



Operations Challenge 2023

The Maine Water Environmental Association is seeking donations and sponsors to support the 2023/2024 Force Maine Operations Challenge team. Their goal is to raise funds for training so that they can qualify to compete at the OPS Challenge Event in New Orleans in 2024. WEFTEC is the largest water quality exhibition in the world with over 20,000 attendees!

What is Operations Challenge?

Operations Challenge is the Wastewater Olympics for professionals in the wastewater industry. Four team members compete in 5 different events:

1. Maintenance: Perform maintenance on and operation of a Vaughan Chopper pump
2. Collection Systems: Connect a 4 PVC lateral sewer to an existing 8 PVC sewer pipe
3. Safety: Respond to an unconscious worker at the bottom of a confined space
4. Process Control: 20-minute written wastewater skills test and a 15-minute process simulator test
5. Laboratory: Analyze TSS and TDS and calculate solids mass balance across a treatment system

The team represents the great work done by all wastewater personnel in Maine. They spend a lot of personal time training to perform on the national stage at the highest level. It costs approximately \$10,000 dollars for travel, lodging, and training. Equipment costs for their training facility will top \$20,000. They deserve our support! In-kind and cash donations are appreciated!



This year's team consists of Dan Munsey (Brunswick), Jeff Warden (MRWA), Matt Szuter (Saco), Darren Lauletta (York), and their coach Rob Pontau (Brunswick). The easiest way to donate or sponsor is by reaching out to Rob Pontau at rpontau@brunswicksewer.org. All sponsors who contribute \$300 or more in value will receive recognition in the MeWEA Newsletter and online at MeWEA.org. Checks can be made out to MeWEA and sent to the Maine Water Environment Association