



APPROVED

MEWEA Executive Board Meeting
Friday, October 17, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Remote Access via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendance via Zoom: Terry Tucker, Jeff McBurnie, Stacy Thomspson, Peter Zaykoski, Andy Begin, Andre Brousseau, Chris Cline, Phil Tucker, Amanda Smith, Gregg Wood, Rob Pontau, Phyllis Arnold Rand, Alex Buechner, and Chelsea Carll (MMA).

Absent: Emily Cole-Prescott, Paula Drouin, Dan Marks, Sierra Kuun, Charlene Poulin, Evan Pereira, 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 August 15, 2025.

Motion made by Phil Tucker to approve August 15, 2025 minutes, seconded by Amanda Smith.

Peter Zaykoski pointed out some typos (“WEFTEC” in place of “Webtech”, for instance) in the minutes. He will send along revisions to Chelsea to edit.

Motion made by Phil Tucker to approve August 15, 2025 minutes as amended, seconded by Amanda Smith. All Approved. Motion carried.

Terry asked for the representative’s reports and committee reports in advance to the treasurer’s report, which will be included under new business for a discussion on the 2026 budget planning.

Old Business

None

Representative Reports

DEP Report: Gregg Wood reported that there was a public hearing in front of the board yesterday on the Triennial Review and closure for written comments is October 22nd, next Wednesday. He said that due to the shutdown in Washington, D.C., they haven’t been able to see any issues. He shared that not many from DEP attended the convention because they have been unsure what was going to transpire in D.C. Gregg let Theresa know on the call that Holly Ireland will serve as the DEP rep on the proposed MeWEA Strategic Planning Task Force. Gregg reminded the board that the

phosphorus rule was passed and has been in effect since June. They have been writing permits and doing reasonable potential analysis required by EPA. He said that the board should know by now whether or not they're going to get a permit limit. Gregg contacted everyone before going through the rulemaking process and doesn't anticipate too many surprises. He went into detail about the EPA requiring an established limit in a previous permit to carry over to a new permit. EPA's interpretation of the Clean Water Act is once you get a limit, you have one for good. DEP disagrees with this rule and challenged it, but ultimately did not have success. Gregg said that he is working with the permit writers to modify the fact sheets and will be carrying permit limits forward. There may be some adjustments in permits, because they are reevaluating the 7Q10s and 1Q10s on the rivers. They have been reevaluating them because over the past 25 years, they have been a bit lower. DEP is taking the same calculations from previous permits, dialing in the new dilution factors and new river flows, and seeing a difference of maybe a tenths or hundredths of a pound. He said this shouldn't be a big factor, but wanted to impart that they disagree with the EPA regarding carrying permit limits forward if there is a reasonable potential previously recorded. Regarding the nitrogen ruling, Gregg reported that the department has a rule written, and they are making calculations on the fiscal impact on the rulemaking, as was done in the past for phosphorus. Gregg thinks that Brian will be scheduling a meeting with organizations like MeWEA likely in December to discuss what they have drafted. Gregg reported that they have some staff vacancies including two stormwater positions and a compliance inspector. The compliance inspector role is open because Sean Bernard has been promoted to the Director position in the northern Maine regional office.

JETCC-NEIWPC: Peter Zaykoski submitted a report and highlighted a few items: Today's the last call for management candidate school applications for their next program that'll be at a Portland and asked the group to spread the word to those who may be interested. They have 20 applications so far. JETCC has an upcoming class with the Collection System Committee on October 28th in Gardiner. Chris Cline has been helping spread the word for this program. Peter asked the group to spread the word to those who may be interested in joining. He is looking forward to having a successful class. Peter, Aidan and Peter are partnering on creating certificates from the annual convention, and Charlene is seeking retroactive approval for drinking water credits. They may choose to distribute certificates in the interim and approve credits later. Peter shared they are in an offer process right now for their new South Portland position, and hope their candidate accepts their offer. He hopes to introduce them at the next meeting.

MWUA: Andy Begin reported that they have a new executive director, Ed Mollio. MWUA is in the midst of their annual February conference planning and will begin advertising soon. He wants to partner with MeWEA to identify tracks for their wastewater individuals and credits. Andy reported that three positions on their board of directors are up this year. Brian McGuire and Mike Cummons will step down and Andy has been re-elected this past October for another three years. Matt Lincoln from Houlton Water Co and Herb Cronom from Searsport Water will be joining the board. Their election of officers will be in January. They have a December bi-monthly coming up.

Jeff McBurnie asked if there will be a meet and greet with the new ED, and Andy says there will be an opportunity to do so. He hopes that Ed's strong background in communications will be helpful towards their goals to improve membership communications.

NEBRA Update: This report was deferred to later in the agenda when Janine Burke-Wells was supposed to join, but she did not join. The topic was not revisited.

NEWEA State Director: Andre Brousseau reported that they have an executive meeting coming up on November 3rd in Worcester. Andre spoke about their plans to partner with Blackfly Media on an arrangement for all six new England states. NEWEA would pay the onboarding fee, and each MA would pay \$2000 for the entire year instead of \$1500 monthly. Terry said this would significantly reduce MeWEA's costs to join in this arrangement. Andre said that five out of the six states need to meet with their executive boards to agree to this deal. They have provided a rep from CT with a couple of samples of press releases and op-ed pieces that have been published in Maine.

Motion by Phil Tucker, seconded by Andre Brousseau to accept NEWEA's proposal as an MA for BlackFly Media for \$2000 for the year. All approved. Motion carried.

MMA: Chelsea Carll thanked MeWEA for their participation in this year's MMA convention, which took place last week. Looking ahead, she has asked the board how she can help them prepare for their upcoming budget meeting and advised the membership committee that due increases will need to be confirmed as soon as possible for their membership renewals to take place on time. Chelsea is currently working with Alex on the poster contest communication to all public schools this fall.

Council Directors & Committee Reports

Outreach Council: Phil Tucker submitted a report in advance and added his feedback to some of the following committees.

Government Affairs: Phil reported that Dan Marks could not make it to this meeting. Phil said that they are moving away from the Legislative Breakfast event. A Hall of Flags event ("Muffin Monster Mash") tentatively set for Monday, January 12. Terry asked MMA if they could swap out their services from the Legislative Breakfast to marketing support (one flyer) for the Hall of Flags event. Peter Osborne informed Chelsea on 10.16 that an amendment can be made to their 2026 service contract to accommodate this change.

Public Relations: Phil reported that a press release went out today, worked on collaboratively between the PR, Biosolids and Government Affairs committees, to ask the state to take a second look at the land application ban that was put in place out of an exceedance of caution. The committees think that there's enough information out there now that we can safely go back to beneficial use of non-industrial impacted biosolids. They referenced four state reports indicating that biosolids or any organics going into the landfill is terrible for the environment and flies right into the face of the waste management hierarchy for the state and the Climate Council for the state. One of

the included reports is from Brown & Caldwell. Phil is interested in seeing the impact of this press release.

Membership: Phil reported that as of September 16, there were 637 members, and as of October 16, there are now 659 members. Phil attributes this gain to personal outreach to members on the phone. He shared a few examples why members may not have joined. Some big companies must choose from among several organizations, and some individual prior members may have switched employers.

Communications: Phil reported that he is encouraged to hear that MWUA is interested in getting back together to work on a joint newsletter. In the meantime, Breanna is working on a newsletter and will compile all stories by next Friday. Andre will send an article to Breanna to talk about their new building. As incoming president, Rob Pontau will work with Andy Begin at MWUA on revitalizing their newsletter in the new year. Phil added that on Monday, October 20, 25 operators from all over Maine will be going to Deer Island as part of a four-part Deer Island Tour. 25 people will be headed to each one: October 20th, November 10th, and then 2 dates to be determined in the spring. DEP has agreed to offer 2 TCHs for this.

Personnel Advancement Council: Stacy Thompson reported that now that convention is over there has been a bit of a lull, and she has been unavailable due to a recent surgery. Stacy will work on tracks for the MWUA tradeshow and asked if they usually do 5 tracks. Andy will check with John Cummins, committee chair, to get the precise amount. Stacy may have some leftover abstract submissions to share from convention.

Terry explained she was notified after convention that EJ Prescott had committed to a joint sponsorship (Platinum), where they would have received recognition and a complimentary booth, cornhole and golf tournament sponsorship. To rectify the situation, EJP's booth fee will be waived for the convention 2025, they will have a sponsored cornhole board and golf hole in 2026. Terry said there is another company that purchased a joint sponsorship as well, DN Tanks. Terry noted that a better tracking system needs to be set in place to ensure these errors do not occur in the future. Andy apologized for this oversight on MWUA's share of the project.

Treatment Systems Operations Council: Paula Drouin was not in attendance and submitted some of the committee reports in advance via email.

Collection Systems: Chris Cline reported that there were a lot of sponsorships for the annual cornhole tournament. They are working on an operators training at EJP in a couple of weeks. They will be partnering with JETCC for their upcoming wastewater operator school.

Chris Cline inquired to the board about purchasing a PA system for future conventions. A PA system would be \$1150.

Jeff McBurnie asked that they make this a budget item.

Chelsea added some feedback about AV services included at Sunday River, and will provide those AV service fees with the board when they become available.

Chris shared that Ops Challenge team attended WEFTEC. He thanked the board for their support.

The Maine Mariners game tickets (January 17, 2026) are still on sale, and 15-20 have been sold already. For every ticket sold, MeWEA gets \$5.

Volunteers are coming together for the concessions stand. Each person increases their percentage of the concession profits (11% estimated). Jeff asked if there is a cap on volunteers, and Chris will look into it.

Laboratory: Phyllis Rand reported that they cancelled their September meeting due to the convention. She inquired to the board about the potential to host a webinar, and what that would cost to add that to MeWEA's service contract.

Treatment Plant Operators: Alex was in attendance and Paula submitted feedback from him in advance.

- Ops Challenge team gave it their best shot at WEFTEC. Due to a last-minute change in participants, their final results were not great, but we are optimistic for future years.
- The team was able to get a lot of interest at the fall convention for possible new recruits. TPO committee will be following up with them.
- We plan on holding our next meeting in November.

Poster Contest

- I have lots to give out. I've been doing what I can, but assistance in getting them passed around would be appreciated.
- Will be sending out initial announcements for the 2026 contest soon."

Pretreatment: Paula Drouin submitted some reports in advance to the meeting (below). She added that she will work with all of her committees to draft their budgets for next year.

"A couple items from the last meeting:

- The New England Regional Pretreatment Coordinators Association's (NERPCA) workshop is scheduled for October 21st-23rd in Nashua, NH.
- At the last meeting, Judy discussed a letter that was sent from the state to POTWs regarding LD 1604, An Act to Protect Groundwater and Surface Waters from Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances from Landfill Leachate. This legislation applies to landfills only (excludes composting facilities). As stated in the letter, "Reporting to the Department is required annually and will likely begin January 31, 2026. You should begin maintaining the required records of origin, volume and final disposition of leachate as of the effective date of September 24, 2025."

Stormwater: Ali Clift and Jodie Keene submitted a report in advance.

Residuals: Waste management in north ridgeway contract 2026 second quarter

Officer's Reports

Immediate Past President Report: No report.

Vice President Report: No report.

President-Elect Report: No report.

President Report: Terry is requesting the board's approval to have a strategic planning task force run similar to what NEWEA does for a period of two years developing a plan for the next 4 years to start this coming January, meeting once per month to discuss their mission, values, feedback, SWOT analysis. This committee would include Phyllis Rand, Amanda Smith, Chris Dwinal, Chris Decorsi, Sierra Kuun, Justin Price, Holly Ireland and John Halstrom, and Terry as chair. Deb Mahoney would facilitate the meetings at no cost.

Terry shared that this would be a good opportunity to look closely at the organization. Motion by Jeff, seconded by Andre to approve the strategic planning task force as of January 2026. All approved. Motion carried.

Terry reported that Jeff and herself hosted a presentation at the MMA convention last week.

Terry submitted a letter to the PUC to help waste management.

Other New Business:

Treasurer's Report: Jeff McBurnie reported August's financials with over \$110,000 in the bank pending the final bill from Sunday River. He advised that the board needs to keep being mindful of the budget moving forward to make room for error and unexpected expenses. He estimates that the board will end in the red, not in the black. He didn't submit a formal report due to the delay in receiving August's report the day before this meeting.

Terry presented to the group the option to extend MeWEA's contracted services through 2027, and in exchange they will refund the board for the onboarding fees at \$8500.

Motion by Phil, seconded by Amanda Smith, to approve the extension of the MMA service agreement through 2027.

There was a lengthy discussion about extending their contract with MMA.

Phil Tucker withdrew his motion, and this will be moved to the November meeting.

Phil Tucker presented proposed increases to all membership fee types annually over the next three years.

Phyllis asked if the scheduling conflict between NEWEA golf tournament and MeWEA's golf tourney for 2026. Stacy says this was resolved.

Jeff McBurnie made a motion to approve the proposed increases that Phil presented today via excel spreadsheet during the meeting (yellow items). Second, by Andre Brousseau. All approved. Motion carried.

Amanda Smith asked Jeff if they have an idea of how much would be necessary to meet their projected needs. He estimated total revenue to date with August financials as his reference. He's estimating a \$50,000 deficit.

Terry and Jeff said that these are conversations for strategic planning.

Terry will submit the final membership numbers for 2026 and updated letter to MMA.

Phil Tucker shared that Jen Nicholson's term is up at the end of the year as membership chair. Phil would like to be the chair starting in 2026.

Chelsea asked Terry when chairs are renewed, and they will be revisited at the November meeting.

Peter Zaykoski asked when budget numbers are due. Jeff said they will be due the Friday before their next meeting in November. Officer budgets, committee budgets, contracts, among others will be due.

Adjournment

Motion made by Phil Tucker, seconded by Amanda Smith to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 am. All approved.



REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

**15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330**

COMMITTEE NAME: JETCC

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: August 21, 2025

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Our fall calendar is underway. Upcoming classes include Facultative Lagoons, October 21, Virtual; Cleaning & Jetting, October 28, Gardiner; Instrumentation, Controls, and SCADA, November 4, Waterville, and Grades 3-5 Exam Prep, December 16-18 in South Portland, Bangor, & Presque Isle.

The Management Candidate School Class of 2025 graduated at the Fall Convention. Our application period for the next class is ending on Friday, October 17. As of this report, we have received 18 applications. The program will be held at Portland Water District.

Planning for the next Wastewater Operator School continues. WOS will be offered starting in January 2026, primarily held at Portland Water District. Registration is expected to open in either late October or early November.

DECISIONS MADE:

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

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

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Peter Zaykoski, JETCC Program Manager

DATE SUBMITTED:10/16/2025

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE NAME: Stormwater Committee

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 9/19/25

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- **Committee Work**
 - Coordinating Maine Winter Salt Week participation in national event - marketing, education & outreach, local events
 - Strengthening background knowledge and information sharing between members and supporting partners
- **MS4**
 - Awaiting August 1, 2025 MS4 permit modification Maine Superior Court appeal filed by the City of Lewiston.
 - SMSWG - communities with MS4 and WWTF permit programs are meeting to review overlapping requirements/tasks and reaching out to partners
 - BASWG - holding annual winter maintenance roundtable
 - ISWG - reviewing summer dog waste disposal data with USM interns
- **Policy Tracking**
 - Continuing to track chloride legislation in other states for developing a Maine initiative.
 - Residents, non-profits, and non-governmental organizations are working to encourage more ME communities to adopt pesticide and fertilizer ordinances.
- **Workforce and Professional Development**
 - Beginning conversations with local universities and community colleges about stormwater internships, certification programs, and other workforce development opportunities.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:

- Committee online meeting: 12/17/25 @ 10 AM

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

- Annual State Organization National Municipal Stormwater Alliance (NMSA) Membership is paid through MEWEA, Stormwater Committee chairs haven't received the invoice, wondering if it was received by an Executive Committee member?
- Request MEWEA sponsorship (bronze level of \$500) of 2026 national [Winter Salt Week](#) (January 26-30, 2026)
- Can we provide some chloride reduction outreach materials to be available during the MEWEA Hall of Flags event?

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jodie Keene, Ali Clift

DATE SUBMITTED: 10/16/25

Outreach Council Executive Committee Report

Date: October 17, 2025

Council Director: Phil Tucker

On Monday October 20th and November 10th operators from all over the state of Maine will be travelling to Deer Island for a tour and will receive 2 TCH's.

Communications Committee – Bryanna Denis

- Email request for articles sent last Friday 10/10/25
- Right now, I've only gotten one email from Chris Cline indicating he will provide an article on the Ops Challenge.
- I'll send out another reminder this Friday requesting articles be submitted by the 24th.

Government Affairs Committee – Amanda Smith / Daniel Marks

- We are considering doing away with the legislative breakfast and replacing it with “Muffin Hour” at the Hall of Flags. The concern has been with the effectiveness and value of the breakfast. Meeting the legislators on “their turf” may be more effective. There is a \$100 fee to reserve the Hall of Flags. We have a GAC meeting tomorrow (10/16) where I hope to pick a date. We can request funds from the EC if needed.
- I want to initiate a campaign to “host your legislator” for a tour of the facility. Vermont and other states have had good luck doing this. I have a template invite letter from VT. I am thinking I will make direct requests of members to have tours.
- Friends of Casco Bay connected me with Senator Tepler (ENR chair) to talk about the bond. We will be meeting on 11/18 to tour the Bath and maybe Brunswick plant. I hope to talk with her about the bond, and also broaden the discussion to sludge disposal, along with other things such as CSOs, climate change and aging infrastructure that drive our capital costs.
- Cloture has passed for the second session. There were around 250 additional bills submitted by legislators and another 90 submitted by departments. I have reviewed these and picked out a few interesting ones – including a biosolids management bill proposed by Sen. Tepler that I hope to talk to her about too. We will be discussing these at tomorrow's GAC meeting.
- We plan to invite Jim Cohen to our next GAC meeting (November time frame) for his second session outlook.

Membership Committee – Jennifer Nicholson

- As of 9/16/25 we had 637 active members and 66 expired members. I sent out 46 emails and called the other 20. I got responses from all of them, some renewed and some had legitimate reasons for not renewing such as retirement, different employer, left the field, or there are too many associations in New England. As of yesterday we were up to 659 active members and 56 expired members.
- Jens term is up at the end of the year and I'd like to put my name in the ring to take on the role of Membership Chair.

Public Relations Committee – Evan Pereira



REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE NAME: Collections System

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: September 9th

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- Another successful cornhole tournament at the conference. CSC raised about \$6,000 through sponsorships from the tournament. Thank you to all our sponsors and all who participated.
- 7 CSC members will be providing training for JETCC on Oct 28th in Gardiner. *Collection Systems Diagnosis & Maintenance Series: Cleaning and Jetting*
- CSC will be assisting JETCC in the upcoming Wastewater Operator School (WOS) on Feb 12th as part of their introduction to the collection system.
- CSC seeks approval for \$1150 to purchase a PA system from their \$3,000 budget.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Sometime in November to finalize WOS/JETCC schedule.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Chris Cline

DATE SUBMITTED:10/16/2025