The President's Corner

By Paul Rodriguez, President, MWWCA

Reflecting on this past year, it has been an honor for me to serve as President of the Association. Working alongside a group of volunteers with such incredible dedication to the Association’s mission, and to our profession, has been truly inspiring. The diversity of our membership is key to our continued success. I believe that the free exchange of ideas combined with a willingness to consider new possibilities has enabled our organization to adapt to the changing needs of our members over the years. These core values will serve us well into the future. The variety of new initiatives currently underway is extremely exciting and all of them speak to our mission of promoting continuing education, public awareness, and enhancing the image of our profession.

After our Fall Conference I spoke with a first time attendee who had been to several similar events up and down the East Coast during his career, and he told me he was blown away by the strong sense of community and the tremendous knowledge sharing that took place at our conference. That was just one of many moments over the past year that made me proud to be a part of the Association, and I look forward to continuing to support this Association’s efforts in the future.

Cont’d on page 2

Many Hands Make Light Work

By Jeff McBurnie, 1st Vice President, MWWCA

Reflecting on Paul’s words about the dedication of our organization’s members, this adage, passed down to me by my grandparents and parents, has never rung so true. I’ve heard on more than one occasion about how amazing it is that this ‘bunch of volunteers’ has made major impacts in Maine and New England. That’s dedication! Dedication, driven not by a thirst for accolades and attention, but by a need to give back to an industry that has provided us with fulfilling careers and opportunities to make a difference. This may sound pompous, but for too long we’ve been the silent stewards of water quality protection. At the Fall Conference, I made the comment that I’d like the theme for 2012 to be “The Year of the Operator”. This organization was founded to help operators become as well trained and well prepared as pos-
It is with a combination of sadness and gratitude that we mark the passing of four valued and beloved members of our Maine water protection/environmental community:

Kai Lennart Rost, a founding member of the Maine Waste Water Control Association, passed away on November 4 at the age of 79. Born in Stockholm, Sweden, Lennart grew up in Trondheim, Norway and emigrated to Maine in 1960. With his civil engineering degree from the Norwegian Institute of Technology, Lennart became a professional engineer in Maine where he was heavily involved in the early efforts to restore Maine rivers to health through wastewater treatment and watershed management. An innovative designer, Lennart held many patents including a radon mitigation system to treat well water. Later in life he designed many septic systems in southern Maine for systems both large and small. In 2007 he was able to travel back to Norway for a 50th class reunion where he was able to connect with life long friends Frode Pedersen, Tor G., Tor R., Sven, and Werner. He is survived by his son Lars Rost and his wife Shelly and their children and by his daughter Lisa Haugen and her husband Patrick and their children. Donations in Lennart’s memory may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Mark F. Wentworth, a 30 year employee of Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District, recently passed away at the age of 65. Mark is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Sue, daughter Maria Bickford, husband Bill and two grandsons, Jacob and Nathan, and son Lonny Lyons, wife Karen and three grandchildren, Cody, Derrick and Nadia. Mark worked as maintenance foreman repairing or rebuilding the District’s many pumps and gearboxes. With his vast knowledge, he was the “go-to man” for more projects than we can list.

His mechanical talents and love of Ford Mustangs kept him busy at home restoring many old Mustangs from bare metal to the finished polished product. He often raced them at the Winterport Dragway, and showed them off at local car shows. Mark loved camping and spending time with his wife at their Moosehead Lake camp.

Mark was a valued employee with strong mechanical knowledge, and impeccable work ethics.

He took everything in stride and just got the job done.

Mark had a kind, gentle soul and everyone who knew him respected and looked up to him. He left his “mark” on the District – one that will not soon be forgotten. Mark will be sadly missed by all who loved and worked with him.

Richard “Dick” Kemp and Winfield “Win” Studley died tragically in a confined space accident while working in Kennebunkport. Both men were employed by Stevens Electric of Monmouth where they were valued and respected for their work ethic, friendly and helpful attitudes and willingness to help others. Dick had a great love of antique cars and tractors and was a long time supporter of the Monmouth Fair. Win loved music, automobiles and baseball and was a long time supporter of the Monmouth Fair. Win loved music, automobiles and baseball and was a founding member of the Blueberry Hill Street Rod Association of Windsor. Life for these two men was cut unnecessarily short and can serve as a reminder to all that safety needs to be the first priority in all we do. Memoral donations in memory of Winfield Studley can be made to the American Heart Association and in memory of Richard Kemp to the Monmouth Academy Alumni Association.

MWWCA E-Mail Database

All current members of MWWCA should receive periodic e-mails, which may include the most recent newsletter, conference and training announcements, or regulatory updates. If you haven’t received any e-mails from the organization recently, you may wish to update your information in the distribution list by sending your current e-mail address to Joan Kiszely at jkszely@memun.org. Don’t miss out on the exciting networking and educational opportunities MWWCA provides!

Many Hands cont’d

possible to the benefit of the communities they serve and the people in them. As of late, we’ve been more focused on the infrastructure, the hardware, the bricks-and-mortar. While all of that is important, we often overlook the heart and soul of environmental stewardship, the people. My challenge to you for the coming year is to “Join the Movement” and be the best operators possible. The best way to do that is through participation...participation in training, participation in public service, participation in outreach, participation in mentoring, participation in our Association. I further challenge the decision makers: the superintendents, the boards, the general managers, etc. to support your employees efforts to grow and excel in their chosen professions. Working and growing together, living our Association’s motto: “Water Quality...Our Maine Concern”. ☾
ON MY SOAPBOX: The World Keeps Turning

By Mac Richardson, Newsletter Co-Editor

For many years now I have heard the drum beat of concern that we will soon be losing a “class” or a “generation” of people from the field of environmental protection and we need to train new people to fill this coming need. At times the warnings have had a downright apocalyptical tone. The combined knowledge and experience that is soon to be lost will be irreplaceable, for sure, but there is help and hope on the way.

As we continue to see friends and pioneers in the rather small and tight knit community that loosely orbits around the Maine Waste Water Control Association retire, move on, and even pass on, it is entirely appropriate that we take a minute to ask where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. It is particularly important for us remember and reflect on the contributions made by those who have recently died. Recently we have lost association founder Lennart Rost, longtime KSTD maintenance foreman Mark Wentworth, and Stevens Electric employees Winfield Studley and Richard Kemp. These were “roll up your sleeves and make things happen” kind of people. They set a standard and were an inspiration and an example to those around them. Now they are gone. They will be missed in countless ways.

While the loss and the threat to our industry is real, in my heart and mind there is no room for despair. There is a generation coming along that can and will pick up where we (the old farts like me) leave off. I am heartened to see that the Maine Wastewater Control Association has started what appears to be a very vibrant young professionals committee. From my own experience here at LAWPCA, I have to say the challenge may be keeping up with this new bunch of professionals – not worrying whether they can handle the job we are leaving to them. Of course, the other side of this coin is that the jobs we offer are great opportunities for young people joining the workforce. As a rule the jobs pay reasonably well have good benefits and offer stability.

So, in closing if you’re an oldie like me give ground graciously and offer whatever insight you have managed to acquire over the years. Give of your experience and what little wisdom you may have been able to acquire freely. If you are a newbie, I invite you to see the future in a positive light and take part in our Association – truly you will meet remarkable people and be enriched many times over whatever you put into our Association. Hey any of you oldies want to join OAOF? (the Official Association of Old Farts!)

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION!

Your editors are pleased to present this special holiday issue of the MWWCA newsletter for your enjoyment! Are we trying to cover up for the fact that the November issue is just behind schedule? You bet we are! However, as you probably know, both editors have paying jobs, and we appreciate your patience. This also highlights the fact that we could always use more help in pulling together this publication. Contact either Mac or Aubrey if you’d be willing to write an article, no matter how brief, or have ideas for future features.

UPCOMING 2012 EVENTS:

**NEWEA Annual Conference**
January 22-25 – Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel
Boston, MA

Maine Water Utilities Association/MWWCA Annual
February Meeting & Trade Show
February 7 – Portland, ME

**2012 Legislative Breakfast**
February 16 – Senator Inn, Augusta, Maine

**Ski Day**
March 14 – Sugarloaf USA, Carrabassett Valley

**MWWCA Spring Conference**
April 27– Black Bear Inn, Orono, Maine

**NEWEA/New York Water Environment Association
Spring Meeting and Exhibit**
June 5-8 – Sagamore Resort, Bolton Landing, NY
Member Profile: Brent Dickey – Superintendent, Skowhegan Water Pollution Control Facility

The Skowhegan Treatment Facility is a 1.65 mgd activated sludge plant operated by a staff of 4. The plant staff manage their own biosolids program and are responsible for 11 pump stations, but not for the entire collection system.

Over his career in the environmental field, Brent has developed a reputation as a practical, hardworking and straight forward professional. It all started for him back in high school when Brent attended a presentation on careers and the speaker said that work in the environmental field offered steady and interesting work. That prompted the young Mr. Dickey to enroll in the Pollution Abatement Program at Eastern Maine Vocational Technical College in Bangor. After graduating in 1978, Brent went to work for the Anson-Madison Sanitary District where he worked for ten years until the Superintendent position became available in Skowhegan.

Looking back, Brent notes that the variability and range of challenges involved in running a treatment facility are one of the best parts of the job. Needing to be able to solve problems involving instrumentation, biological processes, electrical, mechanical, chemical and all of the other clerical and managerial issues has kept the job challenging and interesting. Going forward, Brent sees challenges for environmental professionals: we are always expected to do more with less, and every year that becomes harder as budgets get squeezed. Similarly “clean” never seems to be “clean enough” -- standards keep getting more stringent and the requirements more complex.

Concerning public perception, Brent noted that the range of opinion goes from “Poor to Oblivious”, but really people just aren’t aware of what we do, when people do take the time to find out about our business, they are generally amazed and respect the efforts we make on their behalf. The challenge is to get people to take the time to ask questions or come for a tour. There is a long standing invitation to the public to tour the treatment plant in the Town’s annual report, but very seldom does anyone take him up on the offer.

Operator Exchange: Connecticut Operator to Visit Maine Facilities

MWWCA’s NEWEA State Representative Chuck Applebee (Gardiner, ME) recently announced that a Connecticut Operator will be visiting a number of Maine wastewater treatment facilities. Sean Hetherington, an employee with the Town of Manchester, Connecticut, will be visiting Maine from December 14th -16th and will attend the MWWCA Executive Committee meeting on December 16th. Sean will tentatively be visiting the the Richmond, Gardiner, Augusta, and Sanford plants. If you are interested in either hosting an operator or visiting facilities in another state as part of the Operator Exchange program, please contact Chuck Applebee at capplebee@gardinermaine.com.

JETCC Presents Past Service Award

Leeann Hanson, JETCC Training Coordinator

The Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC) recently presented Dana Peck of Peck Environmental Associates with its Past Service Award. The award was given after Dana completed a 3-year term on the JETCC Board of Directors. During that term, Dana served the JETCC Board as an Industrial Representative. Dana was also instrumental in getting the 12-month Management Candidate School started through JETCC. Sponsors of Management Candidate School include Maine Wastewater Control Association, Maine Water Utilities Association, Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. Since its inception in 2009, the Management Candidate School graduated 17 Wastewater Operators in 2010, and 22 Water and Wastewater Operators in 2011. The third MCS began on October 12, 2011, with 19 operators.

Dana Peck of Peck Environmental Associates receives a Past Service Award from Leeann Hanson – JETCC Training Coordinator.
It’s already that time of year again: that’s right- Force Maine has returned from yet another national Operations Challenge event, this time at WEFTEC 2011 in Los Angeles! I’m sure you have already seen the Ops Challenge results broadcast all over the national, state, and local news so there’s no need for me to go into great detail about how we……what? Are you sure?

Well, then. Having just been informed that the results of WEFTEC 2011 have not been all over the news as I previously thought, I need to change the angle in which I approach this. I was going to make a whole bunch of excuses for Force Maine’s 9th place finish out of 26 different Division 2 teams (including placing 5th place in process and 8th in collection systems). My excuses would have included such gems as “All of the other teams cheated” or “We felt guilty and decided to let the other teams beat us”.

Now I find myself at a crossroad. Are you sure this was not on the news? Great! In that case, would you believe that Force Maine destroyed everyone else, finishing 1st in 4 out of 5 events? That a new award was invented to reflect just how badly Force Maine trounced the other teams in the 5th event? That during the awards ceremony, the ceiling cracked open and God himself actually came down to present his own special award for Excellence in Winning? Many wept. Lives were changed. And all the other teams peed their pants just a little bit?

The results were definitely NOT on the news right?

For more information on how to get involved in Force Maine, contact me at abuechner@biddefordmaine.org.

Editor’s Note: Despite Alex’s wacky alternative ending to Force Maine’s experience at WEFTEC, we believe that the real story- a 9th place finish out of 26 teams- is still pretty great. Thanks to Alex and the other members of Force Maine for their hard work and dedication. Congrats on your final placement, and we’re honored to have you represent MWWCA and the State of Maine.

Maine WasteWater NEWS is a quarterly publication of the Maine WasteWater Control Association. (Publication months: Feb, May, Aug, Nov) Opinions expressed in this publication should be addressed to: MWWCA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330.

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On October 26, a group of MWWCA members met at the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority (LAWPCA) to discuss ways to introduce new members of the profession (whether based on age or time spent in environmental work) to the networking, technical, social, and educational benefits of MWWCA. This group, tentatively called the Young Professionals (YP) Committee, discussed how to engage new members in the organization and get young/new operators and professionals to attend MWWCA conferences and events, which can be overwhelming. Discussions included how to best mentor and support the next generation of operators and administrators, and how to encourage Superintendents and General Managers to support this integration. As the group develops, it may seek volunteers that are active members of the organization who are willing to take on a mentorship role of new members. You’ll hear more about the YP in future months! The YP Committee is currently an ad-hoc subcommittee under the Personnel Advancement Committee.
Project Corner:
Winterport Makes the Most of Available Funding Programs
Steven M. Lane, Superintendent

In 2011, the Winterport Water District continued with its ongoing sewer system rehabilitation as part of its combined sewer overflow master plan. These repairs were mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to eliminate discharges of combined system overflows to the Penobscot River. Work completed in 2011 wrapped up a long-term, focused project that included a number of phases and efficiently utilized several funding sources.

The District, in conjunction with its primary wastewater engineering firm, Olver Associates, has been working diligently on the CSO Master Plan since 2009. The District has received a total of $1,895,379 of funding for sewer system rehabilitation since that time, from a combination of U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Maine Department of Environmental Protection Clean Water State Revolving Funds. Of this amount, $1,645,379 was in the form of grants and principle forgiveness. With the initial funding from the Maine DEP CWSRF fund, the District’s annual loan repayment would have been approximately $36,000. Subsequent funding from the SRF program and USRA Rural Development lowered the District’s annual debt service payment to $12,000 annually.

The funding was first used in 2009 for sewer system infrastructure rehabilitation of approximately 6,100 feet of deteriorated sewer lines on North Main Street, which was completed in fall 2009. Construction broke for winter and resumed in spring 2010 with sewer rehabilitation on Dean Street, Ferry Street, Oak Street and Whig Street. Due to very favorable bids, the District was able to put additional streets out to bid in 2010, to address groundwater inflow on Willow Street and Park Drive. This work was completed in fall 2010.

Moving forward with sewer system rehabilitation, in 2011 approximately 1,050 linear feet of sewer on Kaler Street were replaced, and spot repairs were made on both Steamboat Avenue and Water Street. The rehabilitation of these multiple sewer lines helped the wastewater treatment plant prevent overflows of partially treated wastewater into the Penobscot River. Flow monitoring in the sewage collection system has been ongoing in fall 2011 to assess the results of the completed CSO abatement work.

The District has not limited itself to improvement of sanitary sewer infrastructure. Also in 2009, the District received a Maine Drinking Water Program SRF grant to develop a backup structure. Also in 2009, the District was supplied by a single well, the water system was determined to be susceptible to interruption of service due to either mechanical pump failure or other well-related problems. This project funding corrected that deficiency and provided support for future needs, such as painting of the District’s water tower. Of the $128,000 awarded to the District, 45% of that amount was in the form of principle forgiveness, with the remaining amount to be a 0% interest loan.

Thanks to grant opportunities, low interest rates and practical engineering, Winterport was able to address many pressing infrastructure needs in a cost effective manner. Thank you to all who were involved in these projects to make them so successful for our community.

Two Lincoln Sanitary District Operators Receive MWWCA Scholarship

The MWWCA Personnel Advance- ment Committee (PAC) is pleased to report that two recipients of its Operator Training Scholarship successfully completed the Management Candidate School managed by JETCC and have received their scholarship funds. Earlier this year, Scott Hesseltine and Shawn Gifford, both operators at the Lincoln facility, were awarded the scholarship, which is dependent on successful completion of the training program. Recipients of the scholarship are reimbursed for up to 85% of the total cost of tuition, materials, registration and other related costs, up to a maximum of $250.00 per request.

Are you interested in applying for this scholarship, or wondering if it could defray some training costs at your District? The PAC accepts applications for scholarships on a rolling basis, and reviews applications quarterly. The PAC has been disappointed at the lack of interest in this scholarship program and would encourage all members to consider applying for a scholarship.

An individual selected for a scholarship must be a current member of the Association. Training programs can include JETCC, NEIETC, technical college courses, and similar offerings. Contact Aubrey Strause, PAC Chair, at astrause@tataandhoward.com to learn more about the scholarship program and eligibility requirements, or visit http://www.mwwca.org/scholarship.htm to download an application.
Gardiner, ME Chief Operator Receives JETCC Founders Award

by Leeanne Hanson, JETCC Training Coordinator

On Thursday, September 15, 2011, Arthur Robinson, Chief Operator of the City of Gardiner’s wastewater treatment facility, was recognized for outstanding service to his community and to the profession of wastewater treatment plant operation. Arthur was announced as the fifth recipient of the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC) Founders Award during Maine Wastewater Control Association’s Annual Convention at Sugarloaf USA in Carrabassett Valley. The award was presented by JETCC’s Training Coordinator, Leeanne Hanson.

Art has been employed at Gardiner Wastewater Treatment Facility since 2004 when he started off as a Part Time Operator. He also been the Lab Technician at Gardiner and was promoted to the Chief Operator position just one year ago.

Art began his career in WW after 30 years at Statler Tissue in Augusta where he was the Steam Plant Superintendent. He showed his commitment to this industry early in his WW career.

When he began working part-time at the WWTF he also worked a 3rd shift job in Facilities Management at University of Maine Augusta. For over a year, Art worked 64 plus hours per week until he was hired full-time at the Gardiner WWTF in 2005. During those 64 plus hour weeks, he also studied for and secured his wastewater treatment operator’s license. Now, as Chief Operator at Gardiner WWTF, Arthur Robinson supervises staff and is responsible for general oversight, operations and maintenance of the plant.

Over the past two years, Art has trained and mentored several new staff members, filled in for the Chief Operator during times of absence, and worked plant duty almost every other weekend ensuring essential plant functions were complete. Art is always willing to share his knowledge, listen to new ideas and work to improve plant efficiency and performance. At a time when the treatment process changed, Art carefully optimized the operations to greatly improve the quality of the effluent.

As part of a facility upgrade in 2005, Art led the way in learning about and fine-tuning the Huber Screw Press and developed an operating procedure that allowed the Huber Screw Press to achieve sludge cake solids results of up to 40%. It also reduced Gardiner’s Sludge Disposal Budget by over $100,000 annually! Over the past 2 years Art has also worked to reduce the WW Facility’s oil consumption and has realized another savings of $25,000 annually.

Art continues to improve his own knowledge and the knowledge of junior staff at the facility. He works one on one with new operators to continuously improve their knowledge and capabilities in operating and maintaining the plant.

Art has been active in Maine Wastewater Control Association’s Operator Exchange Program. He visited Rhode Island for several days and learned about many new technologies designed to remove nutrients. He has also hosted out of state operators visiting Maine treatment plants.

Art is also proactive in educating young people about our industry as he conducts multiple facility tours for area schools and includes each staff member who explains their area of operation and responsibility at the plant. When one West Gardiner school had reduced its field trip budget, Art put together a program and took it directly to the students in West Gardiner for a classroom presentation. He has also been a youth basketball coach for a number of years.

According to Gardiner’s Wastewater Superintendent, Chuck Applebee, “Art’s knowledge, dedication, willingness to learn then share information and his continuous improvement attitude make him an outstanding member of the City of Gardiner WW Treatment Staff and an excellent candidate for the JETCC Founder’s Award. Art is truly “the right hand Man”. Applebee continued, “With Art it is done, it is done as a team, it is done once and it is done right!” The City of Gardiner recognizes, applauds and appreciates all of Art’s accomplishments and efforts.

The JETCC Founders Award is given annually to an operator, maintenance worker or laboratory person working in a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment system in Maine, and is intended to recognize a staff member working in a plant or wastewater system.
The department’s existing three bureaus will be restructured in 2012 to manage resource protection, environmental assessment and resource administration.*

AUGUSTA - A restructuring underway within the Maine Department of Environmental Protection will enhance the agency’s effectiveness in providing protections for the state’s air, land and water while enacting efficiencies to improve service and operations.

DEP Commissioner Pattie Aho announced today in a keynote address at the Maine State Chamber’s Environmental Issues Symposium in South Portland a plan to reorganize the agency around its functions starting in early 2012.

The DEP plans to retain three bureaus - currently Air Quality, Land & Water Quality and Remediation and Waste Management - but instead of being structured around environmental media, they’ll be organized via the functions of resource protection, environmental assessment and resource administration.

No immediate layoffs are expected as a result of the restructuring, which proactively positions the agency for zero-based budgeting.

Already under Aho’s leadership, DEP staff within the existing bureaus who have done policy development or outreach and education have been centralized within the Unit of Policy Development & Implementation and the Unit of Communications & Education.

The restructuring of the 400-person DEP with its annual budget of $60 million - of which just 10 percent comes from the general fund - will improve both internal and external communication and promote a coordinated, cross-media approach to the agency’s work.

Some examples of where consistencies will be created by a functional structure include inspection frequency, permitting processes, billing and collections, initiation of enforcement and compliance correspondence. Procedures for those services are currently specific to each bureau but under the new structure would apply across the agency, creating predictability for the regulated community.

“In many respects, we’ve been functioning as three agencies with three separate lines of services,” Aho explained. “The new structure takes a practical approach that is both more efficient for the regulated community and for our own internal operations by having one full-service team to handle each function, whether it be permitting, inspections, enforcement, monitoring or billing. Now instead of three different departments, there will be one unified Maine DEP.”

Maine’s environment will be the immediate beneficiary of the proposed changes, Commissioner Aho stressed in her announcement Wednesday. For example, environmental data that has been historically monitored by different bureaus would be received and reviewed by one section of staff who will be able to better protect Maine’s air, land and water with their more comprehensive analysis.

The regulated community can also expect more inclusive service. Currently, a Mainer can call one bureau’s media-specific licensing unit to seek a license to open or expand a facility and may never be notified that they need additional environmental licenses from other divisions within the same department. That’s just one example of why staff who do the same work - like licensing - should be grouped together no matter their media, Aho explained.

The restructuring will also allow the agency to be more agile as it deploys its resources to core programs and priorities, including improving predictability and timeliness of permit processing; consistent, decisive enforcement; the closure of long-term remediation sites so they are ready for redevelopment; reasonable, science-based rulemaking; and the establishment of department-wide assistance protocols that strengthen a culture of cooperation.

“Our commitment to providing environmental protections is stronger than ever,” added Aho. “But with diminishing financial resources and expanding expectations, it is time for our department to be modernized to most effectively and efficiently meet our mission after 40 years of largely serving in silos. It’s an important job we do here at DEP, and this structure will best support our work and the talented team of DEP employees who carry it out with great commitment each day.”

For more information about the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, visit http://www.maine.gov/dep.

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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 MW-WCA we are always interested in receiving material and will make every effort to incorporate your submissions.
Maine’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is eligible to receive an annual grant from EPA to capitalize the fund. The capitalization grants (a.k.a. Cap Grant) are part of the Federal Appropriations Budget for that federal fiscal year (FFY starts Oct. 1) and are generally available to the State around the first of the next calendar year. The amount of the Cap Grant is not known until after the federal budget has been passed. To receive the Cap Grant the State must provide a 20% match of the grant amount.

Note:

- The FFY2011 Cap Grant State Match was provided from Surplus Match from past years and $850,000 in the State Budget for SFY2012.

- There is no State Match funding in the State Budget for SFY2013.

- The CWSRF has a current State Match surplus of $73,096, which can only be used to provide the State Match.

- Cap Grants must be obligated “…to the State during the fiscal year in which they are allotted and during the following fiscal year.” 40CFR 35.3110(e)(2) This means that, to receive the FFY2012 Cap Grant the State must have its match and enter into a grant agreement with EPA prior to September 30, 2014.

- The following analysis of State Match Needs for FFY2012 – FFY2014 is based on the President’s proposed FFY2012 budget of $1.55 billion nationally for the CWSRF program. Under that proposal the State would receive an estimated $11,600,000 Cap Grant requiring $2,320,000 in State Match. Since proposed budgets for FFY2013 and 2014 have not yet been presented, the FFY2012 numbers were carried forward to those years for estimation purposes.
The following table lists the State Match that is needed to optimize the amount of funding available for the CWSRF program. Optimization of the funding provides the program with additional funds in a timely manner and helps assure the CWSRF’s sustainability. Securing the Cap Grants in a timely manner could provide additional financial relief to communities if subsequent federal appropriations allow for loan principal forgiveness, as they have for the past two years.

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<tr>
<th>Cap Grant</th>
<th>State Match</th>
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<tr>
<td>FFY2012 Cap Grant (available 1st of 2012)</td>
<td>$11,600,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Surplus Match</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Additional SFY2013 State Match Needed</strong></td>
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<td>(July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FFY2013 Cap Grant (available 1st of 2013)</td>
<td>$11,600,000</td>
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<td><strong>Additional SFY2014 State Match Needed</strong></td>
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<td>(July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FFY2014 Cap Grant (available 1st of 2014)</td>
<td>$11,600,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>SFY2015 State Match from 1st Installment of Wholesale Liquor Contract Available July 1, 2014</td>
<td>$2,320,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Additional SFY2015 State Match Needed</strong></td>
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**LAWPCA starts Anaerobic Digestion**

Thanks largely to the unusually warm weather experienced in the late fall and early winter, Methuen construction and their principal subcontractor, Shaw Brothers of Gorham have been able to make remarkable progress on the 12 million dollar solids treatment project in Lewiston. As of this writing, the contractor has done the majority of the excavation and been able to pour the first floor of the digester equipment building and the base slab for one of the two 65 ft. diameter digesters. The project construction is expected to take 18 to 24 months to complete and represents the largest single capital investment made by the Authority since its creation in 1967. With the help of an Efficiency Maine grant, the Authority will be installing two digester gas fired reciprocating engines that will run in a combined heat and power mode. The engine generators are expected to reduce the treatment plant’s electrical use by approximately 40%. ☀️
State Match has previously been obtained though the State Budget (2000 & 2012) and most often through the sale of State General Obligation Bonds. There are three other scenarios in which a portion or all of the State Match can be obtained.

Scenario 1:

The CWSRF program allows the use of State Match Earnings used along with other funds to be loaned out through the program. They also allow the State Match Earnings to be used as the State Match. Currently the CWSRF has $975,297 that could be used for State Match. If however they were used for the State Match, they could not be loaned out and the program would not grow as quickly.

Scenario 2:

The CWSRF program allows repayment interest to be used to fund projects or to make payment on a revenue bond for the State Match. Repayment interest can not be used to directly fund the State Match. The Maine Municipal Bond Bank, the program’s financial manager, can sell short term revenue bonds to provide the State Match and use repayment interest to pay for the bonds. If the repayment interest is used to pay the bond, it is not available to be loaned to communities for projects.

Scenario 3:

Assuming things go as planned as outlined in Part S of the current State Budget, the State Wholesale Liquor Contract will be renegotiated by June 20, 2013 and the first fixed annual payment to the State will be made at the beginning of the first fiscal year of the contract, SFY2015, or July 1, 2014. At that time the CWSRF would be eligible to receive funding for the State Match. Funds received at that time could be used for all or part of the State Match for FFY2012 as it would be received prior to the September 30, 2014 deadline for Cap Grant obligation. (see prior Note) It could also be used for all or part of the FFY2013 Match, depending on need and the availability of funds from the liquor contract. Waiting until after July 1, 2014 to secure the FFY2012 Cap Grant could cause a potential shortfall in the amount of funding available to be loaned.

Update on “Flushables” Legislation

By Aubrey Strause, Newsletter Co-Editor

Many of you have been following, with great interest, the status of LD 781, the legislation to prevent disposal of non-flushable wipes and similar products into the sewer system. In September, INDA (the association that represents manufacturers of many non-woven products) performed a forensic study at Portland Water District’s Cottage Place pump station. Tom Connolly (Yarmouth) and Aubrey Strause (Tata & Howard), members of the MWWCA Flushables Working Group, provided a summary of the study’s results to the Environment & Natural Resource Committee on November 3, 2011. The majority of ENR Committee members were very supportive of the MWWCA’s approach. INDA and the Working Group have been planning to do a focused educational campaign about what materials should not be flushed, funded by INDA, in the area discharging to the PWD Cottage Place Station. This would be followed by another forensic study to determine the campaign’s effectiveness, as measured by a reduction in volume of these materials pulled from the screen. However, INDA has requested another data-gathering study in mid-January, and has not yet been prepared to discuss the details of an educational campaign.

The Working Group continues to believe that three actions will minimize pump clogging from these materials: 1) clear, prominent, and consistent labeling and advertising by manufacturers for products that do (and do not) satisfy the industry’s standard for flushability; 2) funding provided by product manufacturers to educate consumers on these issues; and 3) reformulation of all products likely to be flushed (such as feminine products, baby or toddler wipes, bathroom cleaners, hemorrhoid towelettes, and adult wipes) to versions that truly satisfy the industry’s standard for flushability. MWWCA will continue to push for a commitment from the industry; as such, the next steps of the group are not clear. MWWCA members will participate in a legislative work session for LD 781 on Tuesday, January 10, 2012. We will provide additional updates as the results and approach develops.