Relations Committee Representative: Paula Drouin reported on the following:**

Still updating the website and other items, but overall quiet.

Recent uptick in wipes and other items being flushed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and toilet paper shortages. Plants are experiencing major issues with blockages. Discussion of revamping the what not to flush campaign. Leeann Hanson offered to pass along any information to a marketing colleague at a Hannaford grocery store. Terry Tucker reported she has posters and flyers that she hands out to Grocery stores and commercial customers which includes what not to flush information. Paula Drouin asked that anyone who has materials to send to her to post on the MeWEA website.

**Safety Committee Representative: VACANT**

Communications Committee Report: Bryanna Denis & Mo Dube submitted the following written **COMMITTEE REPORT**:



**REPORT**

**COMMITTEE / OFFICER**

**MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**  
Local Government Center  
60 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE:  
6/12/2020

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Communication  
Committee

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Bryanna Denis & Mo  
Dube

RECENT ACTIVITIES: May newsletter finalized by today (Friday), should go out next week. 16-page issue with lots of great articles! Thanks to everyone who submitted.

DECISIONS MADE: May issue was delayed 1 month to allow time for additional material, and because Feb. issue was late in being published.

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED:  
none

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Articles for August newsletter due first Friday of the month – August 7<sup>th</sup>.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Bryanna  
Denis

DATE SUBMITTED:  
6/10/2020

DISTRIBUTION:

**Collections Systems Committee Report: Kevin Eaton reported on the following:**

Recent Collections Systems committee meeting June 11<sup>th</sup>. Discussion of upcoming trainings and working on virtual training opportunities.

**Residuals Management Committee Report: Jeff McBurnie submitted the following written COMMITTEE REPORT:**



**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**  
Local Government Center  
60 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 06/12/2020 (Skype Meeting)

COMMITTEE NAME: Residuals Management

CHAIR NAME: Jeff McBurnie

RECENT ACTIVITIES: NACWA Pretreatment Committee PFAS Webinar (presenter), 5/13; NEBRA Regulatory & Legislative Committee Call - 5/19; Biosolids Contingency Task Force Call - 5/21; NEWMOA Regulatory Response to PFAS in ME & VT Webinar - 5/27; NEBRA/Arcadis/Stone Environmental Call - 6/3; NEWMOA PFAS Fate and Transport Modeling Webinar - 6/4.

DECISIONS MADE: None

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: See above

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Continue working with NEBRA to track and respond to legislative and regulatory activities related to PFAS and other biosolids management issues. Assisting NEBRA with the review of marketing materials for government officials and the media related to PFAS; being developed by a third-party consultant. The 2020 biosolids utilization season is and will likely continue to be impacted by continuing concerns about PFAS; problems will be tracked and steps will be taken to seek relief from the DEP if these problems are serious or have the potential to become serious. COVID-19 issue is aggravating disruptions to biosolids management.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: NEBRA Regulatory & Legislative Committee Conference Call - 6/16/2020; Next EC Meeting - August 2020. Location TBD.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: None.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff McBurnie

DATE SUBMITTED: 06/08/2020

DISTRIBUTION:

X MMA Affiliate Liaison

X Executive Committee Meeting

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**Treatment Plant Operators Committee Report: Alex Buechner reported on the following:**

- WEF will be virtual this year and he doesn't anticipate that the Operations Challenge will take place this year.
- Peer to peer training and Facility Data initiatives have been put on hold.

**Young Professional Committee Report: Max Kenney submitted the following written  
COMMITTEE REPORT:**



**COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORT**

**MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**  
Local Government Center  
60 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE:** Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME:** Young Professionals

**CHAIR/OFFICER NAME:** Max Kenney

**RECENT ACTIVITIES:**

N/A

**DECISIONS MADE:**

N/A

**MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED:**

N/A

**ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:**

Members to look for upcoming spring River Cleanup events happening in their community the YP Committee could partner with.

**NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:**

- June 16<sup>th</sup> YP Committee Meeting/Happy Hour via Zoom at 5:00 PM. Email Max for meeting link if interested.
- June 20<sup>th</sup> Urban Runoff has been moved to a virtual event. MEWEA will still have a "virtual team". Registration has been reduced to just \$12. Signup for the MEWEA Team and help us keep the title of largest non-profit group! Send Max photos from your run/walk and receive a gift from the YP Committee!

**OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:**

If you have anyone interested in getting involved in the YP Committee have them email Max!

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY:** Max Kenney

**DATE SUBMITTED:** 6/8/2020

**DISTRIBUTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

MMA Affiliate Liaison  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Newsletter  
Other:

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

**Awards Committee Report: Paula Drouin reported on the following.**

- Reiterated continuing to submit nominations
- Virtual award ceremony

**JETCC Committee Report: Leeann Hanson reported on the following:**

- MCS virtual meeting June 23, purpose is to ask students how they want to proceed with the course.
- NEWIPCC has released a virtual training schedule
- JETCC Board meeting June 23 to discuss virtual trainings
- Leeann reported on an email she received from Howard Carter that DEP has approved WEF's new volume of the training curriculum.
- The only Maine testing location that is open is in Presque Isle.

Stormwater Committee Report: Gretchen Anderson & Zach Henderson submitted the following written **COMMITTEE REPORT**:



**REPORT**

**COMMITTEE / OFFICER**

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION  
Local Government Center  
60 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE June 12, 2020

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Stormwater Committee

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Gretchen Anderson / Zach Henderson

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- Anticipate release of final draft MS4 General Permit on June 12 for 10-day comment period.
- Fred Dillon is working on advancing the "Chloride Certification Legislation" as a no-cost proposal to DEP (i.e., won't cost them any \$ to implement) for the upcoming session. The idea would be to fashion the legislation so that it would be piloted for a 2-3 year period before being rolled out on a more widespread basis. Pete Carney (ED for Long Creek Watershed Management District) is on board with having Long Creek serve as one of the pilot locations. Fred is exploring if Bangor stormwater group wants in as well.

Here's the 10-point plan Fred proposed in late April:

1. Finish white paper summarizing the issue and potential solutions
2. Build a coalition of support in addition to the clean water profession (e.g., business, NGO/enviro, etc.)
3. Identify a critical watershed to serve as a demonstration project for implementing a Green SnowPro-like program (project must be self-funded)
4. Develop rough outline for Green SnowPro-like program

**MMA Representative:** Melissa White reported on the following:

- Zoom webinar capabilities for Affiliate Groups
- Newsletter SOP
- No update on MMA Convention status

**President Committee Report: Michael Guethle submitted the following written COMMITTEE REPORT:**



**COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORT**

**MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**

Local Government Center  
60 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: June 2020

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: President

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Mike Guethle

RECENT ACTIVITIES: \_\_\_\_\_

Several PFAS calls. Developing awards nominations.

Several weekly messages regarding ongoing events in the industry. Outreach for Clean Watersheds Surveys

DECISIONS MADE: Several calls re: government affairs and upcoming committee involvement. See below.

MEWEA generally having no in-person meetings until civil State of Emergency lifted.

Coordinated response to State DEP regarding the critical use of WW/Water utilities in public health through CDC

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: Weekly calls with DEP, MWUA; will be 2x-monthly now

Continued outreach about the safety and importance of our industry on the heels of the virus response.

Fall convention - ongoing conversations and vote.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

By the May meeting, we need to have a Government Affairs representative from every committee.

Completed an ad-hoc committee to discuss fall convention status at our next meeting. Also need to set a date for our strategic planning.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Urban Runoff will be held on June 20

Conduct outreach to the Vendor community, surveymonkey for training, and working on a By-Laws change for the annual convention

Touch briefly on the ongoing George Floyd protests and WEF/NEWEA statements

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: \_\_\_\_\_

SOPs and Admin Guide!!! Please complete and continue editing

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: MAG

DATE SUBMITTED: 6/9/2020

DISTRIBUTION:

- MMA Affiliate Liaison
- Executive Committee Meeting
- Newsletter

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report: Phil Tucker reported on the following:**

Brought item of concern from Dave Beauchamp regarding incoming Elections and how the process will be this year.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report: Dave Beauchamp was absent.**

**Past President's Report: Stacy Thompson had nothing new to report.**

Bruce Berger with MWUA reported on the following:

- The Golf Tournament is still set to occur in August. Some of the events that were previously indoor will be relocated outdoors. He offered MeWEA to participate.
- Online training July 6. Discussed other upcoming online trainings
- Hired Tom's Water solution for trainings
- 2021 February Conference, planning on different options, will have a virtual component. Discussion of different potential sessions on Leadership, Human Resources, Teamwork and Regulation were amongst some identified.
- Website has been updated and includes an event calendar that people can post to interactively and meeting minutes can be added and viewed.

**6. Other New Business:**

2020 Fall Convention Update:

- Convention will be held virtually in 2020. Reiteration the Convention Chair report.
- Mike will continue to update MeWEA membership and request feedback for virtual training
- The Convention committee will begin planning for a virtual event

2020 Golf Tournament Update

- The golf tournament will be canceled.

**7. Adjournment:** Motion made by Tim Haskell, seconded by Phil Tucker, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m.