



APPROVED

**MEWEA Executive Board Meeting
Friday, July 18, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Remote Access via Zoom**

MINUTES

Attendance via Zoom: Terry Tucker, Rob Pontau, Jeff McBurnie, Emily Cole-Prescott, Stacy Thomspson, Paula Drouin, Peter Zaykowski, Andy Begin, Andre Brousseau, Dan Marks, Phyllis Rand, Sierra Kuun, Chris Cline, Phil Tucker, Amanda Smith, Evan Pereira and Melissa White (MMA)

Absent: Charlene Poulin and Travis Peaslee

Call to Order: President Terry Tucker called the meeting to order at 9.01 a.m.

Determination of a Quorum: It was determined there was a quorum of 7 to conduct the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Terry Tucker reported on the minutes for June 20, 2025.

Motion made by Rob Pontau to approve June 20, 2025 minutes, as amended seconded by Phil Tucker. Motion carried.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Tabled. Jeff McBurnie reported he had not received the May financials so was unable to provide a report. Melissa will ensure he is sent the May financial report after today's meeting.

Old Business

None

Representative Reports

DEP Report: Gregg Wood was absent

JETCC-NEIWPCC: Peter Zaykoski submitted a report and noted the following: They recently compiled an analysis based on the NEIWPCC South Portland office regarding the demographics of our certified operators, as we oversee the wastewater operator certification program on behalf of DEP. This analysis was put together just a couple of weeks ago, and Peter highlighted a few key points: Over the past decade, they've seen a decline in the number of certified operators. However, for the first time in ten years, they experienced an increase last year, rising from just under 600 certified operators to 617. While one year of growth doesn't establish a trend, it is certainly a

positive indicator from our perspective. Additionally, they've observed a decline in the average age of operators over the past eight years. This is encouraging, as ten years ago, they were facing an aging population among our operators, and now we are seeing a shift. The demographics are also stabilizing; there's been a reduction in the concentration of operators within the 50 to 60 age group, resulting in a more balanced distribution across the ten-year age brackets.

However, a recent discussion highlighted that the annual report to DEP, while valuable, is somewhat limited as it only reflects certified operators. It doesn't provide a comprehensive understanding of our broader workforce demographics. Both we and DEP are keen to gain more insights into the overall demographics of our industry in the state. The Utility Managers Committee could be an excellent resource for gathering this information. If they're open to collaborating, we could formulate some questions to distribute across the group, aiming to collect more representative data for the entire industry, rather than solely focusing on certified operators.

MWUA: Andy Begin reported that Jessica is no longer the Executive Director for MWUA and was only in that position for one week. MWUA may need to research contracting options in place of an Executive Director if the continuing search is unsuccessful.

The upcoming adoption of the federal rule for PFAS and PFOA will set the limit at 4 parts per trillion. The process is currently in progress, with discussions scheduled for July 21st. They are dealing with the lead service line initiatives and addressing the requirements of the drinking water program, which includes replacing private services that are associated with lead issues. However, the Public Utility Commission (PUC) has restrictions in place that prevent them from working on private services. They are working to find a solution that enables us to proceed with these necessary tasks. They do not typically fund private infrastructure, and this has always been the policy. In certain cases, exceptions can be made, but this would require them to seek approval from the PUC, which complicates the situation.

Auction items available and will be posted online and will be available at the August event.

They are gearing up for leadership training with Terry Swanson.

Terry reminded Andy that Diana Black Fly media is wanting to bridge the gap with MWUA. Rob noted that Jeff McNelly will reach out to Diana.

Phyllis asked if Black Fly media is covering the triathlon event taking place in the Kennebec River on July 27 and expressed that it would be a great opportunity.

NEBRA Update: Phil Tucker & Janine Burke-Wells: Phil reported a new bill, HR 3991, is set to research the effects of biosolids on agricultural land. Jeff also highlighted another significant piece of legislation to track: HR 4168. While it might not directly relate to biosolids, it has important implications. This bill aims to establish National Primary Drinking Water Standards for PFAS, which could ultimately influence regulations around biosolids. There was a risk assessment released in Michigan and Jeff will have more information about it after their Wednesday meeting. The assessment is followed by a risk management strategy, which is currently open for public comment.

They identified numerous instances of either oversight or a lack of awareness regarding available information, along with some clear errors. This raises concerns about the credibility of the assessment. Jeff wasn't certain whether this will result in adjusted numbers being higher or lower, but his initial interpretation suggests it may lead to a higher threshold for what's considered an unacceptable PFAS level in biosolids. There's about a month until the comment period closes, and Jeff recommends reviewing the comment letter from Michigan and continuing to submit feedback to the EPA regarding the draft assessment. He noted that it's essential that they establish a solid figure, aiming for the most accurate number possible, and while advocacy groups are pushing for zero, they recognize that may not be feasible. On a related note, it appears that the current administration is withdrawing funding for the continuation of that draft risk assessment.

NEWEA State Director: Andre Brousseau report submitted and advised he is working on the operator exchange and still working to connect with them. Andre recalled in the past, someone would take the operator to tour some facilities. He would like to provide the operator with the opportunity to participate in the golf tournament and Thursday events at the Convention and allow them to leave after breakfast on Friday. There is a room already reserved for the operator at Sunday River. The operations challenge team is gearing up for WEF. Andre is planning to attend NeWEA's strategic planning session in September. He reminded all that it's important to compare schedules with NeWEA so their event dates are not overlapping. Terry will reach out to Heather at NeWEA to provide the MeWEA Conference dates for 2026.

Rob mentioned they need five additional trophies since they only received one for their first place in the safety event. This way, each participant can take a trophy back to their district. The cost to duplicate each trophy was around \$40 or \$50, they also need to buy a new battery. Overall, their expenses amounted to about \$500 or \$600, plus a few more sticks of pipe for practice, bringing the total to under \$1,000. Terry approved.

MMA: Melissa White reported the current exhibitor registrations and gave a brief overview of the registration process and explained the difference between the MeWEA website and the MeWEA Ebusiness platform.

Council Directors & Committee Reports

Personnel Advancement Council: Stacy Thompson reported their goal is to open attendee registration next week and include the links for registration on the MeWEA website.

Awards: Terry Tucker. Stacy reported the awards program has been well received, but there are a few awards that will not be given. Having the online award nomination form worked well.

New Professionals: Sierra Kuun reported that the Sea dogs game event in June was well received with over 200 in attendance.

Professional Development: Charlene Poulin was absent.

Laboratory: Phyllis Rand reported there were 22 in attendance at the lab committees' virtual BOD lab chat and participants received two training contact hours.

The Water Environment Federation's Laboratory Practices Committee is meeting today, July 18th.

The lab committee's abstract was approved for the fall convention. The title is of the session is Laboratory Reports, The Good, the Bad, and the Invalid. This session will take place on Thursday.

Residuals: Andre Brousseau reported Pfas is going to stay in the solids, in the condensate is not going to have any reason for the foam fractionation PFAS removal. They're also constructing a concentrate of that foam so that they can ship it. Regarding the sludge analysis, called the Ultimate Analysis, they're looking for moisture, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, sulfur, ash and oxygen. And for the mineral analysis, they're looking at silicon dioxide, aluminum oxide, titanium oxide, iron oxide, calcium oxide, magnesium, potassium, sodium, sulfur, and phosphorus. Andre noted he believes they are trying to see how the sledges will mix. He has not seen an application submitted to the City of Sanford Planning Department.

A group has been formed to discuss ways to repeal LD1911 and reestablish the beneficial reuse.

Treatment Plant Operators: Paula noted there is nothing new to report.

Collection Systems: Chris reported the Charles Perry award winner was sent to the committee. The committee will be present at the MeWEA summer outing. Xylem has sent a cornhole sponsorship form to MMA and needs their link to pay. The sponsorship online needs to be updated to include all sponsorships.

The Operations Challenge team has practice equipment in Yarmouth, and they are practicing every Thursday. He encouraged Board members to ask any interested operators to reach out to him.

Treatment Systems Operations Council: Paula had no new report.

Pretreatment: Paula did not have anything new to report. Their next meeting will be September 24th.

Stormwater: Paula reported the next meeting will be at the MeWEA Fall Convention.

Convention: Justin Barnett & Tim Wade were absent

Government Affairs: Dan Marks reported he intended to invite Jim to this meeting but didn't. He doesn't have anything to report on now that the session is over.

Communications: Phil (Submitted a report) reported the committee needs help with the newsletter and is looking for guidance. Options:

1. Create a taskforce or sub-committee
2. Utilize the Young Professionals committee or Collections Systems committee

Paula asked if the committee needs to be "rebooted" or possibly dissolved. PR and the communications committee have many similar functions but would require an official by-law change to absorb the communications committee into the PR committee. There was further discussion for each committee chair to provide an article at this time to allow the board time to research and restructure the communications committee.

Emily mentioned the possibility of MMA assisting with the design of the newsletter. Phil agreed. Andy Begin reported MWUA also has been struggling with getting a newsletter out and would be open to collaborating on a joint newsletter. Dan Marks offered an idea of providing snip it recording for members on you tube.

The group is also willing to consider offering membership roundtable discussions in lieu of creating a newsletter. There was discussion of the pros and cons.

Jeff mentioned it would be helpful if the newsletter had a basic structure of content required, such as an Operator spotlight.

Membership: Phil reported he met with Jen and reviewed the NEBRA Ambassador structure and would like to implement an ambassador program in Maine, separated by Counties. He noted membership is currently below 600.

Public Relations: Evan Pereira reported they are pushing for legislative items, and working closely with Dan Marks.

And his committee, now shifting gears back. Closer to PR items that we had discussed in our brainstorming session in Q1 for the rest of the year, so focusing more on.

Local stories, trying to highlight utilities as best we can, so any ideas, um, Phyllis, that was great earlier, like, anything like that.

Little nuggets that Diana can run with is exactly the type of stuff that she's looking for, and will help her.

You know, do our job for both... both associations. And the press. So, that's our focus for right now, and....

Planning on setting up another brainstorming session to regroup with the PR committee in the next few weeks.

so if there's anyone else that you may know of in your....

the organizations that may be interested in getting involved, please send them my way and let me know.

Evan Pereira has indicated that they are advocating for legislative initiatives and collaborating closely with Dan Marks. His committee is now transitioning back to focus on public relations items that we previously discussed during our brainstorming session in the first quarter for the remainder of the year, thereby placing greater emphasis on. Local stories, aiming to showcase utilities as effectively as possible. Therefore, any suggestions, Phyllis, like the excellent ideas you shared earlier, would be greatly appreciated. Small insights that Diana can utilize are precisely the kind of information she seeks, which will assist her in fulfilling our responsibilities for both associations and the media. Thus, this is our current priority, and.... We are planning to organize another brainstorming session to reconvene with the PR committee in the upcoming weeks. If you know of anyone else within your organizations who might be interested in participating, please direct them to me and inform me accordingly.

Officer's Reports

Immediate Past President Report: Emily Cole-Prescott reported the primary focus of her current work is with the strategic planning task force, which is also being addressed by Andre and Phil. They are preparing a survey that will be distributed relatively soon regarding this matter. Additionally, the activities related to the WEF delegate will soon resume, and there are some exciting developments concerning WEFMAX. They are planning to create a virtual WEFMAX event and have reached out to Terry and Phil for their involvement. They have been recognized as part of the top programs associated with WEFMAX in general, so the virtual WEFMAX will replicate what the in-person programming accomplished, transitioning it to a virtual platform.

President-Elect Report: Rob Pontau reported his opinion is to no longer offer a newsletter and offer other ways of communicating with members. There was discussion and some were in agreement to no longer produce a newsletter.

President Report: Terry Tucker reported the August outing will be cancelled, but an Executive meeting will still be held on August 15th, virtually.

Vice President Report: Amanda Smith had nothing to report.

Other New Business: no new business

Adjournment

Motion made by Jeff McBurnie to adjourn the meeting at 10:49am, seconded by Phil Tucker, all approved.



TREASURER'S REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Maine Municipal Association

60 Community Drive

Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 7/18/2025

TREASURER NAME: Jeff McBurnie

ACCOUNT/BUDGET STATUS: I haven't received any new financial information since the April reports, so I have nothing to report on that front. I will note that at the end of April we had around \$57,000 in checking and roughly \$10K in expenses. Currently we have signed another nearly \$20,000 (\$9321 to Verrill) in checks for June & July expenses with another nearly \$7,500 being due to Verrill. \$5,000 was a Sunday River deposit, so that will be recouped with Fall Convention revenue and there is some sponsorship money (Ops Challenge) that will cover some of the May expenses. I would encourage all committee chairs and council directors to hold a tight rein on spending, making expenditures on mission-critical items and avoiding unnecessary or frivolous expenses. If you have any ideas for additional Sponsorship and Advertising revenue, please feel free to share.

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: 8/15/2025?

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: None

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff McBurnie

DATE SUBMITTED: 7/16/2025

DISTRIBUTION:

X

MMA Affiliate Liaison

X

Executive Committee Meeting

Newsletter

Other:

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

Outreach Council Executive Committee Report

Date: July 18, 2025

Council Director: Phil Tucker

Communications Committee – Bryanna Denis

Newsletter Needs Attention:

The newsletter is currently inactive due to limited capacity. A discussion at the Executive Committee Meeting may help identify options for reviving it. The workload cannot be sustained by one person, and additional support or restructuring is likely necessary.

Government Affairs Committee – Amanda Smith / Daniel Marks

Legislative Session Update:

The 2025 legislative session has concluded. The bond in question has been held over for consideration in the next session.

Contract Review:

The committee is evaluating Verrill’s contract to determine how to best utilize his services going forward.

Membership Committee – Jennifer Nicholson

New Recruitment Initiative:

The committee is launching a new effort to grow membership by recruiting “ambassadors” in each Maine county. The goal is to enhance face-to-face outreach and encourage member engagement through word-of-mouth advocacy.

Public Relations Committee – Evan Pereira

Post-Legislative Focus:

With the legislative session wrapped up, the committee has resumed work on regularly scheduled PR efforts for 2025.

Media Projects in Development:

- Recent Presentation Coverage:

Feature on Dan’s presentation to Maine Conservation Voters: “From Sludge to Solutions – Reimagining Wastewater Management in Maine.”

- Local Story Highlights:

- LACWA’s advancement of biosolids solutions via anaerobic digestion and exploration of dryer technologies.
- York Sewer District’s collaboration with Dirigo H2O to expand Biddeford’s byproduct-to-energy project.
- Recognition of MWUA’s 100th Anniversary milestone.

Call for Content:

The committee is always looking for compelling local stories that showcase the innovative and essential work happening across our sector. Please share ideas!

Personnel Advancement Executive Committee Report
7/18/25

Council Director – Stacy Thomposn

- Met with Justin and Charlene on 07.10.2025 to discuss planning for Fall Convention. All set with vendor packet and attendee registration will be shortly behind that.
- Deposit has been sent to Saddleback, although returned. It will get sent back out.

Awards – Mike Guethle

- More awards will be given out this year! I think a big difference was the online submittal portion and maybe bothering people every now and then 😊
- I do have a nomination for the Al Jellison award that I would like to discuss in executive session.

Personnel Advancement – Charlene Poulin

- Nothing new to report other than sessions are set and Charlene did a great job!

New Professionals – Sierra Kuun

- Nothing to report.

Convention– Justin Barnett

- Vendor registration is open – payment is not quite set up.
- Work on finalizing all items for the attendee registration, so we can get that up and open.



REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE NAME: Laboratory Committee

REPORT DATE: 7/15/2025

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 6/18/2025

RECENT ACTIVITIES: The Lab Committee hosted a virtual BOD5 "Lab Chat" on 7/10/2025, from 11am – 1pm.

Twenty-two participants attended the Lab Committee's virtual BOD5 "Lab Chat" which was free and open to MEWEA's non-regulatory members. Topics ranged from choosing the correct version of *Standard Methods for the Analysis of Water and Wastes* to quality control requirements for lab-grade water and glucose-glutamic acid analyses.

Attendees provided positive feedback after the session, and one attendee felt it should have been offered as two sessions based on the amount of information covered.

In contrast to the Water Environment Federation's BOD5 Lab Chat, MEWEA requested and received approval for 2.0 training contact hours from the Maine DEP. Following the training, Compass Rose Training Solutions™ (a DEP-approved training provider) submitted the attendance roster to the DEP and issued training contact hours certificates to participants.

Lessons Learned: Attendees appreciated this training. If something similar is offered by a MEWEA committee in the future, it is advisable to have several people handle different aspects of the event: Someone to receive registrations and send out certificates of attendance, someone to serve as meeting moderator, and someone to keep up with comments in the online chat feature. It was very helpful having the training flyer sent to the membership list via Maine Municipal Association. The two-hour timeframe was sufficient considering this was not a class on how to analyze BOD5 samples but instead touched-on the "hot button" aspects of the test. Organizations such as JETCC and NEIWPCC offer classes for people needing more in-depth training and MEWEA is not trying to compete with them.

DECISIONS MADE: n/a

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: P.Rand to attend virtual WEF Laboratory Practices Committee Meeting on 7/20/2025.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Next meeting 9/17/2025 (virtual).

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: The Lab Committee's abstract, "Laboratory Reports: The Good, The Bad and The Invalid," was accepted as a session at MEWEA's 2025 Fall Convention.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: MEWEA Lab Committee

NAME: Phyllis Rand, Co-chair

DATE SUBMITTED: 7/15/2025 for 7/20/2025 Executive Committee Meeting

cc: MEWEA Lab Committee



REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

**15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330**

COMMITTEE NAME: JETCC

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: June 26, 2025

RECENT ACTIVITIES: I am continuing to work on the fall calendar and welcome ideas and volunteers.

The Management Candidate School Class of 2025 continues at the Bangor Water District. Operator Exchanges are occurring over the summer. We have 19 participants in the program. The next MCS class will be held in Portland and will begin in November.

Early planning for the next Wastewater Operator School is underway. WOS will be offered starting in January 2026, primarily held at Portland Water District.

DECISIONS MADE: The Committee approved the next year's workplan and budget, which now matches the state fiscal year, and will run July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: The next JETCC meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2025 in Yarmouth.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Peter Zaykoski, JETCC Program Manager

DATE SUBMITTED: 7/16/2025



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: July 18, 2025

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: State Director

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: André Brousseau

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Finalized the operator exchange candidate, Bryan Chonko from Brunswick Sewer District. Continuing to work with RICA on their operator of choice.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Attend NEWEA's strategic planning session on September 4 & 5. Finalize plant tours for the operator exchange to take place during our fall conference.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: André Brousseau

DATE SUBMITTED: July 17, 2025

DISTRIBUTION:

MMA Affiliate Liaison

Executive Committee Meeting

Other: _____

Please check if item should be expanded for external release. ☐



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: July 18, 2025

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Residuals

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: André Brousseau, Travis Peaslee

RECENT ACTIVITIES: A small group recently meet to discuss the negative impacts of LD 1911 affecting the entire state biosolids disposal options. The plan is to meet quarterly to devise steps in creating draft legislation that would reestablish the beneficial reuse program.

Travis & André toured WM's drying facility that is under construction at their Norridgewock location on July 7th. Commissioning steps are scheduled for late 4th quarter 2025 following by wet commissioning in the first quarter of 2026 with hopes of full-scale operation soon afterwards.

André assisted Aries by sampling biosolids from PWD, Biddeford, Wells, York & Sanford for analysis to determine the characteristics of the biosolids from a few Maine facilities.

The Brunswick digester project has been officially taken off the discussion table due to the pushback from the public geared around PFAS.

The \$50 million bond for future biosolids upgrades/regional facilities is DEAD.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:

Biosolids subgroup will meet on September 10th

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

APPROVED

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: André Brousseau

DATE SUBMITTED: July 17, 2025

DISTRIBUTION:

MMA Affiliate Liaison

Executive Committee Meeting

Other: _____

NEWSLETTER

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

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