

APPROVED



MEWEA Executive Board Meeting

Friday, May 16, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Hybrid – Saco Public Works Facility & Remote Access Via Zoom

MINUTES

In-person Attendance: Andre Brousseau, Emily Cole-Prescott, Dan Marks, Stacy Thomsson, Peter Zaykowski

Attendance via Zoom: Terry Tucker, Rob Pontau, Jeff McBurnie, Paula Drouin, Andy Begin, Mike Guethle, Charlene Poulin, Alex Buechner. Phyllis Rand, Nancy Martin (MMA)

Call to Order: President Terry Tucker called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

Determination of a Quorum: It was determined there was a quorum to conduct the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Terry Tucker reported on the minutes for April 18, 2025.

Motion made by Jeff McBurnie to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Rob Pontau. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff McBurnie submitted a report. He stressed that MEWEA took major hit with Government Affairs and the Legislature Advocates expenses of over \$9,000 which included monthly stipend. There's been a lot of activity and this won't be sustainable. This puts a lot of pressure on MEWEA from revenue or cost cutting perspectives on how we manage through to the fall conference when we get a big influx of revenue. Jeff reported that the group cashed out a cd in 2024 to cover operating expenses and reserve. The current value of assets is approximately \$70,000; we need to be diligent over the next few months.

Terry Tucker inquired about Ops Challenge donations and Jeff stated that they have approximately \$10,000 in the pipeline. Rob Pontau added that Chris Cline is reaching out to fourteen vendors for sponsorships/donations. Rob provided an update on the Ops Challenge airfare and lodging expenses and savings. The group also discussed the Ops Challenge event and results.

Motion made by Emily Cole-Prescott to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Andre Brousseau. Motion carried.

Old Business - None

Representative Reports

DEP Report: Gregg Wood was not present, and no report was recorded.

JETCC-NEIWPCC: Peter Zaykoski submitted a report. He added that DEP Commissioner finalized Nick Textor's nomination to JETCC, he will be on the Committee in June. They've begun the initial planning for Management Candidate School that starts in November and anticipates it will be held in Portland.

MWUA: Andy Begin submitted a report. He noted that they continued the search for the Executive Director position.

NEBRA Update: Phil Tucker and Janine Burke-Wells were not present, and no report was recorded.

NEWEA State Director: Andre Brousseau submitted a verbal report. He recapped last week's meeting stating it was nice to see MEWEA and NEWEA members. It was wonderful to see the excitement from our Ops Challenge Team and hopes they continue to do very well.

Andre requested nominations for Operator of the Year and for the Peloquin Award. In addition, he requested nominations for the Burke Safety Award and the Operator Safety Award. The group discussed nominees/award candidates. Nominations are needed by June 9th. Andre will email a list of potential nominees and the criteria for each award. The group will vote via email.

MMA: Nancy Martin, no report.

Council Directors & Committee Reports

Outreach Council: Phil Tucker was not present, and no report was recorded.

Communications: Terry Tucker submitted a verbal report. Terry and Phil Tucker met with Bryanna Denis and discussed how they would move forward with the newsletter. Bryanna will meet Jordan at NEWEA to learn how they manage their newsletters.

Government Affairs – Dan Marks submitted a verbal report. L.D. 1604, (An Act to Protect Groundwater and Surface Water from PFAS from Landfill Leachate), Tim wrote our testimony; Amanda and Scott attended a working session with DEP and the bill's sponsor to get the bill modified. He stated he believes they had a good outcome, treatment requirements installed by July 1, 2026, were removed. There will be some additional requirements for facilities that handle landfill leachate, mostly monitoring and recording. Dan answered the group's questions regarding L.D. 1604.

Emily Cole-Prescott reported that L.D. 1498 passed out of committee with some amendments, but it is still a big problem. She recommended the group reach out to their city council and stated that she would forward additional information. Emily will provide the group with an Excel

list of housing bills that she is tracking. The Planners are working L.D. 1751 (An Act to Minimize Federal Funding in Support of Emergency Medical Services), which is how we plan for comprehensive plans. However, there is an opposing bill, so it's become controversial. Emily stated that L.D. 1272 (An Act to Address the Housing Crisis by Reducing Barriers to Building More Accessory Dwelling Unit), was going to increase affordable housing. It had some impact fees provisions, and she believed it had something about 5,000 square foot lot sizes. Emily conveyed L.D. 1272 ought not to pass out of committee. Emily said she would clean up her list of housing bills that she is tracking and forward it to Dan to distribute. She recommended the others forward the list to their City Planners or sit with their leadership and keep them informed, because there are so many bills that impact many things.

Dan Marks reported they held their second work session on L.D. 297 (An Act Regarding the Management of Oversized Bulky Waste from Wastewater Treatment Plants). It was voted out to pass 10 to 1 out of committee for a two-year extension on 7/18. The original bill was written at three years, and they negotiated for two years. The next step is for the bill to go in front of the legislature on an emergency basis because it expires on July 1st. It needs two-thirds of legislators to pass. We need our members to call their Legislator's and ask them to support the L.D. 297. Dan asked Terry to send out talking points to the membership. Also, he met Diana and Eben yesterday, and Diana is going to assist with press releases and letters.

Regarding L.D. 25 (An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Wastewater Treatment Facility Planning and Construction of Infrastructure Projects), Dan reported he hasn't heard anything more regarding a work session or the Governors' package. He remarked he isn't super optimistic; we will know in the next several weeks if L.D. 25 will make it on to the ballot next November.

Dan announced that for Water Week, he will do another presentation with the Maine Conservation Voters about sludge and ultimate disposal options. And if the timing works out, he may discuss L.D. 25. He also sent out an email on a federal bill that Phil passed around that allows. This is the bill that allows districts to apply for federal grants. Jeff McBurnie reported that nothing has happened since the bill's been introduced. Dan and Jeff held a brief discussion on the budging and billing for the Legislative Advocate.

Membership: Jen Nicholson was not present, and no report was recorded.

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

Personnel Advancement Council: Stacy Thompson, Director, submitted a report. Stacy added that NEWEA's Golf Tournament is scheduled for Thursday, September 18th and conflicts with the MEWEA's Fall Convention on September 18 – 19, 2025. This is an issue with vendors and attendees. We can't move our fall convention. The group discussed the benefits of opening MEWEA's Fall Convention as soon as possible and taking some preemptive steps to get ahead of this.

Treatment Systems Operations Council: Paula Drouin, Director, submitted a report. Alex Buechner added that the Ops Challenge Team did great this year and are advancing. Alex encouraged everyone to take advantage of the peer-to-peer training program. He stated it's a fun way to get training hours for free, however, currently there

is not a lot of participation. Alex submitted an abstract for the Fall Convention: "Why the DEP is Your Friend and Not Your Foe".

Laboratory: Phyllis Rand submitted a report. Phyllis added she's been receiving questions regarding the glucose gluconic acid test results and whether they are valid or invalid. Phyllis reached out to WEF Standard Methods Committee and received clarification and shared it with the Lab Committee.

Collection Systems: Paula Drouin submitted a report. Paula added that Chair Ashley Jones has stepped down and Chris Cline officially accepted the chair position. Peter Zaykoski stated the Cleaning and Jetting class scheduled for Monday; May 20th was cancelled and will be rescheduled this fall.

Pretreatment: Paula Drouin submitted a report. There are several folks that we work with that have applied for those buyouts and they will find out on June 16th if they are approved.

Residuals: Andre Brousseau submitted a verbal report. The bulky waste report finally came through, however, he has not had a chance to read it. Terry Tucker asked Andre to forward her a copy, she would like to read it.

Stormwater: Paula Drouin submitted a report. Their next meeting will be at the Fall Convention, and they did submit an abstract.

Treatment Plant Operators: Paula Drouin submitted a report.

Officer's Reports

President Report: Terry Tucker submitted a verbal report. Terry and Scott Fermin attended Connecticut WEA and discussed the PFAS situation in Maine. They wanted to know where we stood and get some ideas on how to handle their legislature. Terry attended the Spring meeting on Monday. She thanked the group for all the hard work they are doing and stated she appreciates all they do.

President-Elect Report: Rob Pontau, no report.

Vice President Report: Amand Smith was not present, and no report was recorded.

Immediate Past President Report: Emily Cole-Prescott submitted a verbal report. Emily followed up with the nominating committee that Terry had requested she put together. They met and recommended the following: Charlene Poulin, Vice President (2026); Paula Drouin, Council Director (2026); Stacy Thompson, Deputy Treasurer for the remaining portion of 2025 and Treasurer (2026); Nick Champagne, Deputy Treasurer (2026). The Executive Board made no objections to the above-listed recommendations listed to be voted on at the fall business meeting.

APPROVED

Motion made by Jeff McBurnie to approve Stacy Thompson as the 2025 Deputy Treasurer from this point on; seconded by Andre Brousseau. Motion carried.

Other New Business: no new business

Adjournment

Motion made by Jeff McBurnie; seconded by Rob Pontau, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 a.m.