

approved

MEWEA Executive Board & Budget Meeting
Friday, November 20, 2020
Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

Attendance: Michael Guethle, Paula Drouin, Phil Tucker, Gregg Wood, Scott Firmin, Max Kenney, Rob Pontau, Gretchen Anderson, Dave Beauchamp, Bryanna Denis, Tim Haskell, Leeann Hanson, Zach Henderson, Jeff McBurnie, Alex Buechner, Stacy Thompson and Melissa White - MMA.

Absent: Dustin Price, Kevin Eaton, Theresa Tucker, Mo Dube, Travis Jones, Ryan Wadsworth, and Andy Wendell

Guests: Bruce Berger, Brody Campbell, Kristie Rabasca, Jim Cohen

Guest introductions from Kristie Rabasca, Jim Cohen and Brody Campbell

Call to Order: President Michael Guethle called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

Correspondence Folder: There were no documents listed.

Quorum: It was determined there were 8 Officers present in order to conduct business.

Minutes: Motion made by Rob Pontau, seconded by Paula Drouin, all approved the August 12, 2020 minutes.

Update from Jim Cohen, Legislative Advocate –

- State level elections and House leadership updates - Provided an overview of changes, leadership turnover and anticipated seats.
- Two recounts in Waldo County – Democratic win with small majority
- December 2nd, new Legislature will be seated/sworn into office, this year at the Augusta Civic Center due to the pandemic. Updates regarding other offices, such as the Secretary of State, termed out legislature. Overview of candidates. Potential issues surrounding access and technical abilities to manage the process due to COVID restrictions, including bill amendments, submitted testimony, handout materials being submitted. Committee members will be appointed at the end of December. Committee work should begin in January.

Discussions:

Labor bill – essential worker ability to strike, EPA has now labeled water and wastewater professionals as essential.

Legislation to define, partner with similar organizations, amend a current bill.

PFAS Legislation

Engagement with Legislatures, delegating districts to introduce themselves to new and existing Legislators. Zoom option to meet the Board

Treasurer's Report: July, August and September 2020 financial reports. Jeff McBurnie indicated that everything was in order. Motion made by Scott Firmin, seconded by Gretchen Anderson, all approved the July, August and September 2020 financial reports.

Budget Plan Review:

Jeff McBurnie reviewed each line item the draft budget. The budget will be presented for final approval at the December meeting.

DEP Representative: Gregg Wood was on the call but had to leave.

Mike Guethle noted Gregg provided an update in an email regarding the Storm water MS4 permit, which has been appealed, DEP is seeking to resolve this before it goes to the board. There was discussion and input from Kristie, who is involved in the effort. Appeal was made by Friends of Casco Bay. They are working with them to come to an agreement on some alternate language for the final MS4 permit so that the appeal doesn't go forward.

Nutrient limits/criteria. Information was sent to MeWEA members. DEP is moving forward. Scott Firmin, Tim Wade will take the lead and report back to members. There was clarification regarding the advisory group involvement.

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: 11/20/2020 (Zoom Meeting)

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

NAME: Jeff McBurnie

RECENT ACTIVITIES: NEWEA Awards Committee Mtg. (virtual), 6/3/2020; NEWEA Nominating Committee Call (9/2); NEWEA Contaminants of Emerging Concern Comm. Call (9/22); NEWEA Residuals Management Comm. Call (9/23); NEWEA ASA/State Directors Mtg. – virtual (11/17); NEWEA Exec. Comm. Mtgs. – virtual (9/15, 11/19).

DECISIONS MADE: N/A

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: See Activities above

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Next NEWEA ECM will be during the Annual Conference which will be held virtually in 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: None at this time.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff McBurnie

DATE SUBMITTED: 11/16/2020

DISTRIBUTION:

- X MMA Affiliate Liaison
- X Executive Committee Meeting
- Newsletter
- Other: _____

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

Old Business: None

Phil Tucker submitted the following:

Hello, my name is Philip Tucker and I am the 2021 MEWEA President. I am also a United States Army Infantry Veteran. I am writing to you today to talk about something near and dear to my heart, the hiring of veterans. Often these young men and women come back to the civilian world unsure of which direction their lives are going to take, or what opportunities are available to them. These are motivated individuals with a desire and ability to excel at everything they do. The training and experiences they obtain cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world, creating uniquely skilled and mission focused individuals imbued with the ideals of honor, courage and commitment.

Remember that they once wrote a blank check for an amount up to and including their own lives should the need arise. I know of no more loyal a commitment than that.

If you are looking to hire I encourage you to open an account at joblink@maine.gov. Here is the link to the website;
<https://link.zixcentral.com/u/7e850681/aLpBlr4T6xGgEK1NxgSFBA?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mainecareercenter.com%2Fmhav%2F>.

Happening right now is the Maine Hire-A-Vet Campaign. This is an annual event to hire 100 veterans in 100 days. To learn more about the Maine Hire-A-Vet Campaign please visit <http://www.mainecareercenter.com/mhav/>.

We all know that we need to bring competent, hardworking, motivated, and loyal people into this business with a desire to make a difference. This is one way that we can do just that.

Phil asked if the above letter could be shared with membership.

Newsletter:

Phil provided a copy of the draft joint newsletter with MWUA.

Discussion to move forward with a joint newsletter. This will be added to the December agenda for final approval. The support of the MeWEA newsletter is currently administered by MMA and would need to be removed from the contract.

Government Affairs Committee Representative: Vacant

Laboratory Committee Representative: Andy Wendell was absent

**Membership Committee Representative: Rob Pontau 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: November 20, 2020

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Membership - MWUA – OPS Challenge

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Awesome Sauce

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

Alex and Scot did a fantastic job pulling together a last minute 2 man team to participate in the virtual OPS Challenge process control and collection system events on October 6th. They finished 3rd out of the 5 teams in division 2. The video can be viewed at <https://www.gotostage.com/channel/opschallenge>

MWUA and MEWEA Continue to work on our collaboration efforts. Planning has begun for the MWUA Spring Meeting. MEWEA will have 8 sessions to pull together. It will be a virtual conference.

I have not reviewed the membership numbers at this time. I believe we are steady in the 700 range. Sign ups are still coming in, so I will review the outstanding and non-renewed memberships in early 2021.

I probably will not be attending the meeting. If I do it will be virtual, but I plan to be in the woods somewhere.

DECISIONS MADE: I decided to do a report this month. I skipped the last few months.

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: Mr. Pontau and I met with ourselves. The meeting was a little hostile and both parties were extremely agitated. We had to end the meeting early. We hope we will come to our senses so that we can meet again soon.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: I will need to follow up on membership soon and see how the changes from 2019 are affecting the organization with regards to revenue and numbers. It will be difficult since there is no longer a baseline with our new normal.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Christmas is coming soon. That is an important deadline. Like with the Great TV Auction, shop early and shop often.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: Does anyone else struggle to concentrate when it's a nice day out? It's literally 70 degrees in November.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Pontau

DATE SUBMITTED: November 10, 2020

Pretreatment Committee Representative: Terry Tucker was absent.

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

See update in the Convention report.

**Convention Committee Representative: Phil Tucker left the meeting
Dustin Price was absent.**

Melissa White reported the dates for the Fall Convention are listed on the draft meeting schedule. The Spring Conference dates have not been set, but the committee is working towards setting the date soon. There was an evaluation survey sent out after Fall Convention. Melissa will send the composites of those results along.

Mike noted spacing out the sessions and providing advance notice is key. Vendor outreach/Modifying advertisements. There isn't typically sponsors at the in person Spring Conference, but could be added this year. (Note – the Spring Conf. is taking place of the cancelled Legislative Breakfast for 2021)

Scott Firmin reported they are working on the joint MWUA sessions at this time, trying to fill eight sessions and five are almost complete. Ryan is reaching out to the Pre-treatment and Collections committees. The goal is to have this complete by the first week of December. Scott thanked Mike for his assistance during the 2020 Fall Convention.

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

There has been no recent activity due to COVID. She also handles the website and encourage suggestion on ways to reach members. Facebook advertising, voting.

Safety Committee Representative: VACANT

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

Mo Dube was absent



COMMITTEE / OFFICER

REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE:
11/20/2020

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Communication
Committee

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Bryanna
Denis

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Copy received for November newsletter, will submit copy to MMA before 11/20

DECISIONS MADE:

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED:

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Articles for Feb newsletter due Friday Feb
5th

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Bryanna
Denis

DATE SUBMITTED:
11/15/2020

DISTRIBUTION:

MMA Affiliate Liaison
Executive Committee Meeting
Newsletter

Collections Systems Committee Report: Kevin Eaton 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: November 20th, 2020 _____

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Collection Systems _____

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Kevin Eaton _____

RECENT ACTIVITIES: We held a Virtual committee meeting on October 27th _____

DECISIONS MADE: We discussed assisting JETCC on future training sessions and planning of our one day event in August 2021. _____

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: October 27th 2020 Chris Gallant (KSD), Travis Jones (Brewer), Ashley Jones (Ted Berry), Jason Dixon (Anson/Madison), Tim Wade (GAUD), Ben Stiles (Wright Pierce), Daryl Copia (FR Mahoney) Dave Beauchamp (Ted Berry), Ron Kelton (City of Portland), Chris Cline (Yarmouth) Leeann Hanson (JETCC) _
Derek Sessions (QWP) _____

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: _____

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: No meeting currently scheduled _____

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: _____

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Kevin Eaton _____

DATE SUBMITTED: November 9, 2020 _____

DISTRIBUTION:

MMA Affiliate Liaison

Executive Committee Meeting

Newsletter

Other: _____

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: 11/20/2020 (Zoom Meeting)

COMMITTEE NAME: Residuals Management

CHAIR NAME: Jeff McBurnie

RECENT ACTIVITIES: NEWEA PFAS Webinar (8/27); NEBRA Board Meeting call (9/8); NEBRA Regulatory Legislative Committee Calls (9/15, 10/20); 2 presentations at the MEWEA Virtual Fall Conference (9/16 & 18); NEWEA Residuals Management Committee Call to discuss sessions for the 2021 Annual Conference (9/23); NECF PFAS Webinar (10/5); NEBRA Annual Conference and Business Meeting (10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22); VT ANR Pub Information Webinar, "Regulating PFAS as a Class of Chemicals"; EPA PFOS PFOA Problem Formulation Stakeholders Call (11/12)

DECISIONS MADE: No new decisions made.

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.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: MEWEA EC Meeting – 12/18.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: None.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff McBurnie

DATE SUBMITTED: 11/16/2020

DISTRIBUTION:

MMA Affiliate Liaison

Executive Committee Meeting

Newsletter

Other: _____

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

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

Has extra Clean Water week calendars if anyone wants one.

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 November 20th, 2020

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Young Professionals

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Max Kenney

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

Submitted 2021 YP Committee budget request.

DECISIONS MADE:

Brody Campbell (Wright Pierce) will be taking over as Chair of the MEWEA YP Committee for Max.

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: NA

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: NA

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: NA

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

If you have anyone interested in getting involved in the YP Committee have them email Brody at brody.campbell@wright-pierce.com !

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Max Kenney

DATE SUBMITTED: 11/13/2020

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:

All the awards have been either handed off to the recipient or mailed.



COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: November 20, 2020

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: JETCC Board

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Travis Jones – Chairman & Leeann Hanson – Training Coordinator

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

JETCC Board meeting November 4, 2020

New England Regional Trainers & Certification meeting – November 3

Many Virtual training sessions

NMCC Steering Committee meeting with discussion about SMCC Water treatment program

DECISIONS MADE:

Virtual training will continue into 2021...see attached schedule to date

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: _____

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

Working with WWCS Committee to develop series of 2 hour virtual classes through the spring.

Working with Pretreatment Committee members Theresa Tucker and Rebekah Sirois on Spring 2021 training

Welcoming more training suggestions

Asked NMCC to provide presentation for MeWEA spring convention

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: _____

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: _____

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Leeann Hanson _____

DATE SUBMITTED: November 19, 2020

DISTRIBUTION:

MMA Affiliate Liaison

Executive Committee Meeting

Newsletter

Other: _____

Stormwater Committee Report: Gretchen Anderson & Zach Henderson reported on the following:

Recent committee meeting discussing initiatives for the year with current renewal and repeal process with negotiations and putting things in place, the March 31st deadline is still in place for all documentation.

Other initiatives:

Clean Watershed needs survey

Potential Chlorids pilot program - Zach elaborated some on this program, Fred Dillion is leading their efforts.

Falmouth watershed project/program – Zach elaborated noting they have asked for those involved to possibly bring this as a session to the MWUA Conference.

Continuing to work on needs assessment from the stormwater community.

MMA Representative: Melissa White reported on the following:

- MMA Conference rooms are closed to outside groups until further notice, at least through winter.
- Working on 2021 Administrative Service Agreements

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: NOVEMBER 2020

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: President

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Mike Guethle

RECENT ACTIVITIES: _____

DECISIONS MADE: _____

Coordination to help Government Affairs and MWUA transitions; confirming roles for 2VP and Past President respectively

Coordinate for ad-hoc committees for the rest of the e-board: including discussions about ExDirector, as well as continued COVID response.

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: _____

Coordination with committees; government affairs call with NEWEA; diversity initiatives with NEWEA; continued coordination for 2021 officers.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: _____

We need to have a Government Affairs representative from every committee for the fall legislative session. Touch on that topic.

Completed an ad-hoc committee to discuss fall convention status at our next meeting.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: _____

Future conventions: Conduct outreach to the Vendor community, surveymonkey for training; Continued outreach with 2021 suite

Set up a call to discuss 2021 needs with 2021 officers

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: _____

SOPs and Admin Guide!!! Please keep updating.

Start discussing transition plans for any new 2021 Committee Chairs

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: MAG

DATE SUBMITTED: 11/15/2020

DISTRIBUTION:

- MMA Affiliate Liaison
- Executive Committee Meeting
- Newsletter

Other: _____

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

1st Vice President's Report: Phil Tucker had nothing to report.

2nd Vice President's Report: Dave Beauchamp had to leave.

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

7. Adjournment: Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Scott Firmin, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m.