SRF Funding Update

You may have heard, or read, of actions taken during the closing days of the First Session of the 125th Maine Legislature which have significant and long lasting implications for the State Revolving Fund Programs. You likely know that, in order to secure the annual capitalization grants under the Drinking Water and Clean Water SRF programs, Maine must provide a 20% match. Except for the year 2000, that match has been obtained via general obligation bonds, approved by the voters in state wide referendums.

In June 2010 voters approved a $6.4 million bond which was intended to provide the match for the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF grants for both 2010 and 2011. However, the federal allocations for 2010 were increased and much of the $6.4M was used to provide the 2010 match. That left 2011 underfunded.

As the legislative session got underway, our associations collaborated on a strategy to secure the shortfall for 2011 and the matches for 2012 and 2013; we also discussed various long term solutions and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

With the help of staff at the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program and the Maine DEP we developed a two sided fact sheet. The front side explained the SRF capitalization grant process and the programs’ requirements and listed the anticipated grant amounts and resultant match needs for 2011-2013. The back side was a historical analysis of what it has been costing Maine to borrow the match. Assuming a 4% interest rate on 10 year bonds, interest expense is estimated at more than $900,000 per year for the two programs.

Commencing in December and continuing throughout the session, we met with legislative leadership, the State Treasurer, the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative & Financial Services, representatives of the Governor’s Office, leadership at DHHS and DEP and other key decision makers. The primary message was that, given the cost of borrowing, the annual matches should be in the respective agency budgets. However, we were also successful in having Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee House Chair Patrick Flood submit a

Cont’d on page 2
**SRF Funding Update** cont’d

Bill - LD 359: An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Waste-water and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds. LD 359 asked or $15.5 million to provide the matches for 2011 – 2013.

The meetings with legislators, Administration officials and agency representatives, over those several months, were an opportunity to keep the issue in front of them as the challenging budget deliberations occurred. At the end of May there was a quick meeting with Representative Flood and Sawin Millett, the Finance Commissioner, and that was an opportunity to provide them with updated numbers that DWP and DEP had calculated, subsequent to the adoption of the 2011 federal budget. There were no promises but it was encouraging to hear them say that they at least wanted to secure the 2011 shortfall “without borrowing”.

The second week of June, we were notified by Representative Flood that he had introduced two amendments to LD 1043, the vehicle for Maine’s 2012-2013 budget.

One amendment addressed the 2011 SRF match shortfall by allocating $570,000 and $850,000 to fully fund the required state matches for the Drinking Water and Clean Water capitalization grants, respectively, for 2011.

The second amendment allocated up to 15% of the guaranteed fixed annual payments under the contract to be awarded for the State’s wholesale liquor activities associated with distributing and selling spirits and fortified wines sold by the State. That 10 year contract period runs from 2014-2023, with the first annual payment being due July 1, 2014. The allocations are to be used for federal matching purposes for the revolving loan funds for drinking water systems and for wastewater treatment facilities.

The amendments received the unanimous approval of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. The budget was approved by the Legislature that next week and was signed by Governor LePage several days later.

These actions provide a stable long term funding solution to the perennial challenge of securing the annual 20 % matches which are required for the two programs.

It is expected that 15% of the annual liquor contract payments will be adequate to fund the match requirements, given the history of the federal SRF funding levels in D.C.

The 20% matches have not yet been secured for 2012 and 2013. We are optimistic that the discussions with leadership and other financial decision makers over the past seven months will yield fruit as we attempt to plug that gap. We contemplated many scenarios in our meetings, including placing the 2012–2013 match amount in the upcoming supplemental budget, a revenue bond for 2012-2013, and other options. LD 359 was carried over to the Second Session. That could serve as a vehicle for the state match in the event the legislature sends a bond referendum to the voters.

What does this mean for you?

If you manage a water or wastewater system, it means that the state match is much less likely to be a potential limiting factor to accessing SRF funds.

If you are a supplier of products or services, knowing that this much needed funding source will be available enables you to assist your clients in accomplishing needed projects in a more predictable and affordable manner.

For all of us it means that a huge variable has been minimized. While we must not forget that we still have a significant gap between funding and infrastructure needs, the actions

Cont’d on page 6
ON MY SOAPBOX:
What Does it Mean to Lead?

By Mac Richardson, Newsletter Co-Editor

In these recent days of political infighting and brinksmanship that seems to permeate public discourse from the international level through our national, state and even local governments, it may be a good time to reflect on what we can and should do.

Roughly translated, the Motto of the State of Maine “Dirigo” means, “I lead”.

I have to start by noting that the compromises that are currently working their way through the Maine Department of Environmental Protect to base arsenic standards in wastewater discharges and in treatment plant biosolids on more scientifically justifiable and technically achievable criteria is a good place to start to look at leadership. In many ways it is never easy for a governmental regulatory agency to relax standards and make them more permissive. All too often such action prompts cries of “backsliding” or abandoning the “precautionary principle”. In truth the compromises that were reached between a regulated community asked to meet standards that are essentially unachievable in any practical or economic sense of the word, and a strong desire to provide the utmost in environmental protection and a healthy ecosystem on the other were remarkable. This is how leadership is done: honest people coming to the table and working out practical solutions to the problems we face.

A second example of leadership provide by the State of Maine recently may be seen somewhat more negatively. That is example is the one provided by the Maine Turnpike Authority. Taking action to end egregious personal expenditures and rate payer funded freebies is only right! Few things have caused the downfall of great nations, societies and institutions as internal corruption. When people at the top of organizations play fast and loose with money that has been entrusted to them, there is no leadership. Everyone needs to do their part to make our communities, our State, our national and even the international community function. If political leaders become more concerned with their own fortunes (whether that is defined as personal wealth or campaign coffers is not the issue) than they are with the wellbeing of their constituents we have a problem. If people cheat or worse yet do not pay their taxes (possibly justifying such behavior by the poor examples set by leaders), we have a big problem.

What does it all mean? I guess what I am trying to say is that I am proud to call Maine my home, not the least because, in important ways, we are living up to our State’s motto, Dirigo! It is my profound hope that we can all see that commitment to clean, honest, government that seeks compromise and common ground is what leadership means.

---

This is your newsletter – if you have news you would like to pass along or an opinion to express that would be of interest to the membership of MWWCA we are always interested in receiving material and will make every effort to incorporate your submissions.

Fall Convention
Scheduled for September at Sugarloaf Resort

MWWCA will once again be holding its Fall Convention at the Sugarloaf Resort in Carrabassett Valley, Maine, on September 14-16. The Convention is typically attended by over 300 wastewater professionals and provides an excellent opportunity for manufacturer representatives, industrial distributors, contractors, financial institutions, and engineering firms, to present information about products and services to potential clients. This year’s activities include a 45th anniversary Yankee Barbeque, the annual golf tournament, a tour of the Carrabassett Valley wastewater treatment facility, and a keynote address by State Representative Patrick Flood (R-Winthrop), a long-time advocate of investment in infrastructure maintenance. A full list of the technical sessions on both Thursday and Friday is available on the MWWCA website at www.mwwca.org.

Registration, Vendor Exhibit Space materials, Exhibit Terms, Golf Tournament Registration, Golf Tournament Sponsorship, Activities Flyer and Overnight Room Reservation forms are available at www.mwwca.org. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Melissa Carver at Maine Municipal Association at (207) 623-8428, or toll free in Maine, 1-800-452-8786.
Member Profile: George Belmont

It has been noted that the long-time manager of the New England Organics Hawk Ridge Compost facility enjoys hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and anything that involves wearing camouflage. While that may be accurate, even in camo, George stands out as a straight up guy who knows Maine poop! In fact as manager of Hawk Ridge, George is responsible for over 50,000 cubic yards of treatment plant solids and the production of over 90,000 cubic yards of biosolids compost per year.

Far from fickle, George started with Resource Conservation Services right out of the University of Maine with his BS in Forest Resource Management. George moved up through the company starting as forest site spreading supervisor, then as Operations and Safety Manager, and now as Compost Facility manager. During his tenure the company name has been RCS, BFI Organics and now New England Organics, a Casella company.

George’s accomplishments are many. In addition to being instrumental in the ongoing success of the first tunnel composting facility in New England, he has been a key member of the NEO team that developed, implemented, and gained certification of an Environmental Management System for Biosolids under the National Biosolids Partnership. This first in New England/first private operator certification took a good deal of creativity and make believe – I mean imagination -- from George. Simply stated, George and the NEO EMS team had to break considerable new ground to achieve certification.

No surprise to anyone who knows him, George is not standing pat. After achieving significant energy reductions through the introduction of three phase power and other modifications, he is now overseeing construction of a new office building at the facility that will use geothermal source cooling in the summer and waste heat for heating in the cold months. No more trailer trash at the HRCF!

Perhaps the most telling aspect of how George runs things is the excellent relationships he maintains with regulators, customers, neighbors and town officials. He has made the annual HRCF neighbor meeting a town event not to be missed. George proudly hails from Greenville and currently resides with his wife and kids in Clinton.

Project Corner: Limestone, Maine Wastewater Treatment Facilities Consolidation

In an effort to share information about projects happening around the State, the editors of this newsletter have started a feature called “Project Corner”. If you have a project that has unique design components, challenges, funding arrangements, use of innovative technology, or would otherwise be of wide interest to other MWWCA members, please forward the project information to Aubrey Strause at astrauste@tataandhoward.com. Past projects featured under “Project Corner” have included: LEED and sustainability concepts in design; innovative nitrification solutions; and wastewater plant upgrades. Today’s Project Corner is courtesy of Steve Hallowell and Jim Manzer at Wright-Pierce in Portland.

The Limestone Water & Sewer District (LWSD) and the Loring Development Authority (LDA) have aggressively addressed wastewater treatment issues. Implementing individual solutions would not be cost-effective, given the closure of Loring Air Force Base and the loss of tax base, high unemployment, changes in population, and the current sewer revenue. Regionalization was the main strategy to address these issues. The LWSD served the town of Limestone, and the LDA served the former Air Force Base. A series of facility upgrades and consolidations included LWSD abandoning its wastewater treatment facility and constructing two pump stations and approximately 30,500 linear feet of force mains and gravity sewers to convey wastewater to the former LDA treatment facility. Challenges faced by the engineers included aging facilities and collection systems, compliance with discharge standards, three stream crossings, and two rail crossings.

Concurrent to this effort, both LWSD and LDA have aggressively addressed inflow and infiltration (I/I) by a three-phase upgrade of their collection systems. Consolidating treatment operations eliminated LWSD’s discharge to Limestone Stream. The final phase is a proposed extension of the Greater Limestone Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (GLRWWTF) outfall from the Little Madawaska River to the Aroostook River. This project will consist of an expansion of the effluent pump station, 7,500 linear feet of 20-inch force main, 10,500 linear feet of 21-inch gravity sewers, a stream crossing, a railroad crossing, and an outfall junction structure on Caribou Utilities District’s existing outfall pipe. The upgraded GLRWWTF serves both LWSD and LDA. Value was realized from a combination of reduced I/I, increased energy efficiency, and reduced operations and maintenance costs.

Funding for the project totaled $20.23 million and came from a variety of sources, including Maine DEP ($5.30 M), Maine Department of Economic and Community Development ($1.00 M), USDA Rural Development ($10.16 M), USEPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants ($0.77 M), and ARRA Funds ($3.00 M).

Maine WasteWater NEWS
The Department of Environmental Protection (Department), in cooperation with New England Organics, is continuing remediation of the abandoned Augusta Tissue Landfill. The Landfill is located on the Church Hill Road in Augusta and has been abandoned since 2004.

This next remedial step for the landfill will be to place select wastes in order to achieve minimum grades sufficient to cap the landfill. Beginning on October 12, 2010, the Department will be overseeing the placement of select wastes provided by New England Organics waste generators and haulers. The wastes will be approved by the Department on a case-by-case basis and may consist of paper mill sludge and bio-fuel ash. All waste streams will be evaluated by the Department for chemical and physical compatibility prior to acceptance at the landfill. Waste haulers will travel directly off State Route 3 to Church Hill Road. It is anticipated that approximately 225 tons of waste per day (8 to 12 truckloads per day) will be delivered 5 days per week during the hours of 7am to 6pm. There will be NO weekend deliveries.

This project will end once there are sufficient wastes to construct and install a “low maintenance cap”. Approximately 100,000 cubic yards of waste will be needed to bring the landfill to minimum acceptable grade elevations. The agreement specifies that waste disposal activities will end by mid October 2011; however, this timeline is a rough estimate and we anticipate that waste disposal may continue through August 2012.

We intend to monitor the site closely to assure that operations of this project do not adversely impact the neighborhood. Should you have concerns or questions now or at any time during this project, please call the Department’s onsite project representative Alan Jones at 207-512-2881. Mr. Jones, contingent on the nature of the inquiry, will coordinate with the Department and/or City of Augusta.
New Corporate Member of MWWCA

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. Rodgers–AeroTech is a 50 year old firm with seven associates. We provide air moving and cleaning equipment to a broad range of industries, including municipal wastewater. In fact, there is a good chance that you facility may have our products in place already. We work closely with engineers, contractors, and plant operators to provide the best, most cost effective solutions for your particular problems or issues. So please give us a call on your next air moving or odor control project.

We appreciate your past interest, and look forward to being of service.

Sincerely,
Rodgers–AeroTech
Ph: (800)639-4902 | (207)729-0921
Fax: (207)725-1413

Charles Perry Award

Charles Perry set the standard for wastewater utilities in the State of Maine by utilizing methods that were cutting edge for the time. Mr. Perry was one of the first employees of Wright Pierce Engineering, worked for Brunswick-Topsham Water District and finished his career as the Superintendent of Sewers for the City of Portland. Mr. Perry was one of the first to use trenchless technology, recognize the value of televised inspections of collection systems, implement preventative maintenance for collection systems and was the first in the state to use Hydro-Brakes for CSO remediation. Most importantly, Mr. Perry was dedicated to his crew and his work. He freely gave of his time and was always willing to help others, provide advice, make suggestions, and recognize the commitment his crew gave to their work.

The Charles Perry Award is given annually by the Maine Wastewater Control Association to an Individual, Municipality, District, or Private Water Collection System in Maine. This award is given to recognize the outstanding efforts of the collection systems’ personnel for excellence in Management, Operations and Maintenance of that collection system. While all facilities strive for compliance, this award recognizes extra effort and originality put forth in the operations of a wastewater collection system to reduce the environmental impact on that community.

The MMWCA Collection Systems Committee is currently accepting nominations for the Charles Perry Award in hopes of presenting the award at the 2011 MMWCA Fall Conference. For more information or nomination forms, contact Doug Howard dhoward@sacomaine.org (284-6641). Completed nominations can also be sent to Doug Howard. Nominations need to be in no later than August 19, 2011.

Safety Corner 2010

Al Jellison, Safety Committee Chair

There have been some changes in a few of the OSHA Standards that may affect your operations. Although the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards (BLS) may not have adopted them yet they will be coming our way.

Due to many accidents and injuries involving hoists and cranes, the standards have changed to require operators to have training with certification of that training. Also, the standard for fall protection and working near the edge (10 feet) of a roof has been changed.

The Department of Labor standards has put out a letter stating that they have identified “falls in construction” as a current serious hazard in Maine with four serious accidents reported within the last month in Maine. For this reason, the Department will be providing “small contractor” classes throughout the State as follows:

- August 29, 2011 Presque Isle Career Center
- August 30, 2011 Bangor Career Center
- August 31, 2011 Portland Career Center
- September 1, 2011 Fairfield – SafetyWorks! Training Institute

Two hour classes will start at 6:30 PM with classroom instruction and demonstration on fall protection from height. All interested people are invited and encouraged to attend.

Contact David Wacker at SafetyWorks 623-7900 or 1-877-723-3345.

I am in need of members on the Safety Committee if you are able to help. We would have quarterly meetings and review any new changes or proposed changes in the Standards.

SRF Funding Update cont’d

taken this session through the leadership of Representative Flood have stabilized a critical means of leveraging Federal funds to support our state’s infrastructure.

We are very appreciative of your support and we look forward to continuing this effort to maintain and upgrade Maine’s water and wastewater infrastructure.

Sincerely, Steve Cox, President, Maine Water Utilities Association; Paul Rodriguez, President, Maine WasteWater Control Association; Jeffrey McNelly, Executive Director, Maine Water Utilities Association; Andrew Gilmore, Legislative Advocate, Maine WasteWater Control Association

Charles Perry Award

Charles Perry set the standard for wastewater utilities in the State of Maine by utilizing methods that were cutting edge for the time. Mr. Perry was one of the first employees of Wright Pierce Engineering, worked for Brunswick-Topsham Water District and finished his career as the Superintendent of Sewers for the City of Portland. Mr. Perry was one of the first to use trenchless technology, recognize the value of televised inspections of collection systems, implement preventative maintenance for collection systems and was the first in the state to use Hydro-Brakes for CSO remediation. Most importantly, Mr. Perry was dedicated to his crew and his work. He freely gave of his time and was always willing to help others, provide advice, make suggestions, and recognize the commitment his crew gave to their work.

The Charles Perry Award is given annually by the Maine Wastewater Control Association to an Individual, Municipality, District, or Private Water Collection System in Maine. This award is given to recognize the outstanding efforts of the collection systems’ personnel for excellence in Management, Operations and Maintenance of that collection system. While all facilities strive for compliance, this award recognizes extra effort and originality put forth in the operations of a wastewater collection system to reduce the environmental impact on that community.

The MMWCA Collection Systems Committee is currently accepting nominations for the Charles Perry Award in hopes of presenting the award at the 2011 MMWCA Fall Conference. For more information or nomination forms, contact Doug Howard dhoward@sacomaine.org (284-6641). Completed nominations can also be sent to Doug Howard. Nominations need to be in no later than August 19, 2011.

Safety Corner 2010

Al Jellison, Safety Committee Chair

There have been some changes in a few of the OSHA Standards that may affect your operations. Although the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards (BLS) may not have adopted them yet they will be coming our way.

Due to many accidents and injuries involving hoists and cranes, the standards have changed to require operators to have training with certification of that training. Also, the standard for fall protection and working near the edge (10 feet) of a roof has been changed.

The Department of Labor standards has put out a letter stating that they have identified “falls in construction” as a current serious hazard in Maine with four serious accidents reported within the last month in Maine. For this reason, the Department will be providing “small contractor” classes throughout the State as follows:

- August 29, 2011 Presque Isle Career Center
- August 30, 2011 Bangor Career Center
- August 31, 2011 Portland Career Center
- September 1, 2011 Fairfield – SafetyWorks! Training Institute

Two hour classes will start at 6:30 PM with classroom instruction and demonstration on fall protection from height. All interested people are invited and encouraged to attend.

Contact David Wacker at SafetyWorks 623-7900 or 1-877-723-3345.

I am in need of members on the Safety Committee if you are able to help. We would have quarterly meetings and review any new changes or proposed changes in the Standards.

SRF Funding Update cont’d

taken this session through the leadership of Representative Flood have stabilized a critical means of leveraging Federal funds to support our state’s infrastructure.

We are very appreciative of your support and we look forward to continuing this effort to maintain and upgrade Maine’s water and wastewater infrastructure.

Sincerely, Steve Cox, President, Maine Water Utilities Association; Paul Rodriguez, President, Maine WasteWater Control Association; Jeffrey McNelly, Executive Director, Maine Water Utilities Association; Andrew Gilmore, Legislative Advocate, Maine WasteWater Control Association
Once the facility staff – operators, management or whoever has decided there is a need for a capital project, how do you go about making the project a reality? Here are a few suggestions and rules of thumb:

- Determine what level of Engineering support you want and need. Is a feasibility study or a facilities plan needed prior to actual design? Has the engineering firm done similar work in the past? What skills and knowledge and time can you bring to the project to improve the outcome or save money? Remember that ideally you are assembling a team, and your engineer is your first key player!

- How are you planning to finance the project? The people that run the State Revolving Loan Fund at DEP and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank can help answer a wide variety of questions, including what are interest rates? How can we bridge finance until we are ready to Bond? Is there grant funding or principal forgiveness available? Do Davis Bacon Wage rates apply (what the heck are Davis Bacon Wage rates!?) What is a MBE? WBE? What do I do if the project comes in over budget? or under budget?

- Other agencies that can help fund wastewater/water /stormwater projects include

  1. Rural Development loans and/or grants
  2. CDBG Community Development Block Grants) Grants with a 25% match from a local agency or other agency financing.
  3. STAG (Ear marks) Grant with a 45% match requirement. Match can be from a local source or from another agency.
  4. State Grant. When funds are appropriated by state referendum

  5. Efficiency Maine Grants funds to cover lighting replacements, heating and cooling improvements, efficiency upgrades for pumps and VFDs, other equipment specified as very high efficiency.

- Note that many of the more complex projects and those of having a higher overall cost (such as the recent Ellsworth treatment plant) are often funded through multiple sources and with many agencies providing funding.

- What percentage of the project is typically engineering? What is a typical number for construction services? These numbers can vary considerably depending upon such factors as the size of the project (generally the smaller the project the higher the percentage of the project is engineering) the complexity of the project (a straight forward piping replacement requires less design and less construction supervision than does a project involving many different disciplines such as electrical, mechanical, plumbing, heating and ventilating, etc). As a general rule, total engineering services typically run 17 to 20% of the total project cost and construction services run 8 to 11% of the construction cost. Be aware that these percentages may be too low or too high, depending on the individual circumstances involved in your project.

- Change orders commonly result from unforeseen circumstances. If additional time and work is needed, the place to start is to solve the problem in a spirit of cooperation between owner, engineer and contractor. No matter what, the owner is not entitled to free materials or services just because something was missed early on. In a similar manner, all parties need to recognize any errors or omissions on their part and come to the table ready to contribute to a cost effective project. Failure to adopt a team approach and to place blame or gain advantage during construction nearly always leads to increase cost in the end as well as an unpleasant work environment.

---

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**MWWCA Fall Convention**

**September 15-16, 2011**

Sugarloaf/USA
**INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGER AWARD NOMINATION**

The Industrial Discharger Award is given by Maine Waste Water Control Association to recognize a Maine industrial discharger who has made exemplary efforts towards reducing discharge volumes and/or pollutant concentrations in their effluent. This award also considers the extra effort and originality that has been involved in system design and/or operations, as well as the efforts made by the industrial discharger to meet internal environmental stewardship and sustainability goals. The following are the general qualities that determine the recipients of this award.

* Demonstrates exemplary operation and maintenance of the facility.
* Demonstrates a commitment from the business to reduce the volume of and/or the pollutant concentrations in wastewater discharges from the facility through continuous improvement projects.
* Demonstrates a professional and open relationship with regulatory agencies and permit authorities at all times.
* Applies internal sustainability and environmental stewardship policies or goals to wastewater treatment activities.
* Identifies treatment system influent sources and develops continuous improvement projects to reduce the volume or pollutants at the source.
* Provides service to the profession through participation, assistance to others with problems, etc.
* Demonstrates creativity in operations and problem solving.
* Maintains compliance with various permits.

**NOMINATION FORM**

To nominate a facility for the Industrial Discharger Award, please fill out the information below to the extent possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Name &amp; Title</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your Company/Facility</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your Phone Number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company to be Nominated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point of Contact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Permitting Authority Contact Name: ____________________________________________________________

If the award is for a specific employee or group of employees, Nominee(s) name(s) and title(s):

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Please summarize the reasons why the company or the specific nominee(s) should be considered for the Industrial Discharger Award. Provide significant data where appropriate.*

Please mail completed entries to:
Maine Municipal Association/ C/O Joan Kiszely/ 60 Community Dr./Augusta, ME 04330
Questions may be addressed to:
Dan Welch / General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products / (207) 283-3611 x0

*The MWWCA may request supporting documentation or further input for the nomination review or award presentation.
Maine’s own JETCC, the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee, was showcased in the August 2011 issue of Treatment Plant Operator (TPO) magazine. Leeann Hanson, training coordinator for the Scarborough-based organization, was interviewed by the publication to discuss how the organization manages to develop and present training, maintain records, process license applications, and administer twice-yearly operator certification testing with a staff of only two.

“We rely on volunteers to do the training,” said Hanson, who credits approximately 100 volunteers annually with the success of the program and the diversity of the training offered. With an average of 800 operators trained every year, the key, says Hanson, is to develop training on a diverse number of topics, which may include blueprint reading, pump operations, issues with “flushables”, laboratory procedures, manhole repairs, confined space entry, and regulatory updates in addition to basic wastewater treatment and activated sludge technical sessions. “We try to incorporate hands-on elements as much as we can,” adds Hanson.

A course that is a source of much pride for the organization is the Management Candidate School (MCS), now entering its third year. [Editor’s Note: see “Upcoming JETCC courses” on page 11 for more information about the MCS]. This course is aimed at providing mid-level plant operators the management, networking, media relations, and budget preparation skills that will prepare them for roles in facility management. This is increasingly important as more and more experienced operators, superintendents, and managers retire. “There are a lot of people who have been in the industry a long time who have knowledge in their heads. It’s really hard to transfer that knowledge,” said Hanson. MW-WCA is proud to support JETCC’s mission; we are fortunate to have such excellent advocates for the future of environmental protection and professional operations so close.
Friends of Casco Bay, based in South Portland, is a conservation organization that is unique in two ways:

1. It has a Waterkeeper on staff.
   As Casco Baykeeper®, Joe Payne is a full-time advocate for the Bay. He works on issues such as nitrogen pollution, dredging, stormwater runoff, and oil spills that threaten the water quality of the coastal waters between Cape Elizabeth and Cape Small. A lifelong resident of Maine, Joe’s formal training is in marine biology, environmental science, and quality assurance. Joe became the seventh Waterkeeper in the world when he joined Friends of Casco Bay in 1991; twenty years later, there are nearly 200 official Waterkeepers worldwide.

2. Friends of Casco Bay is scientifically grounded.
   Its advocacy and outreach are based on data collected by staff scientists and a dedicated corps of EPA-certified volunteers. They sample for dissolved oxygen, water temperature, water clarity, salinity, pH, and nitrogen. That data provides a long-term overview of the environmental health of Casco Bay and identifies areas of concern. One of those concerns is nitrogen pollution from factory and automobile exhaust, fertilizers, and sewage discharges.

   Excess nitrogen has turned parts of the Chesapeake Bay and the Gulf of Mexico into “dead zones.” Here, nitrogen pollution triggers blooms of “green slime.” These mats of bright green algae can smother the marine life on clamflats and deplete oxygen in seawater.

   Friends of Casco Bay staff began sampling for nitrogen in 2001. It now has several years of data on dissolved inorganic nitrogen at 34 coastal sites and 24 offshore sites. That data helped convince the State Legislature to pass a law in 2008 directing the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to develop limits on allowable nitrogen levels in coastal waters. The Department plans to release draft statewide nitrogen criteria by 2012.

Casco Baykeeper Joe Payne would like to see the State adopt the limit that many studies around the country recommend: 0.38 milligrams per liter of Total Nitrogen (TN). He says, “Most sewage treatment facilities could meet that limit now, or certainly over time, as they update their facilities.” He is committed to helping facilitate a dialogue among scientists and sewage treatment operators about techniques and technologies that can reduce nitrogen in wastewater discharges.

Joe observes, “Most people who live in Maine value the environment. They want to do the right thing to protect our coastal waters. Until the State sets a threshold for facilities to aim for, how do they know they are doing the right thing?”

While much of the nitrogen pollution comes from the land and the air, some of it originates on the ocean. Friends of Casco Bay also targets those sources. In 1995, it launched a mobile pumpout service for recreational boats. For $10, its pumpout boat siphons a holding tank and transports the waste to a shoreside sewage disposal line. So far, it has kept over 120,000 gallons of raw sewage from being (illegally) discharged into coastal waters. In 2002, the organization turned its attention to bigger vessels, leading an effort to ban cruise ships from discharging partially-treated sewage and waste water from sinks, showers, and galleys.

---

Mussel Cove

Joe at Sea
Maine DEP Updates Dischargers About Arsenic Water Quality Criteria

By Aubrey Strause, Newsletter Co-Editor

During this legislative session, LD 515, An Act to Review State Water Quality Standards (PL 2011 Ch. 194) was signed by the Governor. This bill will relax the State Human Health Water Quality criteria for inorganic arsenic (currently 0.012 ug/L for water and organisms, or 0.028 ug/L for organisms only) by a factor of 100. While the bill does not become effective until a rulemaking process has been completed, the measure may have immediate impacts to existing wastewater facilities with arsenic limits in their discharge permits, and to Maine’s 11 communities with Industrial Pretreatment Programs. Maine Department of Environmental Protection recently sent a letter to these stakeholders, indicating that the Department would be suspending its use of the Guidance for Conducting Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) for Arsenic, and that it will “exercise its enforcement discretion for exceedances of the current inorganic arsenic criteria or effluent limits associated with these criteria”.

Facilities that currently have limits for total or inorganic arsenic and/or have been involved in a TRE for arsenic (or similar program) should contact their inspector to determine how to report and manage exceedances of arsenic until the water quality criteria in LD 515 become effective.

Also with regard to arsenic, the Department is reviewing the arsenic standard for land application of biosolids and residuals, and plans to enter a rulemaking process to relax this standard. This would have implications for facilities for which ‘arsenic concentration in sludge’ was the most restrictive criterion in a Local Limits evaluation. The Department plans to approach rulemaking simultaneously for the arsenic water quality criteria and the arsenic biosolids standard.

MWWCA to Participate in Maine Science Teacher’s Conference

For the second year, MWWCA will participate in the Maine Science Teachers Association Annual Fall Conference, which will be held at Gardiner Area High School in Gardiner, Maine on Friday, October 7, 2011. MWWCA will participate as an exhibitor, providing teachers with wastewater and water quality-related educational materials that are focused on middle- and high-school students. In addition, MWWCA will set up the booth and have Clean Water Week calendars available. Maine’s science teachers look forward to getting new ideas from exhibits at this conference, and often use the information they gain to develop lesson plans that include real-world applications of the science fundamentals they teach. Andre Brousseau represented the organization in 2010, and will do so again this year. If you’re interested in participating, please contact him at abrousseau@sanfordsewerage.org.

Upcoming JETCC Courses

JETCC, the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee, is offering several courses for new operators and those preparing for the Wastewater Operator Exam on November 17!!

- October 6, 13, 20, 27
  - Basic Wastewater Treatment (6 sessions)
  - November 3 & 10
- October 5
  - Process Control of Activated Sludge
- October 13 & 14
  - Process Control Math for Activated Sludge
  - With NEIWPC

JETCC is also seeking recommendations for participants in Maine’s third Management Candidate School (MCS), which will begin in October 2011 and conclude in September 2012. Maine WasteWater Control Association and Maine DEP have participated each year as program sponsors. This training program provides the intensive training, networking and skill-development coursework necessary to prepare the next generation of wastewater managers and leaders. The program includes management courses, technical courses (such as engineering basics and GIS) as well as skill training in areas such as media relations, dealing with regulatory agencies, and budget preparation. Participants will earn more than 60 training contact hours.

With many of Maine’s current wastewater managers at or near retirement age, it is hoped that the individuals who complete the MCS program will be available to continue the critical work of managing the state’s water and wastewater treatment infrastructure. For more information on the above programs, contact JETCC at jetcc@maine.rr.com or (207) 253-8020, or visit www.jetcc.org.
AUGUST 2011 ISSUE
please circulate and share with your colleagues

www.mwwca.org