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Maine Water Environment Association

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President's Message - April 30, 2021

Dear MeWEA Members:

We were not able to fly-in to D.C. for this year's Clean Water Week, but we were able to meet via Zoom with Congresswoman Pingree's Policy Analyst, Lisa Pahel, for some good conversation. Ms. Pahel seemed genuinely interested in what we had to say. The major topics we covered were the importance of SRF funding and potential grant programs, PFAS and other regulatory concerns, and workforce development. In particular, where related to workforce development, we asked about being part of the TAP's or Transition Assistance Program. This program helps soldiers transitioning from military life to civilian life.

The 2021 Clean Water Week poster contest is now available for voting on the Maine Water Environment Association Facebook page. Here is the link: [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/mewea). You should be able to easily access the posters from the main page and from the albums option. Vote by "liking" your favorite posters. There is no limit to the number of posters that you can vote on and be sure to check out all three age groups. The voting will take place between 4/23 and 5/9. This year we received over 400 entries from schools all across the state. Unfortunately, we are not able to include every entry in the contest, and the voting had to be narrowed down to 15-20 from each age group. The goal of this contest is to promote thought and education about how important clean water is to all of us. When we take care of our water and our environment, we all win!

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection invites the public to comment on proposals to update existing water quality standards. Maine's water quality standards describe what uses, such as recreation or fishing, are appropriate for which waterbodies, and which criteria and antidegradation measures are in place to protect those uses. More information on Maine's water quality standards can be accessed on [DEP's Water Quality Standards page](https://www.maine.gov/dep/water-quality). The federal Clean Water Act and Maine law require that at least once every three years public hearings are held to review, and as appropriate, modify or develop water quality standards in a process known as the Triennial Review. At a virtual meeting on Friday, May 21, 2021, from 9 a.m. to noon, the Department will provide an overview of the proposals and offer an opportunity to provide input. Registration for the meeting is available here:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUoduvrD8iE9KnZM9IdLycsrlCvoDjod5d](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJUoduvrD8iE9KnZM9IdLycsrlCvoDjod5d). [Public comments](#) may also be submitted electronically until 5 p.m. on May 26, 2021. A list of proposals received, and the Department's recommendations for action, is available on the Department website [Triennial Review Maine's Water Quality Standards](https://www.maine.gov/dep/water-quality). During the public comment period, the Department also invites the public to submit additional proposals for changes to Maine's WQS.

As always keep up the great work that you all do and thank you.

Sincerely,
Phil Tucker,
MEWEA President