



APPROVED

MeWEA Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Hybrid – Augusta Civic Center & Remote Access via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendance in Person: Terry Tucker, Rob Pontau, Amanda Smith, Emily Cole-Prescott, Jeff McBurnie, Phil Tucker, Stacy Thompson, Andy Begin, Daniel Marks, Ali Clift, Gregg Wood, Peter Zaykoski, Michael Guethle, Charlene Poulin, Jodie Keene, Scott Firmin, Nancy Martin (MMA) and Chelsea Carll (MMA).

Attendance via Zoom: Sierra Kuun

Absent: Andre Brousseau, Paula Drouin, Alex Buechner, Travis Peaslee, Bryanna Denis, Jennifer Nicholson, Justin Barnett, , Ashley Jones, Evan Pereira, David Dane,

Call to Order: President Terry Tucker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Quorum: It was determined there was a quorum to conduct business.

Minutes: Terry Tucker reported on the minutes for January 17, 2025.

Motion made by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Rob Pontau, all approved the January 17, 2025 minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff McBurnie submitted a report. He added that the report includes basic financial data as of end of January. They have roughly \$100,000 in total assets and spoke to legislative and public relations commitments forthcoming, as well as sponsorship and dues revenue shortcomings.

Motion made by Emily Cole-Prescott, seconded by Stacy Thompson, all approved the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Old Business:

None.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

DEP REPORT: Gregg Wood reported the following:

He reported that two new permit writers began their work yesterday and that there is a significant backlog of work that will be addressed over a long period.

He followed up that EPA distributed draft criteria recently and spoke to specifics from that report. EPA has extended the comment period by another 90 days, and Gregg spoke about this as an opportunity for coordinated efforts for advocacy in Maine.

There was a discussion about progress towards resource reduction in the state. Stacy inquired about permit issuances with the backlog of work reported by Gregg. Gregg hopes to have a report on MS4 soon. He also reported that total phosphorus has gone through public hearing and total nitrogen rule has not been reviewed through the EPA. He anticipates that a report will be available in the next two months.

JETCC-NEIWPC: Peter Zaykoski submitted a report. He added that the north country convention is happening in early April, and is working on finalizing the agenda for the meeting. He is pushing the registration for the meeting and encourages the board to spread the word. He reported that Spring Connolly will be retiring in early May, and her replacement will be introduced to the board at the next meeting.

MWUA Update: Andy Begin reported that their annual conference drew in over 700 registrants and they inducted their new board of directors. He spoke to current issues including affordable water rates, and adjusting the rate structure, the drinking water program, etc.

Scott Firmin spoke about hosting a past presidents lunch as next year will mark 60 years for MEWEA.

Jeff McBurnie reported on the legislative breakfast today and how the attendance was not as high as they anticipated. The group spoke about other ideas including hosting it at the Hall of Flags to capture legislators' attention or going on a bus tour. Michael Guethle will be speaking to his constituents about other ways to circulate legislative information. Terry spoke about the new process in which MeWEA had to have a sponsor in the house to circulate information about this event. Amanda spoke about the benefits of circulating these materials digitally to members.

NEBRA UPDATE: Phil Tucker submitted a report. He did not have anything to add.

NEWEA State Director: Andre Brousseau submitted a report. Terry Tucker reported on his behalf that Andre has been focused on the DC fly-ins schedule, Golden and King visits are scheduled, and a meeting with Collins and Pingree is pending.

MMA AFFILIATE LIASON: Chelsea Carll reported on the following:

Planning meetings have taken place for the logistics of the poster contest, joint sponsorship setups and fall convention. She had a meeting with the membership chair and outreach council director to get a general orientation.

The group is interested in a proposal from the Samoset Resort for 2026 and have requested dates to proceed with that request.

She reported that she will be on maternity leave at the end of March and will be working with her staff on the handoff of duties with this group and will provide contact information for the groups' needs.

COUNCIL DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

OUTREACH COUNCIL: Phil Tucker submitted a report. He reported that a Blackfly media press release is prepared for today's event.

Communications- Bryanna Denis was not present and there was no report.

Government Affairs- Amanda Smith and Dan Marks reported the following: Legislative Breakfast took place today and spoke about topics to improve the agenda. Discussion took place regarding LD25 (\$50M Bond). Emily reported that her and Andre went to a luncheon for legislators that was hosted by Friends of Casco Bay and Defend Our Health in relation to the Bond. It was asked by Board members to hold a special meeting with DEP to go over the Bond in more detail and have the availability to address concerns and comments

Membership – Phil Tucker reported that Jen Nicolson may be stepping down as chair, and John Cummings may be stepping in. Phil reported on her behalf that Jen is excited to receive monthly membership reports from MMA.

Public Relations – Evan Pereira was not present and no report was recorded.

PERSONNEL ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL: Stacy Thompson submitted a report, but also reported on the following: Charlene, Justin and Chelsea met recently to review the fall convention. They will meet after this meeting to review the exhibitor map and look at an RFP for 2026's convention at Samoset.

Stacey spoke about a potential confusion with sponsorship regarding Ski Day, and will be working with MWUA on that.

Awards – Mike Guethle was not present and no report was recorded.

Convention – Justin Barnett and Tim Wade were not present and no report was recorded.

New Professionals – Stacy reported that she is working with Sierra Kuun on the awards nomination process.

Personnel Advancement – Charlene Poulin was present, but a report was not recorded.

TREATMENT SYSTEMS OPERATION COUNCIL: Paula Drouin was not in attendance, but the following committee chairs shared a report:

Stormwater Committee –Jodi Keene reported that MS4 permit is moving slowly, as are desk audit and field audit permits. They are about to enter permit year 4 in July. DEP is holding an SRF on March 3, and they will be in attendance. They got \$2000 each. Soil and Conservation district has a hall of flags day on March 4 to represent stormwater. She reported on LD 646 and how they can better understand the goals and objectives for the bill. She will be meeting with Dan and Amanda Campbell from MMA this afternoon. Emily spoke to more specifics of the bill and referred Jodi to the Friends of Casco Bay for further discussion as well. She reported on Chapter 500 revisions underway with DEP, in which the MS4

committee are still working on educational events focused on source protection and watershed, common water pollutants, and other topics to schools and within their communities.

Treatment Plant Operators Committee – Alex Buechner was not in attendance and Terry did not have a report.

Residuals Committee – Travis Peaslee and Andre were not in attendance and there was no report.

Pretreatment Committee – Terry reported that there was a recent meeting held in York with the EPA to discuss moving to an electronic form reporting format by January 2026. She advised that anything reported will be open to the public.

Collection Systems Committee – Ashley Jones was not in attendance and there was no report.

Laboratory Committee – Terry reported that Phyllis Arnold Rand and Alana Dougherty are the new chairs of the committee.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Immediate Past President: Emily Cole-Prescott reported on the following:

Emily spoke about concerns regarding the Housing Opportunity Program and community sewer connection requirements. She said that there are going to be more MUBEC exceptions to the building codes in the Saco area, and this is another concern for sewer safety and to eliminate some parking requirements.

Emily spoke positively about the legislative event today, and Rob added that Emily and Craig did a great job presenting. Amanda inquired whether moving the event up in the legislative session calendar might improve turnout.

Presidents Report: Terry Tucker reported the following:

The joint sponsorship project logistics are being worked through with MWUA and MMA, and she anticipates there will be just a few for the first year. As the sponsorships come in, MWUA will collect all the sponsorships, Terry will keep a log of the sponsorships coming in and report them to MMA to collect and document the revenue. She spoke to the benefits of the joint sponsorship program, but one drawback she is hearing is losing free golf teams for their sponsorship. MMA is working on aligning the accounts to match MeWEA's budget and then working on receiving the revenue from the Ops Challenge donations and sponsorship programs.

Terry and Nicki from MWUA are working on the next newsletter to circulate to membership.

Terry reported that MeWEA will invoice MWUA for their portion of expenses for Blackfly media at the end of 2025.

They got a quote for the Sea Dogs event, with an estimate provided is \$13,000. She spoke about ticket pricing and sponsorships. She also spoke about the Maine Sustainability Conference coming up on March 27th and MeWEA was asked to host a booth at that event. Dan Marks agreed to volunteer for that event. Rob will be shopping for swag to have at the booth, including some MeWEA pens and pins, and will keep the expenses under \$1000.

Terry spoke about the nominating committee and who is on the committee. The committee consists of the 3 most immediate Past Presidents that are active within the association, President-Elect, and Vice President with the Immediate Past President as Chair which is currently Emily. It was also mentioned that we do not have 3 active past presidents so Stacy has volunteered to step-

in as well. They will need to work on filling vacancies for council directors, and an incoming Vice President. Recommendations are due before the fall convention, determined at the last board meeting before the fall convention.

The spring business meeting will include a virtual option at the north country convention, and the invitation and by laws changes will be presented to membership 30 days in advance.

The Connecticut Water Environment Association reached out to Terry to see if she could attend their spring business meeting on May 5 to talk about all of the issues that have arisen in Maine since the ban of land application of biosolids. Scott and Terry will be attending the meeting.

President-Elect Report: Rob Pontau reported on the following: They are up to 29 utility Managers in the Utility Manager's Committee now, and their next in-person meeting is March 6 at Mass Landing in Freeport.

Vice President Report: Amanda Smith did not have a report.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURMENT

Motion made by Phil Tucker, seconded by Emily Cole-Prescott, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 am.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 13th Ski Day

April 2-3 North Country Convention – Northern Maine Community College
Presque Isle

COUNCIL DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS - SUBMITTED



REPORT

TREASURER'S

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Maine Municipal Association
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 2/25/2025

TREASURER NAME: Jeff McBurnie

ACCOUNT/BUDGET STATUS: I've reviewed our current bank financial documents, and as of our most recent statement (2/2/2025) we have over \$71,000 in our checking account and over \$21,000 in our CD account. A check of the account status on 2/21/2025 showed that we have over \$79,000 in our checking account. We should see a little more revenue from Membership as well as additional Sponsorship and Advertising revenue. I have not received the January 2025 financial reports yet, so I will report in those on the next report.

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: 3/21/2025?

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: None

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff McBurnie

DATE SUBMITTED: 2/21/2025

DISTRIBUTION:

X	MMA Affiliate Liaison
X	Executive Committee Meeting
	Newsletter
	Other:

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.



REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

**15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330**

COMMITTEE NAME: JETCC

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: November 21, 2024

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Our winter calendar is underway. We held a NEWEA Collection System Exam Prep class with optional exam in Gardiner. This was the first time we have offered a to proctor a paper exam in several years. There were issues with the exam provider, Prov, who sent the incorrect exams for grade 1 examinees. We are working with NEWEA on ways to ensure such mistakes do not occur in the future. We also held a WET Testing class at Haley Ward in Bangor and a live-virtual Wastewater Laboratory Math class with Phyllis Rand. We have a live-virtual Biological Nutrient Removal class with Michael Gerardi coming up on 2/26 and 2/27.

The Management Candidate School Class of 2025 continues at the Bangor Water District. We have 20 participants in the program.

The 2025 North Country Convention will be on April 2-3, 2025 at Northern Maine Community College. Registration for attendees and exhibitors is currently open and available online:

<https://neiwppcc.org/maine/jetcc-training/north-country-convention/>

DECISIONS MADE:

The Committee has not met since the last MEWEA EC meeting.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: The next JETCC meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2025 in Augusta.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

NAME: Peter Zaykoski, JETCC Program Manager

DATE SUBMITTED: 2/20/2025

NEBRA Representative

Connecticut wants to adopt Maines Ban. You're probably thinking that is irrelevant as CT already banned land application. A small distinction is that CT banned soil amendments derived from sewage biosolids but did not ban fertilizer derived from biosolids. This is important as it is enforced by separate entities in CT. Bill 883 aims to close this loophole.

In **Massachusetts** there are 3 bills of concern. These bills are especially concerning as they may have a negative effect on Hawk Ridge.

- HD3814/SD2176 and HD1884 are both calling for a ban on land application of biosolids.
- SD2403 calls for pfas limitations and treatment on ground water discharges upon renewal of the permit and for the phasing out of land application of biosolids. There is a no biosolids in landfills component to this that I found a bit confusing. There appears to be a fair amount of source control written into this bill as well.

I will let the Government Affairs Committee update everyone on what we are tracking here in Maine.

New Hampshire has several bills that we are watching. A couple of them are targeted at renewable energy and removing those requirements. Another is prohibiting federal, state or local funds for lobbying, and finally one requiring permit applications for new landfills to contain a detailed plan for leachate management.

Rhode Island has H-5166 which is a ban on any new high heat waste facilities. This essentially takes any thermal pfas treatment technology out of the playbook.

Vermont has a few bills worth keeping an eye on. One in particular allows for pilot studies to destroy CEC's with no permit requirements.

New York wants to be one of the New England states so badly that they've also decided to push for a ban on land application of biosolids.

Not directly impacting us but of some recognition is that **Maryland** is the first state to latch onto the 1ppb in the risk assessment and move towards regulation with that number.

Note: NEBRA-NEWEA PFAS Legislation Tracking 2-18-2025 Saved Separately

Outreach Council Executive Committee Report

2/25/25

Council Director – Phil Tucker

- Presented at the NEWEA annual conference with Emily on NEWEA's new open house manual and on regionalization of biosolids handling.

Communications Committee – Bryanna Denis

- No report

Government Affairs Committee – Amanda Smith/Daniel Marks

- Prepping for legislative breakfast which is one week from today. Membership and legislators have been notified. It is posted on the legislators shared calendar in both houses. Still finalizing the presentation with Emily (she was sick and Diana and I have not had a chance to connect with her on it). MWUA is handling registration – last I heard there were 60 confirmed (that was a couple of weeks ago). We have a GAC meeting Thursday to address final issues.
- Session is in full swing, we are tracking a number of bills. Had a couple of discussions with Jim.
 - Reached out to ENR chairs and Rep. Bridgeo (sponsor) on LD297 (bulky waste moratorium extension) requesting they hold off on public hearing until we have the BGS report on alternatives. I am having some back and forth with Dan Tartakoff (ENR legal)
 - A couple of emails with Brian Kavanah – he confirmed that DEP is all set with funding in the biennial budget.
 - Discussing with Brian Kavanah if MEWEA can influence LD 25 (bond) project criteria. This is a good topic for leadership to discuss as the selection criteria will sway where the money is spent and certain criteria may favor some members over others.
 - LD 231 – solid waste management hierarchy – DEP asked us to review this one, but we are unclear why. Would be good to follow up with DEP on why they asked us to keep our eyes out for it. I can do this but have not yet.

Membership Committee – Jennifer Nicholson

- Reviewed and released New Membership Letter
- John Cummons from GAUD is on the membership committee and may be interested in taking the chair position.

Public Relations Committee – Evan Pereira

- Support for LD25 with development of factsheet and collaboration with other organizations such as Maine DEP and Friends of Casco Bay to develop support.
- Help prepare talking points for Legislative Breakfast.
- Help prepare press release to be issued as a follow-up/recap to Legislative Breakfast.

Personnel Advancement Executive Committee Report

2/25/25

Council Director – Stacy Thompson

- Had meeting with Chelsea, Charlene, and Justin on February 14th to go over some logistics for the fall convention.
 - Talked about abstracts and how we are going to advertise for them.
 - Talked about awards nomination.
 - Talked about timing of packets, notifications, etc.
- On-going ski day registration: a few kinks to work out, but seems to be going ok.

Personnel Advancement Committee – Charlene Poulin

- No report

Convention Committee – Justin Barnett

- No report

New Professionals Committee– Sierra Kuun

- No report, however, working on Sea Dog day.

Awards Committee – Mike Guethle

- No report



COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

GUIDELINE FOR OFFICER / COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: February 25, 2025

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: State director

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: André Brousseau

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Attended NEWEA's annual conference in January, working on the DC fly-in for appointments with our DC delegation. Two confirmed appointments with King and Pingree for the DC fly-in.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:

Ops Challenge training day Mar 31 in Westborough Mass at the Veolia wastewater facility. 16th Annual Ski day with NHWCA at Attitash Mar 13th. North Country Convention, Presque Isle April 2-3, NEWEA/NEWWA joint EC meeting April 2 held in Worcester Mass. DC fly- in April 8 & 9 with Theresa, Emily and André attending.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: 2 NEWEA awards nominations - Operator, and Peloquin.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: André B.

DATE SUBMITTED: Feb. 21, 2025

DISTRIBUTION: MMA Affiliate Liaison
Executive Committee Meeting
Other: _____

NEWSLETTER

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

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