

APPROVED

## MINUTES

**Attendance:** Tim Wade, Jeff McBurnie, Travis Peaslee, Stacy Thompson, Amanda Smith, Andre Brousseau, Sierra Kuun. Amanda Smith

**Affiliate Group Representatives Attendance:** Peter Saykoski, James Cohen, Joan Kiszely, Cindy Wade.

**Zoom Attendance:** Michael Guethle, Emily Cole-Prescott, Terry Tucker, Phil Tucker

**Absent:** Paula Drouin, Alex Buechner, Andy Wendell, Evan Pereira, Gregg Wood, Travis Jones, Jodi Keene, Rob Pontau, Jennifer Nicholson, Charlene Poulin., Dave Beauchamp, Bryanna Denis.

**Call to Order:** President Tim Wade called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

**Quorum:** It was determined there was a Quorum.

**Minutes:** Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Emily Cole, all approved the July 21, 2023, minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeff McBurnie submitted a written report (attached at the end of minutes) on the July 2023 financial report. He reported the following:

- Need to be cautious on spending money till the end of the year. He indicated the finances right now it looks good on paper because income is coming in from the 2023 Fall Convention.

Motion made by Andre Brousseau, seconded by Terry Tucker, all approved the July Treasurer's report.

Old Business: MeWEA Contract: Tim is moving this to the end of this meeting.

## **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**DEP Report:** Gregg Wood was not present.

**JETCC-NEIWPC:** Peter Zaykoski reported the following and submitted a

Report. (attached at the end of minutes).

- JETCC has 2 openings on the board and is seeking interested candidates.
- Management Candidate School will start in November and will be held in Yarmouth on the second Wednesday of each month.
- The committee has selected recipients for its awards, which will be presented at the Fall Convention.

**LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE:** Jim Cohen reported the following:

- Legislative is not in session.
- Probably 700 or more bills carried over.
- Required to carry over the bills and address them.
- Funding for the SFR- Not dead and he thinks they might have a chance. Maybe circle back to this.

**State Directors Report:** Paula Drouin submitted a report. (attached at the end of minutes).

**MWUA:** Rob Pontau was absent.

**MEWEA/MWUA Affiliate:** Joan Kiszely had no report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AWARDS:** Mike Guethle reported the following:

- He needs award information.
- The Executive Committee needs to review the nominations.
- Mike indicated he does not have Young Professionals nomination at this time. They will get back to Mike this afternoon. He needs a name by Tuesday.
- Terry indicated that Industrial Pretreatment & Pretreatment goes out to someone who has done a good job. Would Jim Crowley's retirement be a good fit to give this award to Jim. Terry indicated this award goes to a significant to Industrial users. She noted that they have never really given out the Industrial Award.
- Tim indicated that nominations from the board would be the following:

Al Jellison Award – Chris Higgins & John Fancy  
Decision from the officers to give the award to both.

Outstanding Service – Tim nominated Brian Tarbuck & Jim Crowley

Gagne Award – Chris Dwinal was nominated.

- Goodnow award – no nomination this year for the Goodnow award.

A brief discussion on whether they want more nominees or vote on the slate that was presented.

It was discussed that Tim & Michael could set up a quick poll on Monday and have it close by the end of the day.

Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Travis Peaslee, all approved to accept the slate as presented with the two nominations, all approved,

**Collection System:** Travis Jones not present.

**Communications:** Bryanna Denis not present.

**Convention:** Stacy Thompson reported the following:

- Stacy indicated Phil signed the 2024 contract with Sunday River for the Fall Convention.
- Gave a report on golf. Golf is coming in.
- Has a couple of Activated Sludge.
- Fall Convention to date has 71 attendees and 48 vendors.
- Ski Day – Saddle Back in 2024
- Sunday River working on 2025 contract.
- Operators Challenge – need more sponsorships. Travis Peaslee brought this up and gave suggestions on how they could get sponsorships.
- 2024 Budget – she has solid numbers for the 2024 fall convention & saddleback.

**Government Affairs:** Emily Cole-Prescott stated she put a report in the chat. Theresa Tucker read to the board what was on the chat.

- The group met last week to review were the Bio Solids Study  
She will check in again around October

- She will be having another Government Affairs meeting with Amanda around culture date.

**Laboratory:** Andy Wendell submitted a committee report. (attached at the end of minutes).

**Membership Committee:** Jennifer Nicholson submitted a report. (attached at the end of minutes)

**Personnel Advancement Report:** Charlene Poulin submitted a report.

- Tim mentioned again that she has done an amazing job getting the speakers and a slate of sessions.

**Pretreatment Report:** Terry Tucker submitted a committee report (attached at the end of the minutes)

**Public Relations:** Evan Pereira submitted a Committee report (attached at the end of minutes).

- Tim indicated that next Thursday Dianna set up a meeting with Jenniefer Brooks. Howard Carter, Emily Cole-Prescott, Roger Crouse, Scott Firmin are involved. Going to have an episode on Maine Calling next Thursday.

**Residual Management Report:** Travis Peaslee submitted a report. (attached at the end of minutes).

**Storm water Report:** Sarah King was not present.

**Treatment Plant Operator Report:** Alex Buechner reported the following:

**Young Professionals Report:** Sierra Kuun reported the following:

- Next meeting is Tuesday of next week.
- Going to schedule a Kayak trip.
- Amanda Smith thinks she has a nomination for Sierra.

## **OFFICERS REPORTS**

**Presidents Report:** Tim Wade indicated his report will be covered under the MWUA joint meeting.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report:** Emily Prescott had no report.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report:** Terry Tucker had no report.

**Immediate Past President:** Dave Beauchamp was not present.

### **Other Business:**

MWUA Joint Meeting:

Tim Wade reported on the following:

- Meeting with them on Monday.
- Cindy gave a report on the status of the office. She indicated that MWUA is interested in keeping the relationship with MeWEA.
- Tim, Terry, Rob, Mike, Brian talked about future contracts.
- Review current contract and mark it up in red to make possible changes.
- Have another joint meeting at the Fall Convention
- Tim promised them a document 2 weeks prior to the Fall Convention
- Strategic Planning Session – nailing down services we will pay for or Emily & Stacy can address questions
- Next year contract but not long term.

Phil reported on the following:

WEF introduced a new initiative back in 2018 called the [INFLOW](#) program. Essentially there are 2 paths to bring people into our industry. Career Tech looks for people that are already in the workforce but not in the clean water profession. STEMpath looks for students (18+) to bring into the clean water profession. One of the idea's that came out of the NEWEA DEI committee is that we already have a model in place to make some of this happen and that is the operator exchange program. Essentially NEWEA is looking for each MA to sponsor one person for 1 year. Although the idea is still forming, we would want to bring them to our annual conference at no charge, provide a room, and I'm not sure about transportation. NEWEA would waive the registration fee for their annual conference and MEWEA would pick up the hotel and again we'd have to figure out transportation. As for the rest of the year we would have 2 mentors that would arrange for them to go

to different trainings, facilities, and any other function we deem valuable to someone coming into the industry. We could also ask JETCC if they can provide some trainings pro bono for this one-year commitment. If the executive committee can discuss this tomorrow and come to a decision, I'd like to report back to the NEWEA EC at the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Currently we do not have a timeline for when this will begin as we are still trying to gauge how much interest there will be from the MA's.

Tim indicated that it sounds like a great program but not sure how it fits into our current budget. Could be looking up to \$2,000 for expenses. Tim is in favor if the board isn't dealing with an unfunded mandate.

Jeff asked where this fit into our Committees.

He sees this as a new Professional committee – Maybe work with Sierra on Young Professional Committee.

Tim asked Phil to work with Sierra and come up with a budget.

- Phil reported that when they revised the By-Laws & Admin Guide: He will step down if someone else wants to take He will be busy with NEBRA & NEWEA, and happy to stay as a Council Directors.

Superintendent Committee: Amanda & Travis reported that they got some great responses. Every response they got is that they want this. Many of them want interaction and it's very informal. The chair would have to be a member. The next step would be getting more information for them and recommendations. They must think about the boundaries.

MWUA Joint Meeting:

Tim Wade reported on the following:

- Meeting with them on Monday.
- Cindy gave a report on the status of the office. We are down on 2 employees. The two positions is the Executive Director & a part-time administrative assistant. She indicated that MWUA is interested in keeping the relationship with MeWEA.
- Tim, Terry, Rob, Emily Mike, Brian talked about future contracts & relationships.
- Review current contract and mark it up in red to make possible changes.
- Have another Joint meeting at the Fall Convention
- Tim promised them MWUA) a clarified contract – red lined document 1 week prior to the Fall Convention.
- Need the draft from Sarah.

- Strategic Planning Session – nailing down services we will pay for and focus on services they will pay for or how they will fill those services.
- Next year’s contract but not long term.
- Action Team will be Emily, Stacy, Travis and Sarah.

**Next Board Meeting:** October 20, Portland Water District

**Adjourn:** Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Terry Tucker all approved to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

**COMMITTEE NAME: JETCC**

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: August 3, 2023

RECENT ACTIVITIES: As of submission of this report, we are in the midst of a three-day in-person grade 3-5 exam prep class, which has had strong interest and attendance. JETCC has been able to apply on behalf of attendees to offer the course at half price, due to funding through the Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine’s Workforce.

The fall calendar will open with a Wastewater 101 2-day class at Portland Water District on September 27-28. JETCC is offering two in-person NEWEA exam prep classes this fall: Lab Analyst 1 Prep at KSTD, October 10-11 and Collection System Prep in Hampden, October 25-26. We will also be offering the Gorman Rupp pumps school in three locations (moving Bangor south), October 31-November 2. I also anticipate a course on pigging in mid-October in Jay. Suggestions are always welcome for additional classes and topics.

Planning continues for the next Management Candidate School class, which will start in November and will be held in Yarmouth on the second Wednesday of each month. Applications will open in September. I anticipate being able to offset the registration cost for attendees with the workforce development funding.

**DECISIONS MADE:**

The Committee has selected recipients for its awards, which will be presented at the Fall Convention. Yarissa Ortiz-Vidal was re-appointed for her second term on the Committee and was moved to one of the MEWEA representative positions. The Committee has two open positions and is seeking interested candidates. The Committee approved its FY24 budget.

**ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:**

**NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:** The date for the next JETCC Meeting is November 16, 2023. The location is yet to be determined.

**OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:**

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY:**

NAME: Peter Zaykoski, JETCC Program Manager

- I. **COMMITTEE NAME: Membership**
- II.

- III. RECENT ACTIVITIES: None
- IV. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: None
- V. DECISIONS MADE: None
- VI. ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: No action plan right now
- VII.
- VIII. NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: None
- IX. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: None
  
- X. REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jennifer Nicholson \

COMMITTEE NAME: **Residuals Committee**

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: n/a

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- Continuing to meet on a monthly basis for the residuals study with DEP, B&C with the commissioner attending the last meeting. Focus is on volume reduction vs. pfas destruction.
- Continued discussions with pfas destruction technology vendors, biosolid volume reduction vendors, landfill operators, and firms exploring regional treatment solutions

DECISIONS MADE: n/a

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

- Legislature short term reprieve on LD1639 allowing Casella to accept 25 tons of CCD from out of state.

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: **Treatment Plant Operators**

XI. **CHAIR/OFFICER NAME:** Alex Buechner

XII. **RECENT ACTIVITIES:**

XIII. **TPO:** Peer to Peer training program is up and running. Just need to advertise to get people to start using it. Free training to MEWEA members, and more fun and interesting than sitting in a classroom or in front of a computer. It's a no brainer. Tell your friends. [www.mewea.org/operator-training](http://www.mewea.org/operator-training)

XIV. **POSTER CONTEST:** Getting posters printed before the end of this month. Promise.

XV. **MEETINGS HELD/ATTENDED:** 7/24/23 TPO committee meeting.

XVI. **ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:** Focusing on participating and promoting Peer to Peer training

**NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:** TPO committee committed to quarterly meetings. Next meeting will be set sometime in November

COMMITTEE: Public Relations

COMMITTEE OFFICER NAME: Evan Pereira

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- Worked through with final development of Maine Calling Panel Discussion, scheduled for August 24th

- o Topics to include PFAS and Maine's Water Industry, particularly around collaboration, innovation, and problem solving.

- Abstract selected for WEFTEC session on MEWEA's PR initiative, as previously submitted by Phil Tucker.

- o Plan to work with Diana to prepare for presentation titled, "A Stakeholder Communication Plan Success Story from MEWEA" (see description attached to this report).

- Began holding biweekly check-in meetings with Diana of Black Fly Media to identify PR opportunities and develop action items.

- Provided monthly update to sponsors of MEWEA PR Campaign.

- Continued to field and vet media opportunities as presented to the committee.

NEXT STEPS & MEETINGS:

- Continue to keep a pulse on legislative developments such as proposed PFAS/Biosolids bill amendments and SRF updates and identify potential PR support for MEWEA as needed.

- Hold Maine Calling Panel Discussion based around discussion of the state of and importance of the clean water industry in Maine on August 24th

- Continue to hold biweekly check-in meetings with Diana of Black Fly Media to identify PR opportunities and develop action items.

- Continue sending out monthly email requests for story ideas from individual communities and topics that MEWEA should be keeping on our radar.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 8/18/2023

TREASURER NAME: Jeff  
McBurnie

ACCOUNT/BUDGET STATUS: I've reviewed and reconciled the year-to-date (July) financials. Our reserve balance has rebounded, however that is not a true representation of our fiscal sustainability. We've had significant advanced payment for Fall Convention vendors and golfers, but we've seen none of the expenses. It's not too early for the Executive Board and committee chairs to start analyzing your budgets and finding areas for frugality and opportunities for additional fundraising. In the upcoming planning/budgeting season, we will not be rubber-stamping budgets and will need full justification for all requests.

**REMINDER:** As always, if you spot errors, have questions, or just want to discuss the Association's general financial status, please don't hesitate to contact me.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Fall Convention 9/21-22/2023

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: Start reviewing 2024 programming in anticipation of budget discussion and preparation.

---



