



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

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York Sewer District

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Ted Berry Co.

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Greater Augusta Utility Dist.

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 19, 2021

As we move into spring, we are all ramping up for another busy year of construction, disinfection, and for a good portion of the state, tourism. The MEWEA Government Affairs Committee continues to work very hard for our members. The Committee has provided testimony on multiple bills that affect us all. The MEWEA Vice President and Pretreatment Chair continue their work on getting an informational commercial about the problems that non-flushable items cause for sewer systems. Here is a link to a video that was done in New Hampshire: <https://youtu.be/6bmcWqTfhVM>.

I'm sure everyone has heard that President Biden just signed a new \$1.9 trillion stimulus package. Within that legislation \$350 billion was allocated to water, sewer, and broadband and does not need to be COVID-19 related. We do not yet know what the allocations will be for the State or how it will be distributed once Maine gets its share. MEWEA is in contact with state officials to attain this information as soon as possible. We will keep you posted as we become informed.

You may remember in the One Water Newsletter there was a request from DEP for some information regarding biosolids spreading. I am adding that request from DEP to this message to ensure that everyone received it.

1. Review and compile facility records by year for land application fields and quantity land applied per field. This one can be tricky in that we have found that field names often change in the records, so it would be helpful if alias names are used that they be identified in the compilation.

**MEWEA supports this effort and encourages members who have run land application programs to provide the requested information if able.**

2. Identify major industrial inputs (if any) of PFAS compounds into the biosolids during the time of land application. For example, textile mills may have used PFAS compounds in their process, and hence should be identified if they contributed wastewater to the treatment plant during the time of land application. This information can assist in determining relative risk of a site or field relative to nearby receptors.

**MEWEA supports this effort and encourages members who have run land application programs to provide the requested information if able.**

3. Take a first cut at prioritizing fields for follow-up evaluation based on information from items 1 and 2 above with the addition of looking at current nearby receptors, typically being residential wells. For example, a field that was subject to higher land application use than another field and has several nearby residential wells would be considered a higher priority than a low-use field with few nearby residential wells.

**MEWEA is not inclined to recommend participation but is passing along the request. Along with items 1 and 2, this could require significant staff resources, especially with regard to identifying receptors. Just as the Department has limited resources to take on these tasks, many of our utility members are equally constrained. Given the complexity of this task, this would put pressure on management to take on additional work, where they may already be overburdened by the daily demands of overseeing facility operations and utility management.**

4. After discussing items 1 through 3 above with the Department, perform soils testing in identified fields in accordance with approved sampling procedures. This request would necessitate discussions to arrive at an agreed upon plan and would be at a level appropriate for screening a site to understand potential source strength.

**MEWEA is not inclined to recommend participation but is passing along the request. Again, the concern is resources, both financial and staffing, as well as other issues that are yet to be defined.**

Here is a link to the DEP website where the file information exists for land application programs:

<https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/index.html>. From this page, click on the link to "November 12, 2020 – Maine sludge and ash bio bioash spreading information" for a complete list of all licenses for which there are records. Any information you choose to provide should be sent to Dave Burns at [Dave.E.Burns@maine.gov](mailto:Dave.E.Burns@maine.gov).

### Upcoming Events

- The MEWEA Spring Conference is right around the corner and we have lined up 5 sessions plus our regular business meeting. The conference will take place on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> from 8am to noon. Registration information is available here: <https://www.mewea.org/events/spring-conference/>. All sessions have been approved for wastewater operators TCH's and 3 for Water.
- The Urban Runoff, a 5k walk/run to help promote clean water causes in Maine, will be virtual this year. MEWEA annually has a team as part of this event. Please contact the Young Professionals Chair Person Brody Campbell at [brody.campbell@wright-pierce.com](mailto:brody.campbell@wright-pierce.com) for more information.
- The DC fly-in is coming up in April and is also virtual this year. This is a great chance for us to coordinate with our federal representatives, please reach out to Immediate Past President Mike Guethle at [Michael.guethle@wright-pierce.com](mailto:Michael.guethle@wright-pierce.com) if you would like to be involved.

The York Water and Sewer Districts created a coloring book titled, "York's World of Water" that was designed with K-1 in mind. We invite anyone to use it as they see fit. Follow this link to download the coloring book: <https://www.mewea.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/YorksWorldofWater.pdf>. I would also invite anyone who wants to share information with the membership to please send it to me at [ptucker@yorksewerdistrict.org](mailto:ptucker@yorksewerdistrict.org).

I thank you all again for your continued hard work and dedication to keeping Maine's environment pristine.

Sincerely,  
Phil Tucker, President