



APPROVED

**MEWEA Executive Board Meeting
Friday, August 15, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Remote Access via Zoom**

MINUTES

Attendance via Zoom: Terry Tucker, Jeff McBurnie, Emily Cole-Prescott, Stacy Thompspon, Paula Drouin, Peter Zaykoski, Andy Begin, Andre Brousseau, Dan Marks, Sierra Kuun, Chris Cline, Phil Tucker, Amanda Smith, Charlene Poulin, Gregg Wood, Jim Cohen and Chelsea Carll (MMA)

Absent: Rob Pontau, Phyllis Arnold Rand, Evan Pereira, Travis Peaslee

Call to Order: President Terry Tucker called the meeting to order at 9.02 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 July 18, 2025.

Motion made by Jeff McBurnie to approve July 18, 2025 minutes, seconded by Amanda Smith. All approved. Motion carried.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Jeff submitted a report and added that after reconciling June's financial reports, current assets are at \$57,000, and he is anticipating additional revenue as we approach the convention. He reminded council chairs to be mindful of their budgets and spending, and ensure all expenses are approved.

Chelsea (MMA) inquired about a check they can't place from Tighe and Bond. Jeff and Stacy thought it might be for a golf tournament payment and Chelsea will follow up with the company.

Terry turned things to Chris Cline, who had a request from ops challenge:

Chris requested approval from the board for ops challenge team to attend an upcoming competition at the Wastewater Convention in Rhode Island, requesting \$1000 from MeWEA's budget to cover their expenses to attend. Terry and Jeff asked for a full report of anticipated revenue and expenditures tied to operator challenge from Chris.

Chris reported that there is anticipated revenue coming in from the convention, and is anticipating a check from NeWEA for up to \$4,500 for reimbursement from WEFTEC. Terry encouraged him to utilize their available funding from fundraising efforts to cover their trip. Chris will send a report to the board of his budget expenditures and revenue. He added that there are \$7500 in jersey sponsors to date.

Chris will be hosting a putting contest at the MeWEA golf tournament. He spoke about the option to opt in just for the BBQ dinner was missing from the registration form, and Chelsea updated all that it has been added as of today. He spoke about a \$15 trophy that they will buy for the champion of the competition.

Paula offered to assist Chris selling 50/50 raffle tickets at the golf tournament.

Motion made by Phil Tucker to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Amanda Smith. All approved. Motion carried.

Old Business - None

Representative Reports

DEP Report: Gregg Wood reported that federal funding is up in the air, and all discretionary spending is on hold. They intended to have 21 people register for the conference, but seeing as they are limited to additional spending, only 7 will be in attendance as a result of which the majority are speakers. He spoke about one permit writer that was approved by the governor, but while funding is being sorted out, that position is pending appointment until likely late October. He reported that there are 2 Stormwater positions that are open, one in Portland and one in Augusta. Alison Moody has left the department.

Regarding MS4 permit: Gregg sent the modification out on August 1 and shared that the date for appeal is September 1. He reported that 31 parties are involved in this.

The phosphorus rule has been passed and is now in effect, and you may start seeing write-ups in your permit in a more formal format based on the new criteria. They are working on nitrogen rule next. He has spoken with Matt Height in the commissioner's office about it and it has been drafted in coordination with the science sector of the water bureau. Gregg is meeting with the water bureau next Friday. He will circulate this draft to the regulating community and host a couple stakeholder meetings before approaching the EPA. This will happen within the next couple of months.

For compliance inspectors, the department is building a new application program in appliance and enforcement called the Maine Enterprise Licensing System. All the bureaus in the department will be using it. It will be relevant to certain permits such as land bureau permits and that applications will be processed electronically through this new system. Gregg said that the water bureau is next to get on board with the new program, and to get it set up, compliance inspectors will be working on this rollout through the Fall, committing up to 20 hours per week in the research and testing phases, including gathering information that is important to include in the application, building the program, and gathering results from tests to improve it before it goes live sometime after Christmas. Their commitment to this project may tie compliance inspectors up for weeks at a time, so that this is a priority of the commissioner to see this done, and for the group to be aware of that.

Legislative Update from Jim Cohen: Jim asked the group about any topics of interest before proceeding with his report. Terry asked if anyone had questions. Dan had a follow up question regarding the last session he characterized as "wild" and sought Jim's perspective of what happened and the fallout of it. Jim replied that there have been partisan divisions flaring up because of the last session, citing a case where a supplemental budget deal sparked a partisan conflict, and following several iterations of

the deal, democrats removed republicans from the negotiations that resulted in further conflict. Jim spoke about challenges in transparency of decision-making. He has observed an uptick in committees making decisions through corner caucus (after some debate, committee leaves the room, parties confer with their constituents out of earshot, discuss the bill, and then return to vote with little on-mic discussion. This behavior is allowed but challenges the principles of sunshine law and freedom of access. This is making it difficult as a member of the public to discern why certain decisions are being made, and it has been hard communicating with legislators while they are in session. There have been several outstanding bills to go to the floor, and Jim spoke to the general chaos that impacted their progress. He explained that this “chaos” may have produced mixed results in MeWEA board members’ outreach to legislators. He shared that this is the time to cultivate relationships in the off session to help improve their communication for the next session.

Jim reported that the budget passed, which included a lot of tax increases built in (tobacco, cannabis, video-streaming) but no sales tax or income tax increase. The pressure on property tax continues to grow, and even though there was full funding of schools, there was a backsliding on funding for county government, which ends up on the property tax bill. He explained that a lot of MeWEA’s customer base is facing property tax increases, and it is getting more challenging for them.

Next year is a gubernatorial year as Governor Mills is termed out, and there is a record number of gubernatorial candidates who have signed up as of August 15. He shared that there is some buzz from people who haven’t officially entered, and it is difficult to predict how this race will go. As Governor Mills time is winding down, he is noticing more commissioners stepping back and shared that the Commissioner Van Note from the DOT left this month, and Commissioner Figueroa from Administrative and Financial Services will be departing. More administration changes are anticipated. Fundraising is underway, and Jim shared that as a lobbyist he is not allowed to be solicited during the session, but the moment of session adjournment occurs, his inbox fills up with solicitations via email. Jim and his colleagues will be attending those fundraisers on both sides of the aisle into the Fall. He invited members of the board to participate with the caveat that their “municipal hats are off and personal hats are on”.

He shared that cloture is coming up, and explained that in September the traditional process for the second regular session is that legislators are allowed to make proposals for legislation. For proposals to get admitted, it has to go to part of the 10 member legislative council. He shared that the “valve is [typically] very tight for allowing bills in” particularly this year with 400 carryover bills left on the appropriations’ table or are still in the various stages of the legislative process. He anticipates few proposals will be let in for next year, and said nominally only emergency bills get let through, but his definition of an emergency bill is a bill that is able to get 6 votes in the council. The deadline to submit proposals is the latter part of September. Then, the council will vote. Any bill not allowed in can be appealed, then appeals are heard, and that process plays out until November. At the same time, the administration is able to put in bills (and don’t have to go through this process), and he should know what those bills will be in the latter part of September. He shared that agencies are currently rushing to get those proposals into the administration for review and approval for admission.

Another high-level observation Jim brought up is that there are several local government associations like MeWEA and MWUA who are hoping to gather at some point in late August/September to talk about unfunded mandates. The group includes MMA, the Mayors’ Coalition, county commissioners, the Sheriff’s Association, and

Maine School of Management. Jim spoke about his work with this group over the years, working through a lot of frustrations over rules and legislation getting passed that impose their costs on local units of government and local budgets. He said that the constitution is supposed to protect against that and the state is supposed to pick up 90% of the costs unless the legislature passes the bill with a mandate preamble by two thirds vote. In practice, the definition of "mandate" has been interpreted by the attorney general's office in ways that narrow what is considered a mandate. Jim spoke about a specific case where this was apparent, citing a land-filling case that imposes a lot of costs on local units of government, where the legislature deemed it not to be a mandate. This case, among others, will be discussed within this group of associations, and Jim will share their progress.

Jim shared that there were a number of bills that he followed:

- LD 25, which was a bond issue for wastewater facilities. The DEP was pushing that bill forward, and that bill got carried over. There were no bond issues that were adopted this past year.

- LD 297, which would extend the timeframe for allowing the importation of construction demolition debris to solid waste landfills. That was passed on a simple majority and will go into effect Sept 24. He shared that he did not think the DEP plans to enforce the law in the intervening months

- LD 251, which had to do with the confidentiality of customer information. If someone were to serve a FOIA request on one of facilities, asking about customers, there really was not any kind of protection. Now there is protection for consumer-owned utilities. There already was the protection for public utilities.

- LD 646, which was a proposal to have a stormwater mgmt. task force. There were concerns about it, it went to the floor, and ultimately the bill got carried over.

- LD 1604, which was about limitations on the release of leaches from solid waste landfills. It got amended to be more of a testing requirement before it got passed. He said that this bill saw a lot of participation from MeWEA board members.

Jim asked the board for their questions and feedback.

Dan Marks spoke about his thoughts on the unfunded mandates imposed on municipalities, and how it impacts their service industry. He shared that their planning dept is concerned about its implementation. He asked Jim for feedback on LD 1829, which requires municipalities to increase zoning density of housing, which has a direct impact on their service areas. He'd like to know when it takes effect and to what extent municipalities need to adhere to it. Jim replied that it was a bill he followed regularly but not intently, and there is a lot to there. It came out of the housing committee in which democrats were very interested in getting it passed and spoke to the amalgamation of different concepts. He said it would require state intervention and regulations that would override local governments to place restrictions on the zoning. He did share that local governments are perceiving this as an overreach by the state. He said it was not passed by mandate preamble, but will be looking into whether this is another type of legal mandate. He will be following up with Dan offline on more specifics to the bill that impact water/wastewater services. Dan expressed his interest in joining the discussion on this bill for the group. He is wondering if state associations are involved, as it has had a negative impact on his district.

Dan also brought up LD 1498 and the needs to build capacity as density increases. Dan wanted to know when it would be made effective. Emily encouraged all to speak with their attorneys to address the plan and spoke with MMA and they did not have this one on their radar. Emily has put this on their plate to make a strong case that this is

encumbering planning. Jim has been focusing on bills regarding impact fees, and the priority to keep fees tightly focused on infrastructure. He validated their concerns. Andre asked Emily if they can move from impact to connection fee language, and Emily replied that there needs to be a united front on how impact fees will work throughout the state. Terry inquired whether the board should schedule a meeting to discuss with the legislative committee. Dan agreed.

Dan asked about the prospect of moving away from the legislative breakfast, and find other routes to reach out to legislators, and spoke to that challenge. Dan asked the group about hosting a luncheon or something instead. Jim replied that this is a well-timed question since the next couple months are the best for outreach, since they are in between sessions. He suggested that this is the time to reach out to local delegation to come to tours and speak directly with them on how the facilities work, the challenges, and work on relationship-building at this stage. Legislators in their first or second term are the best to reach out to first before those who are about to term out. He said to focus on topics such as PFAs cost structure and speak highly to the constructive work that has already been made.

Terry and Dan thanked Jim for attending. He left the zoom meeting.

JETCC-NEIWPCC: Peter Zaykoski submitted a report and noted the following:

Peter spoke to training updates and working on their Fall calendar which will be posted in the next few weeks. He spoke about their higher level exam prep class, pump classes, etc. MCS school had their last session this week, and their graduation will take place at convention fall meeting. Their next class will kick off in September.

Peter inquired Aidan this morning for approval of sessions and had correspondence with Stacy regarding the drinking water program and reimbursement for employees who attend training at convention. He spoke positively to the new managers getting started in their fields. Amanda spoke to Peter about unsolicited feedback about how good the last class was.

MWUA: Andy Begin reported that they had a successful summer outing at Lost Valley instead of Cumberland fairgrounds this year, celebrating their 100 year anniversary. He thanked the board for their cornhole activity at the event. He shared that the annual golf outing was also successful, and mentioned that Rob Pontau attended the event. The Seadogs event was a break even proposition, so Molly is going to reach out to Terry on where that stands. Their training calendar is still being built. Oct 7 will include two sessions for leadership training, which will take place at Hudson College for 30 credit hours' worth of training. They are marketing it on their website soon. They had a quick conversation with Rob Pontau regarding joint meeting between the boards at annual conference, and MWUA is not opposed to that. Roger Crouse and Andy will attend, and want to set a timeframe/expectation for that meeting, and outline agenda for that meeting. MWUA wants to continue to do collaborations with MeWEA and what is going to be successful for both organizations. Terry will work with Justin and Charlene on accommodating that meeting space at convention.

Andy spoke about the same set of funds Peter spoke to regarding drinking water programs and how they generate subsidies to keep training at a lower cost.

NEBRA Update: Phil Tucker & Janine Burke-Wells: No report.

NEWEA State Director: Andre Brousseau did not submit a report but spoke today about operator exchange to RI.

Bryan Chonko from Brunswick is the Maine transfer this year to RI. RI has not spoken about their RI operator coming up to Maine yet. Peter Connell and Scott Goodenson, and they have one candidate they will line up next week. 5 tours are confirmed, starting on Tuesday the 15th at Portland water district plant, then tour Lewiston plant with Travis, head back to Sunday River, and get up early in the morning to Rumford, and continue South to Mechanic Falls, and then conclude with Sunday River wastewater treatment on Wednesday and may participate in the golf tournament festivities.

Andre spoke to NeWEA's awards committee meeting this week, of which awards are just about set. Phillip Pickering was nominated for the Alfred Pelouin award but must confirm that he is a member before confirming he is qualified. Alex will look into this. Alex asked if he knows he is getting an award, and Andre says no, but a formal letter will come out this fall. Andre shared that Sept 4 & 5 planning is underway. He spoke highly of Chris's efforts to fundraising for ops challenge and wishes them luck.

Stacy shared that March 19 is Ski Day at saddleback, Sept 16-18 is fall convention for next year. Andre spoke with Terry about NeWEA golf 9/17 scheduled has been conflicting with the scheduling for the vendors at the conference.

MMA: Chelsea Carll reported the current exhibitor, attendee and golf registrations. She advised board members to contact AGmemberservices@memun.org for login and technical support. Chelsea had circulated a quote for MeWEA newsletter services to the board for their review and approval. On it is a quote for service for one edition in 2025, and three per year moving forward.

Council Directors & Committee Reports

Personnel Advancement Council: Stacy Thompson thanked Terry for sharing the convention dates. Stacy shared that the golf setup is a well-oiled operation for next month, and they realized that the option for the BBQ ticket was not added, and thanked MMA for their help on getting that added. She is working with Sierra on the vendor raffle.

Treatment Systems Operations Council: Paula did not have a report and asked her committee if they had updates:

Residuals: Andre did not have a report.

Pretreatment: Alex said he did not have a significant report but spoke about needing to recruit for the next ops challenge team, so they are lined up for the next year. The calendars will be mailed out close to the end of the year and brought to convention, he asked the board to let him know if they want any set aside for themselves.

Collection Systems: Chris reported that Andy mentioned already that they participated in the MWUA summer outing and working with JETCC on collection system training on Oct 28, sponsors are all confirmed for the cornhole tournament and will put the link out

to the vendors to purchase their sponsorships and has partnered with MMA on it. Next meeting will be before the fall convention in the next few weeks.

Laboratory: Phyllis Rand was not in attendance but submitted a report.

Stormwater: Paula said there was no report.

Outreach Council: Phil asked each committee for their updates:

Government Affairs: Phil asked if Amanda and Dan had anything to add to Jim Cohen's earlier report for Government Affairs updates. They did not.

Membership: Phil reported that he sent an email out recruiting membership ambassadors. Results were minimal, but ambassadors have been secured in Hancock and Somerset counties to recruit new members. Phil will be equipping them with talking points and materials.

Communications: Phil asked if Amanda had more to add to their report. She did not.

Public Relations: Phil reported that PR is ongoing. Phil asked for confirmation from Jeff whether MeWEA had six months' worth of funding for Black Fly Media. They agreed that they had \$9000 allocated in the budget.

MWUA will pay for three months (\$4,500), and Bangor and York have each pledged to pay for one month (\$1500), which leaves one month not accounted for this year. They will maintain funding at least through November.

Phil reported that an attempt was made to make a joint service arrangement between NeWEA and MeWEA for Black Fly Media services. An agreement was not reached at this time.

Phil presented the MMA quote from newsletter service and spoke to the quote for the Fall edition at \$297.

Motion by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Phil Tucker, all approved the MMA service agreement for the newsletter for Fall 2025.

Breanna is the point person for the newsletter, and MMA will cc Phil on all correspondence.

Officer's Reports

Immediate Past President Report: Emily Cole-Prescott reported she is navigating the housing stuff, and welcomed board members to reach out to her for questions since Saco appears to be ahead of others at this point.

Vice President Report: Amanda Smith addressed to Dan's ideas for alternatives to legislative breakfast and proposed making a day across the state. Phil referenced Amanda to Scott Goodenson from RI to brainstorm ideas. Phil will connect them via email. Dan is away on vacation after the meeting and will follow up on his return.

President-Elect Report: Rob Pontau was absent and did not have a report.

President Report: Terry Tucker reported that Phil and she were in Deer Island for teaching training for youth education for MeWEA and did not get a full tour of the plant but was cut short. They had a chance to look out over the bay.

Phil has been working with Jaqueline at MWRA on coordinating a tour of Deer Island in mid-October. He encouraged the board to get as many operators as possible to come.

Terry has been working with Mike on award plans for convention.

Phil reminded the board that they should have received NeWEA Strategic Meeting planning survey and encourages all to submit their input. They are meeting September 3-4 to review those results.

Terry is working with Evan and Diana on Monday regarding the progress between NeWEA and MeWEA.

Other New Business: None.

Adjournment

Motion made by Phil Tucker, seconded by Jeff McBurnie to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 am. All approved.



TREASURER'S REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Maine Municipal Association
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 8/15/2025

TREASURER NAME: Jeff McBurnie

ACCOUNT/BUDGET STATUS: I've reviewed the financial information through the June MMA report. Our current assets, as of 6/30/2025, are approximately \$57,500 (approx. \$21,500 – CD, \$35,500 - checking, and \$500 in A/R). I will continue to caution all committee chairs and council directors to use their discretion 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. We are starting to see an influx of revenue due to the opening of the Fall Convention and Golf Tournament registrations, but please understand that a significant portion of that revenue will be offset by associated expenses.

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: 9/18-19/2025

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: None

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff McBurnie

DATE SUBMITTED: 8/14/2025

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: June 26, 2025

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Our fall calendar is expected to be posted by the end of the month. Some early highlights include Centrifugal Pumps Basics, October 7-9, Bangor area, Fairfield, and Biddeford; Cleaning & Jetting, October 28, Gardiner; and Instrumentation, Controls, and SCADA, November 4, Waterville.

Regular classes for the Management Candidate School Class of 2025 have concluded at the Bangor Water District. Of our 19 participants in the program, it appears that 16 will graduate from the program at the Fall Convention. The next MCS class will be held in Portland and will begin in November. Applications are expected to open in September.

Early planning for the next Wastewater Operator School is underway. WOS will be offered starting in January 2026, primarily held at Portland Water District. Some elements of the program are expected to be offered in a hybrid format.

DECISIONS MADE: The Committee has not met since the last EC meeting.

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: 8/13/2025



REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE NAME: Laboratory Committee

REPORT DATE: 8/1/2025

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 6/18/2025

RECENT ACTIVITIES: At the request of the Water Environment Federation's Laboratory Practices Committee (LPC), and with the approval of MEWEA President Terry Tucker and Council Director Paula Drouin, Phyllis Rand submitted an article for the WEF LPC's newsletter about the MEWEA Lab Committee's 7/10/2025 BOD5 "Lab Chat" event.

DECISIONS MADE: n/a

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: n/a

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

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

Phyllis Rand attended the WEF LPC's Virtual Meeting on 7/18/2025. Some highlights are below:

- "Ethics Training is Essential in the Environmental Laboratory" training was included in the meeting.
- The *Standard Methods* [website](#) is being updated.
- The next edition (25th) of *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater* will include updates on:
 - the BOD5 Method,
 - Part 1000, "Analytical and Data Quality Systems" and
 - Part 2540, "Solids" [Note: Phyllis Rand is a member of *Standard Methods* Part 2540 Committee.]
 - If anyone is interested in serving on a *Standard Methods* committee, the application can be found [here](#). You don't need a PhD to serve on a *Standard Methods* committee. Please consider joining!

Miscellaneous: The 98th Maine Safety and Health Council Conference's tentative professional development topics include "Navigating the Complexities of Confined Space Rescue" and "Fleet Safety/DOT Compliance." The conference is October 14-16, 2025, at the Augusta Civic Center. Early Bird Registration Deadline is 8/15/2025. Click [here](#) for more information.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: MEWEA Lab Committee

NAME: Phyllis Rand, Co-chair

DATE SUBMITTED: 8/1/2025 for 8/15/2025 MEWEA Executive Committee Meeting

cc: MEWEA Lab Committee