

Unapproved

**MEWEA Executive Board Meeting
Friday, February 19, 2021
Zoom Meeting**

MINUTES

Attendance: Phil Tucker, Michael Guethle, Paula Drouin, Tim Wade, Scott Firmin, Rob Pontau, Gretchen Anderson, Dave Beauchamp, Bryanna Denis, Alex Buechner, Leeann Hanson, Jeff McBurnie, Theresa Tucker, Andy Wendell, Kristie Rabasca, Brody Campbell and Melissa White - MMA.

Absent: Dustin Price, Travis Jones, Ryan Wadsworth, Kevin Eaton

Guests: Jim Cohen, Jay Nutting, Bruce Berger, Gregg Wood

Call to Order: President Phil Tucker called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Theresa Tucker, all approved the January 22, 2021 minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff McBurnie reviewed the Treasurers report indicating everything is in order. Review of financial report as of November 30, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

Motion made by Theresa Tucker, seconded by Dave Beauchamp, to approve the November and December 2020 financials.

DEP Representative: Gregg Wood reported on the following:

Environmental Natural Resources committee recent meeting on PFAS criterias. Reactions are not being gauged on science, the ambient water quality criteria may become difficult to meet. There was discussion on further concerns and potential challenges. (Sterling Pierces') DEP compliance group is working to identify potential sources so that if a test method is approved from the EPA and ambient water quality criteria is adopted, they are prepared to implement a plan. Comments were due last Friday for the MS4 Permit appeal, he is still working with the AG's office.

Data request question and discussion. (real world versus sample models) Jeff McBurnie noted he will reach out to the bio solids team at NACWA to assist in providing the information.

Legislative Representative: Jim Cohen reported on the following:

- As the Legislature ramps up, more bills are being scheduled.
- There was a Sewer Lien bill hearing this past week, with no known opponents.
- Weekly Legislative report will come out today with a tracking sheet.
- PFAS issue hearing and testimony was provided recently with Maine Water.

- LD 129 Testimony discussion - Department may be submitting language lowering their recommended levels from 70ppm to 20ppm on two compounds based on a 2020 study. The HHS committee on the support side of the issue but is open to further information. If something is submitted, MeWEA will review and make a decision on how to proceed.

Committee Reports:



STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 2/19/2021 (Zoom Meeting)

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

NAME: Jeff McBurnie

RECENT ACTIVITIES: NEWEA Executive Committee Meeting (1/20); Maine Director's Report for NEWEA Spring Journal; NEWEA Annual Conference (1/26, 28; 2/2,4); MeWEA/MWUA Legislative Information Session (2/2); PFAS Presentation at MWUA Annual Conference; NEWEA Work Force Development Task Force Meeting (2/9).

DECISIONS MADE: N/A

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: See Activities above

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: None

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: NEWEA ECM (April 2021); NEWEA Spring Meeting (6/6-9).

RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: None at this time.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff McBurnie

DATE SUBMITTED: 2/16/2021

DISTRIBUTION:

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

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

Old Business:

None

Government Affairs Committee Representative: Tim Wade

Reported the committee has been busy reviewing all the new bills.

There was testimony in support of remote meetings and in support of the evasive aquatic plant bill which requires people to drain their boats, live wells etc.

Submitted testimony in opposition to LD 129.

149 & 146 PFAS Bill – Neither in opposition or support but supporting the scientific process of LD 146.

Upcoming meeting next week.

Laboratory Committee Representative: Andy Wendell

Sat in on the December and January nutrient discharge meetings.

Provided an article for the upcoming newsletter.

Offered “lab” assistance in any capacity regarding PFAS (noting their lab doesn’t test for this)

Membership Committee Representative: Rob Pontau



COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: February 19, 2021

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Membership - MWUA – OPS Challenge

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Robert A. Pontau Jr., PE

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

Ops Challenge - Nothing

MWUA - Considering the conference had to be 100% virtual, it went extremely well. Quality rivaled that of national organizations. Participation was high, the Whova platform worked well, and presentation quality was excellent. We continued to discuss collaboration. We talked about financial matters and discussed MWUA award recipients.

Membership - Committee members had a tour of the "Member Clicks" platform the MWUA uses for its membership. It is excellent. One of the best platforms of this kind that I have seen. It allows members to sign up, renew, and update their information all on their own. There are also options to allow administrators for each utility to make changes. This is something we could easily work with MWUA to institute.

Beyond providing a membership database that puts users in control, the program also tracks professional development hours and classes, allows for online sign up of classes, payment by credit card (or bill) and it provides instant invoices and records of all transactions. It is also quite user friendly.

I am an advocate for moving our membership to this type of platform simply because of how user friendly it is and the fact that it allows members to control their own accounts, however it is a powerful application that allows for much more than membership. I'd like to discuss options with the executive committee. If we were to move forward with this program, we need to discuss how it integrates with our website, signing up for classes, MMA's role in the program and more. It involves decisions by our PAC committee, convention committee and public relations committee (and probably others). The cost would be moderate and something we could split with MWUA. That also needs to be discussed, but for purposes of deciding whether or not to move forward, figure on about \$2,000 per year. There may be other costs and savings depending on how the administration is handled and divided among MMA and MWUA.

DECISIONS MADE: I think this is the way to go and we should move forward. What say the Board?

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: Member Clicks Demonstration for the Board on February 10, 2021.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: Move forward with discussion among executive committee and other chairs from other affected committees.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Nothing with membership really involves an "important" deadline. We should decide to drop the Member Clicks conversion or move forward.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: I've been working so hard I feel my salary should be doubled.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Sauce, Awesome

DATE SUBMITTED: February 16, 2021

DISTRIBUTION: MMA Affiliate Liaison

Bruce reported on discussions of further collaboration with membership.

Pretreatment Committee Representative: Theresa Tucker

There haven't been any new meetings, hoping to meet in March.

Upcoming Training - Pre-Treatment case studies Challenges and Training on March 4th through JETCC

**Personnel Advancement Committee Representative: Scott Firmin
Ryan Wadsworth was absent**

There needs to be discussion regarding being the PAC chair. Scott agreed to work on the session tracks. The interium chairs are looking for replacements.

This will be a 2 day event, April 8th & 9th with 3 sessions each day with one session being the meeting. There are 5 classes needed total.

Convention Committee Representative: Dustin Price was absent

Public Relations Committee Representative: Paula Drouin

Upcoming Clean Water week poster contest

Alex noted he has someone who will compile last years posters so they can post them. Alex will provide the Facebook link to MMA so that they can add it to their email blasts. The voting will take place via Facebook this year and not during the conference.

Safety Committee Representative: Vacant

Communications Committee Report: Bryanna Denis



COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 2/19/21 _____

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Communications _____

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Bryanna Denis _____

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Feb Newsletter _____

DECISIONS MADE: NA _____

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: Meeting with B. Berger on 2/9 _____

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: _____

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: _____

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: Plan to feature Waterville ME water and wastewater for May newsletter _____

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Bryanna Denis _____

DATE SUBMITTED: 2/16/21 _____

DISTRIBUTION:

MMA Affiliate Liaison

Executive Committee Meeting

Newsletter

Other: _____

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

Collections Systems Committee Report: Kevin Eaton



COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: February 19,
2021

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Collections
Systems

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Kevin
Eaton

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Travis Jones and Chris Gallant gave presentations in the January 21st Pumps,
Connections and Piping class that was put on by
JETCC

DECISIONS MADE: Decided on giving \$500.00 of our budget towards the outreach campaign and maybe
more depending if we are able to have our summer outing and cornhole tournament.

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: Jan, 28 Virtually on Zoom Travis Jones (Brewer), Chris Gallant
(Kennebunk), Ashley Jones(Vortex), Daryl Coppola (FR Mahoney), Ron Kelton (City of Portland), Derek
Sessions (QWP), Chris
Cline(Yarmouth)

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: We will be having a meeting at the end of
March with Bruce Berger to plan our joint summer outing and training.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Kevin
Eaton

DATE SUBMITTED: February 17,
2021

DISTRIBUTION:

MMA Affiliate Liaison

Executive Committee Meeting

Residuals Management Committee Report: Jeff McBurnie



COMMITTEE REPORT

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 02/19/2021 (Zoom Meeting)

COMMITTEE NAME: Residuals Management

CHAIR NAME: Jeff McBurnie

RECENT ACTIVITIES: NEBRA Regulatory & Legislative Committee Call (1/19); MABA Biosolids & Energy Webinar (1/19); Facilitated NACWA/DEP Fate & Transport Modeling Collaboration; Reviewed WEF Biosolids Communication Toolkit (1/27); WEF Communications Toolkit Webinar (2/4); MWUA Annual Conference PFAS Presentation (2/4); ME DEP PFAS Briefing for ME Legislature ENR Committee (2/8); NEWEA Residuals Management Committee meeting (2/8).

DECISIONS MADE: No new decisions made.

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: See above

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Gearing up for the 130th ME Legislature session in coordination with the Government Affairs Committee. Continue working with NEBRA to track and respond to legislative and regulatory activities related to PFAS and other biosolids management issues throughout New England.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: NEBRA Regulatory & Legislative Committee Call (2/16); MEWEA Spring Meeting – 4/8-9.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: None.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff McBurnie

DATE SUBMITTED: 2/16/2021

DISTRIBUTION:

X MMA Affiliate Liaison

X Executive Committee Meeting

Newsletter

Other: _____

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

Treatment Plant Operators Committee Report: Alex Buechner

Working towards a training programs to gain training credits by visiting other facilities. They are exptecting WEFTEC to be virtual again this year and they are looking for participants.

Young Professional Committee Report: Brody Campbell



COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: Friday February 19th, 2021

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Young Professionals

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: Brody Campbell

RECENT ACTIVITIES: N/A

DECISIONS MADE: N/A

MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED: January YP committee meeting held virtually January 7th, 2021.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: N/A

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: March Meeting (3/4/21 via Teams), agenda includes planning for Urban Runoff 5k.

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: Brody Campbell

DATE SUBMITTED: 2/17/2021

DISTRIBUTION:

MMA Affiliate Liaison
Executive Committee Meeting
Newsletter
Other:

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

Awards Committee Report: Paula Drouin

Award nomination request has been sent out to social media

Paula has a replacement that is interested. Encouraged all to update their position SOPs.

Jeff McBurnie is looking for nominations for the NEWEA awards.



**Maine Joint Environmental
Training Coordinating Committee**

NEIWPCC South Portland
584 Main Street, South Portland, ME 04106

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www.jetcc.org

p: 207-253-6020
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**JETCC Training Programs
Winter-Spring 2021**
as of 2/18/2021

[JETCC Remote Learning Catalog](#)

February 24, 2021 1:15 – 3:15 p.m.
J2118 Activated Sludge Operational Control (2 hrs)
Offered via: GoToTraining Registration fee: \$50.00

Activated sludge is the heart of any secondary treatment plant and system performance involves BOD/TSS removal and sludge settleability in the secondary clarifiers.

Activated sludge treatment plant performance is affected by influent characteristics, seasonal variations, maintenance, plant design and other treatment objectives. Monitoring and calculating a few basic concepts and parameters can help an operator set process goals and track the plants performance.

Using a fairly simple operational strategy Scott Firmin will introduce items to monitor with a few basic operational calculations and strategies related to activated sludge performance for successful operation of the treatment plant. Topics include: Loading, F/M ratio, SRT, and SVI.

Instructor: Scott Firmin, Portland Water District

February 25, 2021 1:15 – 3:15 p.m.
J2122 Essential Coatings and Cleaners for Water Treatment Facilities (2 hrs)
Offered via: GoToTraining Registration fee: \$50.00

Experts from Rust-Oleum will provide a technical overview of protective coatings and cleaners essential to the maintenance of water treatment facilities. This overview will include key coatings systems for treatment plants, above ground storage tanks, pump stations and secondary containment. We will provide additional information on new coating technologies and general facility maintenance to assure continued compliance and a safe work environment.

Instructors: Robert Stanley and Jim Weldon, Rust-Oleum

March 4, 2021 1:15 – 3:15 p.m.
J2115 Pretreatment Case Studies: Challenges and Success Stories (2 hrs)
Offered via: GoToTraining Registration fee: \$50.00

The beloved industry that puts your community on the map causes problems with your pumps, collection system and treatment process, but it is adored by community leaders and attracts tourists.

Learn how two Maine facilities worked with three acclaimed food producers to overcome municipal politics, attain compliance while minimizing FOG, illicit discharges and upsets to the treatment process.

Instructors: Rebekah Sirois, Portland Water District; Terry Tucker, York Sewer District



Leeann provided updates on the new virtual training platform, likes and dislikes. Is looking to begin working on the Management Candidate school.
Reminded all that the Operator renewal is due by March 1.

Stormwater Committee Report: Gretchen Anderson & Kristie Rabasca

They are attending the marine estuary nutrient water quality standards meeting and watching the fresh water side. Goals for the year are looking at the Clean water shed needs survey and coordinating this with the ASCE storm water infrastructure report card in Q2 and Q3. Will be setting up a committee meeting within the next few weeks. Waiting on the friends of Casco Bay appeals. Reports and plans are due March 31st.

Urban run off will be a virtual event in the entire month of April. Gretchen provided the link to all in the meeting chat.

MMA Representative: Melissa White reported on the following:

Will begin working on the Spring Seminar once the session map is completed.

MMA is continuing to work on the Statewide Training Assessment study.

MWUA Representative – Bruce Berger

Bruce provided an update on the February Trade show. There were quality presenters from all over the U.S. and the feedback from attendees was great. The downside to the virtual training is the lack of networking. There were some technical difficulties in within the platforms.

President Committee Report: Phil Tucker

Phil added in the newsletter and will send to membership a PFAS related letter. The DEP is seeking assistance with where biosolids have been spread (possibly pre 1989).

Requested an Ad-Hoc committee to review the MeWEA future collaborative efforts with MWUA and ensure sustainability. There was discussion.

Mac Richardson is putting together an Unofficial Ski-Day and asked if MeWEA wanted to participate or sponsor. There was consensus to decline to participate or sponsor.

1st Vice President's Report: Dave Beauchamp

Provided a presentation on the PSA/commercial on non-flushables that he has been working on with Terry Tucker. The creation cost is \$3,000.00 and would be MeWEA's property after purchase. The advertising cost varies, each cost option was reviewed.

The group discussed the advertising cost and possibly opening this up as a sponsorship opportunity. Social media cost versus cable tv advertising. Terry provided the social media rate of \$400 every two weeks. Andy Wendell offered a audio spot on a local Skowhegan radio station at no cost. Would facilities be inclined to offer to sponsor? Are there other community outlets?

Kristie noted it will be important to purchase the correct type of video file for the proposed platform; whether it be cable or a social media platform

Discussion of results – would there be a drop off of wipes going into facilities?

Dave and Terry will work over the next month to further research other available platforms.

2nd Vice President's Report: Tim Wade

Had nothing further to add, but is looking forward being on the Ad-Hoc committee.

Past President's Report: Michael Guethle

He had nothing new to report on.

Other New Business:

7. Adjournment: Motion made by Tim Wade, seconded by Michael Guethle, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m.