



APPROVED

MEWEA Executive Board Meeting
Friday, November 21, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Remote Access via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendance via Zoom: Terry Tucker, Jeff McBurnie, Stacy Thompspon, Peter Zaykoski, Andy Begin, Andre Brousseau, Chris Cline, Phil Tucker, Amanda Smith, Gregg Wood, Rob Pontau, Phyllis Arnold Rand, Emily Cole-Prescott, Paula Drouin, Dan Marks, Charlene Poulin, David Dane, Alana Dougherty, Jim Cohen, and Chelsea Carll (MMA).

Absent: Alex Buechner, Sierra Kuun, 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 October 17, 2025.

Motion made by Jeff McBurnie to approve October 17, 2025, minutes, seconded by Phil Tucker. All approved. Motion carried.

Terry said they would move budget to new business.

Old Business

None

Representative Reports

DEP Report: Gregg Wood reported on the triennial review and updates on MS4. Regarding the review: The Board of Environmental Protection held a deliberative session yesterday to talk about the recommendations, the public hearings, and the public comment period has closed. It was about a three and a half hour meeting, he only saw about the first two and a half hours. He said it sounded like they were leaning towards not upgrading Chandler Bay from an SB to an SA. He is unsure if it was voted upon since he left the meeting. He thinks what's happening is they're asking the department to go back and clean the report up a little bit based on some comments that were made yesterday and then come back to the board again, and then I think there will be a final vote. But he thinks that they're leaning towards the department's recommendations of not upgrading those 3 water bodies (Chandler Bay, Androscoggin River, and Presumpscot River).

Regarding MS4: He heard back from AG office yesterday that the modification that he issued has been appealed to Superior court in Androscoggin County. They filed their initial paperwork a month ago and heard yesterday that Lewiston must file their brief by

December 19th, and the department has to file theirs by January 30th. He suspects it'll probably get on the docket somewhere around March or April. He is working on a draft schedule for the 8 field audits that are going to be done during 2026, and if MeWEA would like a copy, he will provide one.

JETCC-NEIWPC: Peter Zaykoski submitted a report. He has a few items and an item for discussion.

-Wastewater Operator School is open for registration through their website. They'll be starting in early January in Portland, um, so if the board has anybody that they are interested in sending, please have them register online. He said that they will be putting some advertising out soon as well. He reported that they are full in grade 3-5 exam prep in South Portland but there's still plenty of space in Bangor and Presque Isle.

-They distributed certificates from the MeWEA convention. They were sent via an online service called Gutenberg Certs. He advised that the email from the service can appear "spammy" but assured the group that it is a verifiable contact for their certificate.

-They have hired a new person for their South Portland location. His name is Brett, and Peter intends to bring him to the holiday meeting in December. Brett will eventually take Peter's place as the JETCC representative for MeWEA.

-Peter brought up an item for discussion regarding the relationship between JETCC and MeWEA. He had a recent JETCC meeting where it discussed their desire to strengthen their relationship with the organization and explore collaborative training opportunities. He spoke to the history of the two groups, and MeWEA and DEP's impact on their creation 40 years ago to fill the gap in wastewater training needs in the state. He spoke to the strong relationship that JETCC has built with MeWEA and DEP, reflecting in those organizations' strong representation (3 spots) on JETCC's 11-member committee. He said that the board has supported JETCC financial in difficult periods, and his desire to make sure that JETCC continues to be the organization that MeWEA looks to for training needs.

-At the JETCC meeting, Phyllis discussed the lab committee's interest in doing some training and the committee approved a motion last week for Peter to bring an item for discussion to the MeWEA board today. Peter proposes that for any MeWEA committees that are interested in providing training through JETCC, the organization would like to take on a role to coordinate those logistics, registrations, etc. to make them happen, and then they would offer some percentage of net revenue sharing with MeWEA for those classes. He proposed that the committees would work closely with JETCC to develop the programming and assist with advertising the courses. He said this arrangement would help strengthen the bond between JETCC and MeWEA. He said that JETCC has not come up with any specific rates or figures for consideration with this proposal but wanted to open this topic for discussion today.

Theresa expressed her strong interest in this proposal and asked if Peter is seeking a motion on this today, and the group decided they do not and will work outside of this meeting on the details of the arrangement. Jeff said the group would benefit from seeing a more formal proposal, but this would not require a vote.

Amanda spoke to Peter regarding a Northern Maine Community College student who attended a tour last week, and that Northern Maine is done with the program after this year. She asked Peter the status of the Southern Maine program, and some of the factors which may have contributed to Northern Maine pulling out of the program. Peter explained that the Southern Maine program is part of the Northern Maine Community College program, and that their instructor, Patrick Wiley, is an employee of NMCC. He

did not know until today that the organization has made a formal decision to discontinue the program next year, but shared that in his communication with Edward Wright, their contact for the Alford grant, that the college system is looking at ways to make adjustments to the program to be more focused on continuing education or focused on existing professionals rather than that degree program.

MWUA: Andy Begin reported that Ed Molleo joined as their executive director, and they are excited about the work he is already doing working with stakeholders. He has already met Peter, Jim, the Drinking Water Program with Amy Lachance and Mackenzie Parker, the PUC, former executive director Nikki Pelenz, and will be reaching out some of their trainers as well. He is making a lot of connections already and has already drafted a strong budget for their organization. He is only 3 weeks into starting at MWUA and already doing a great job. Andy would like to arrange a time for the group to meet Ed, perhaps have him join a MeWEA board meeting. He spoke about MWUA's next board meeting taking place December 16th, and a bi-monthly meeting on December 18th at EJP. It will be a business meeting along with a technical session that includes PFAs removal in drinking water, and it is shared that the subject is near and dear to him as they are dealing with PFAs in Augusta.

Andy spoke about the joint sponsorship program that MeWEA and MWUA started in 2025. He talked about the varying levels of sponsorship offered and benefits. He asked if the group wants to do this program again for 2026. He said the continuation of the program has not been vetted by MWUA's board yet but spoke about the benefits of the arrangement. He said that he saw the joint benefit for MWUA's vendors and consultants, citing prior participants including EJP sponsoring at the Platinum level, Haley Ward and Wright Pierce at Gold Level, DN Tank at the Advocate Level.

Jeff said that he has already factored in the program in the MeWEA budget for 2026 and advocated for its continuation. Terry said that the program has great intentions and recommends that they come up with a better tracking program, so sponsors are not missed in the future for recognition in what they paid for that year.

Motion by Andy Begin to approve the joint sponsorship with MWUA in 2026, seconded by Charlene Poulin. All approved. Motion carried.

Emily brought up the need for a SOP and MOU. Terry confirmed that an MOU was signed by herself and MWUA in 2025. Andy added that it is on their website. Chelsea explained that an SOP was developed. Terry will forward the SOP to Rob. Andy apologized for missing one sponsor for recognition in 2025. Andy will connect Molly and Chelsea to coordinate a tracking system.

Phil brought up the discussion about returning to a joint newsletter with MWUA. Andy would like to bring Ed to the next meeting to get him updated on that prior joint project and assess the prospect of renewing the partnership. Phil spoke about the importance of the newsletter as an opportunity for advertisers.

NEBRA Update: Phil reported on NEBRA's annual conference, which was well attended and 20% larger than any other conference they have held. They reached capacity for the venue (180). The program was well-received, had great speakers, and great opportunities for connection. He encourages the board members to consider attending next year. He shared that they are discussing returning the conference to

Portsmouth. He also said that if members have any interest in biosolids, he strongly encourages them to attend next year.

NEWEA State Director: Andre Brousseau reported that they are in the final stages for the annual conference coming up at the end of January. He said that the award letters have all been sent out and received. He asked the board if they received a letter and cannot make it to the conference to please notify him so they can mail the award to you. He reported that at the last executive meeting, Mary Berry, did a presentation on a nation-wide name change for clean water facilities and spoke about how they are in year 52 of the Clean Water Act. She said that sewer and wastewater facilities have not always been given good names that represent the industry in a positive light and referenced a few facilities who have changed names including Lewiston and Auburn, now the “Clean Water Authority”. He said it is not easy or cheap to make a name change, but it is a positive trend for the industry across the nation.

Phil added that he has been speaking with their district attorney on whether they can change names in a district with a charter and got the affirmative that they can conduct business under a name such as a “Clean Water District” and would not require a charter change.

Andre also reported that NEWEA has their annual conference taking place on January 25-28, 2026 – Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston, MA. He spoke about a movie that will be screened at the event.

Jim Cohen Update:

Jim commented that a thought occurred to him about omnibus legislation where multiple districts could perhaps be part of a single bill. I haven't given thought to whether there are any limitations to that, but that might be a more efficient way. If 100 districts want to change their name rather than having a hundred and whatever bills, one big one.

Jim reported that there have been a number of developments over the last couple of months and has two main topics he will review today. The first is the composition of the legislature, and the second is the process by which new bills have been proposed and introduced.

Starting with the composition of the legislature:

In the last several months as the various campaigns have gotten underway, there has been some turnover and changes. One of which is Jim's neighbor and current member of the legislature, Ed Crockett, who's a Democrat, decided to run for governor as an independent. He unenrolled as a Democrat, so that reduced the number of Democrats in the main House.

At the same time, Representative Kristen Cloutier from Lewiston, who was the chair of the Taxation Committee, and resigned her seat to become Chief of Staff to Maddie Daughtry, the president of the Senate. They are expecting that there will be a special election for that seat in January. But the combination of those two things has moved, at least for the moment, the partisan balance is now close with 74 Democrats, 73 Republicans, and then three left-leaning independent. They do not expect that it is going to change the overall leadership balance, but with Kristen Cloutier being a member of leadership, which did impact the votes that occurred yesterday, which he'll address later in his report today.

On the Senate side, Rick Bennett, longtime Republican former chair of the Republican Party unenrolled in the Republican Party so that he could run for governor as an

independent. That moved the partisan balance in the Senate to 20 Democrats, and went from 15 to 14 Republicans, now with 1 Independent. Again, he doesn't expect that that's going to change much in the way of votes.

He spoke about the various campaigns going forward, including the very high-profile U.S. Senate campaign, where there's a primary that's mostly focused on Governor Mills and Graham Platner on the Democratic side, and Susan Collins on the Republican side. A lot of national eyes are on that race. In the congressional elections, Shelly Pingree is seeking re-election and one primary challenge that has emerged is current state representative Tiffany Roberts from South Berwick who is running and trying to represent the more moderate side of the party. Jim thinks it'll be an uphill race for her, but nonetheless, she's thrown her hat into the ring. In the second congressional district, most people were taken by surprise when Jared Golden decided he was not going to seek re-election. Current state auditor, former secretary of State Matt Dunlap is running in that seat. Jordan Wood, who was running for Senate jumped over to that race, and then on the Republican side, Paul LePage is running for that seat.

For governor, which may be more directly relevant to some of the work of MeWEA, there are several candidates. On the Democratic side, more familiar names from people who do currently work in Augusta, like Hannah Pingree, Troy Jackson, Shenna Bellows, Angus King III (whose dad is a well-known figure in both Augusta and Washington is running as well), Jim already addressed the independent candidates, and then there's a large field of Republicans. One candidate is Jim Libby, who's a state senator from York County, and there are several folks from the business community running in that race as well. A lot of lobbying activities are going to occur when the session ends, as lobbyists by state law cannot solicit or be solicited, or give money when the legislature is in session. All of the fundraisers are queued up via email by midnight after the session adjourns.

Jim reported that there were about 400 bills that were carried over from last session to this session. He'll talk about a couple of those. There also has been the annual process of cloture going into a second regular session which yielded additional bills. And then there's the category of bills from the administration, which get admitted. In the final category are bills that emerge from study commissions or other laws that allow for committees or others to propose and admit legislation. So, with all of that, he typically says that the second regular session is the short session, but it is also the wide session, because it goes from 0 to 60 immediately upon starting until mid-April, which is the statutory adjournment date. He went into detail about some of those categories. Firstly, for MeWEA, they were tracking about 27 bills that got carried over and came from a wide variety, whether it's regarding the Tort Claims Act, or employment laws. Some bills warranted a bit of focus, including LD25, the \$50 million bond issue for wastewater treatment. He reported that it is a work in progress and is not sure it will go through. One challenge for any bond issue is that it needs two-thirds support of the legislature, so it needs bipartisan support. Last year, which was not going to happen because there were not a lot of bipartisan activities occurring towards the end of the session. We'll see how this session goes, and whether two-thirds are a possibility or not.

Another bill that's still in committee is LD605, that was Dick Campbell's bill, called An Act to Provide Solutions for Sustainable Management of Municipal Solid Waste. That's a concept draft that will still be in play when the legislature returns.

LD646 was a bill that they participated in, which was a resolve establishing the Commission to study unmanaged stormwater pollution. The resolve was amended in committee as it was an emergency bill that did not get two-thirds vote in the House so it

failed enactment in May, and then it did not have a vote in the Senate. Jim says it is still in play.

He also reported on LD1788, which was an act to strengthen the Freedom of Access Act by categorizing commercial requesters, which is still in the Judiciary Committee. It had its public hearing, and they will have a work session. He explained that many units of government get barraged by freedom of access requests, and this was an effort to try to limit them in cases where people are submitting those requests for commercial purposes rather than just simply trying to gather information as a member of the public. He doesn't know whether that has a chance of passing or not, but he will keep the group posted.

Jim reported that yesterday actually was the final process in the fall cloture calendar. It started with a date in September by which legislators had the ability to propose titles and submit them to the Legislative Council. There were 258 bills that were proposed. The Legislative Council, when it still had 10 members, met in October, and admitted 82 of them. That then allowed for sponsors of any bill that was not admitted to appeal. That deadline was early November, and yesterday, Legislative Council met to process all of the bills that were proposed to be admitted. One notable thing he mentioned, Kristin Cloutier's resignation the other day, moved the Democrats' majority on that committee from 6 to 5. For a bill to get through, it needs 6 votes and because of that, any bill that was a partisan bill where Democrats all voted in favor, they could only muster 5 votes. When all was said and done, only 16 bills appealed were admitted, which is a pretty small number. Less than 100 bills came through that process, which is on the lower end from what we've seen in recent years. Of those bills, there were a couple that Jim flagged with interest to the group. He spoke about LR2726 from Senator Tepler. It was a bill that was an act to improve the management of wastewater treatment plant sludge at the state-owned Juniper Ridge landfill. It ended up failing on a 4 to 5 vote. Likewise, LR2733 from Representative Gramlich, which was called an act to promote the Responsible Management of State-Owned Landfills by requiring the submission of certain safety, accountability, and financial information in the competitive bidding process, failed on a 3 to 5 vote. There was one bill that was admitted, LR2748, from Representative Dill, which was an act to prohibit landfill expansion into wetlands on a 6 to 3 vote that was admitted, and then one bill of relevance from Representative Campbell, LR2659, an act to direct existing fees for tire disposal to tire disposal processors, was not appealed. There was one bill of relevance to the group from the Department of Agricultural Conservation, and Forestry that will be admitted, which is an act to establish the PFAS response program and to modify the fund to address PFAS contamination.

Jim reported that there were about 100 agency bills, in addition to 100 plus 400 carryovers, that brings us to 600. He said there's inevitably going to be a few dozen additional bills that Legislative Council lets in, the governor proposes, or task forces come back with (estimating an additional 30). That's about 630 bills that have to get processed in three and a half months. He'll be carefully following all of that and expect a busy session.

He spoke about the governor's supplemental budget, which hasn't been released yet as they await whether revenues forecasts are higher or lower than previously, whether the state will need to make budget cuts or spend excess money.

Amanda asked Jim whether it would be optimistic to assume that things might be a little bit less partisan and perhaps more in the moderate area this year, with all those campaigns on. Jim replied that while he personally would like to see parties get along, and decision-making be transparent, his observation is that as time has gone on, things have gotten more partisan, not less partisan. More attention has been focused on party bases, ensuring support within party bases. He doesn't know whether that could be what comes out of this session. Typically, in a short session, going into an election year, legislators prefer not to have to take difficult votes because they are much closer in time to elections. So, controversial items, certainly anything that's going to raise taxes, or make cuts that are painful, are avoided. His other observation is coming out of the midterm elections, affordability has become one of the key watchwords for the public. He thinks both Democrats and Republicans will be tripping over themselves to position themselves as the party of affordability. For MeWEA, some of the issues that they've had around water rates and sewer rates and so forth will hopefully be paid more attention by legislators than in the past.

Amanda commented to Dan Marks that they should take Jim's suggestion of an omnibus bill regarding the name changes for the facilities, and coordinate their efforts with Diana and PR. She thinks this sounds like a good opportunity for MeWEA to get themselves out in front of the public again in a positive light. Dan will bring this to Diana and Evan.

Dan reported that Ivy from Friends of Casco Bay connected him with Senator Tepler, and we toured the Bath and Brunswick facilities this week. As Jim mentioned, LR2726, was Senator Tepler's proposal to continue working on something at Juniper Ridge. It failed the Legislative Council. They had written a letter requesting the Council take that up because it at least gives them an opportunity to have that conversation again, but it sounds like they'll have that conversation through the bond discussions.

Dan asked Jim regarding the AFA committee holding a public hearing on LD25 last year and whether there will be another one. He asked what's the process for the bond moving forward. Jim said they won't hold another public hearing and will likely need to hold a work session on this and any other bill. Dan said that while the bill failed, it's been good to just build a relationship with Senator Tepler. There was some back and forth discussion.

Dan brought up MeWEA's plans for a Hall of Flags, since they are not hosting a legislative breakfast. They've reserved the hall of flags on January 12. They had a governmental affairs committee meeting yesterday, and reviewed the legislative calendar on that date. It appears that nothing is going on that day, and they are reconsidering changing dates to a more productive day, which may mean getting on a waiting list.

Jim shared that organizations typically see highest rates of interactions with legislators on Tuesday and Thursday mornings because typically that is when the legislature meets, although this past year, uh, was an exception where Thursday sessions were not happening.

Dan is in touch with Cody Gabry, who's in the clerk's office and the person who's in contact about scheduling the Hall of Flags, so I can reach out to him and see if there is a cancellation list.

Jim explained that while other members of his team have more experience in that world, he shared that when the schedule opens up, people flood in to get their

reservations quickly, and the slots fill up. People will reserve either the Hall of Flags, sometimes they'll reserve Legislative Council chambers as a place to provide some food and have people swing through. He thinks that if people are looking for more of a booth experience that the Hall of Flags is the better location for that, but thinks that doing something in the Legislative Council Chambers might be more impactful. Dan said that the legislative speaker's office handles reservations for the legislative council room, and the Executive Director's Office handles reservations for the Welcome Center, which was another space was suggested.

Dan said that the other thing that they were talking about at the Government Affairs Committee yesterday would be to offer a movie screening and lunch in the legislative chambers.

Dan said he is going to work to pull back on the 1/12 reservation and see what is open in the council chambers. Jim said Tuesdays and Thursdays are best. He shared that there are variables that may impact their outcomes such as snowstorms, events that run over, and other sorts of unpredictable things. Dan will update the executive committee on the Hall of Flags event, but it sounds like at this point they will scrap Monday the 12th and see what we can come up with otherwise.

Jim shared that he thinks it's worth stepping back and deciding what their goals are of these sorts of efforts, as they are time-consuming, they require invitations, they require reminding people to come and preparing material that provides brand awareness. While there may be a handful of conversations which are valuable, but if one of the goals is really getting to know individuals, then, one-on-one meetings, or inviting people to tour wastewater treatment facilities like what Dan did with Senator Tepler are probably going to be more impactful and valuable. Thinking through what goals are is important.

MMA: Chelsea Carll shared a few updates:

- Board meeting invites for 2026 have been distributed.
- Deadlines for each event brochure contracted through MMA are due 8 weeks out (1/22 ski day, 7/22 convention).
- Ski day and poster contest setups being discussed with IT.
- MeWEA renewals are underway, out the door on Monday pending renewal letters for student and lifetime letters. Member services will draft up for approval and send out.
- QuickBooks case – Woodard and Curran and DEP convention bills were paid through an open QuickBooks account via MWUA. Jeff worked with Molly to close that account and MMA reconciled these payments through the existing payment system.
- Archives project – MMA has recovered all MeWEA archives in storage at MWUA, and creating an initial review of all items for review. Per the retention policy outlined in their contract, they will follow up with MeWEA regarding next steps.
- Hall of flags support detail is included in the proposed MMA admin service extension for 2027. This is under new business.

Council Directors & Committee Reports

Outreach Council: Phil Tucker deferred to each committee for their report.

Government Affairs: Dan's report has been covered under Jim Cohen's report.

Public Relations: Phil reported that the committee produced a press release recently that didn't get a lot of attention, and are meeting next week to discuss an op-ed. He also reported that NEWEA has come to an agreement with Blackfly Media. The organization has been paying Blackfly roughly \$18000 annually for their services for the past 3 years. Moving forward, NEWEA will take the reins of their partnership, and MeWEA will contribute \$2000 for 6 months, amounting to 6 SAs and 19 hours a month for Diana's time.

Membership: Phil reported that MeWEA is up to 670 members. Phil had positive feedback regarding the membership reports that have been generated monthly by MMA, and has help them stay in closer correspondence with members who have and have not renewed.

Communications: Phil reported that the newsletter content has been submitted to MMA for compilation and will be distributed by mid-December. Stacy asked if Bryanna will continue as the chair for communications. Stacy's communication manager, Rosalie, is interested in joining the communication committee in the new year and will connect with Bryanna. She is also interested in managing an Instagram account. Paula spoke to training that is needed for MeWEA's website. Chelsea will connect the group with MMA's IT if they need more training support.

Personnel Advancement Council: Stacy Thompson asked Charlene if she had a report. Charlene reported that they have three confirmed sessions so far.

Stacy reported that Ski Day is booked at Saddleback for March 19. May plan to open registration by early January and will work with MMA to make that possible.

Treatment Systems Operations Council: Paula Drouin deferred to committee chairs for their reports.

Residuals: Andre reported that there were a lot of new executives from waste management at the NEBRA conference, and they toured the Norridgewock facility, which is exciting news. They are for accepting residuals and expected to start testing soon at the beginning of 2026. He also reported that Aries Water Technologies is looking to set up a large PFAS destruction facility in Sanford. Sanford is looking to submit a planning packet to the City of Sanford's planning department in the next month. Andre added that all these clean water facilities are still producing residuals on a daily basis.

Laboratory: Phyllis Rand and Alana Dougherty reported that they have two speakers for their next lab committee meeting on December 17. The first will speak about laboratory ethics, and the second, David Dane, will share a presentation on a sample holding time case study.

Collection Systems: Chris Cline submitted a report in advance. They put on a training with JETCC on October 8, which was well attended. He spoke to the Mariners game on January 17, with 28 tickets sold to date. They will get the flyer to add to the newsletter. He clarified that you don't need a ticket to volunteer at the game. Ops challenge meeting on December 4 to review time requirements and the program details.

Pretreatment: David Dane reported that at the end of October, the New England Regional Pretreatment Coordinators Association held their annual pre-treatment workshop. He shared that the timing was not great for the government shutdown. EPA Region 1 pre-treatment coordinator, Jay Pimpare, was furloughed, unfortunately, during that time, and he has a large role in planning that event. He reported that there was representation from MeWEA's pre-treatment Committee, Terry Tucker, and Kirsten Bashara from the PWD presented there. Since the government shutdown has now ended, Jay Pampare is back at work, and he does a great job in providing technical assistance, and along with Brad Kelso at DEP.

The next pre-treatment committee meeting is going to be next Tuesday, the 25th. He is trying to have the meeting in some different locations (moving north) and hopefully get some treatment plant tours coordinated. David will have a formal report written at the end of that meeting to give to Paula.

Treatment Plant Operators: Paula reported that they are still trying to promote their peer-to-peer training program. Alex is reaching out to DEP to send out with their training material as well. The program has also been added to MeWEA's training webpage. They explained that this is an on-demand training.

Stormwater: Paula reported that a report was submitted in advance. She shared that they are seeking to host in-person events and meetings in 2026. Some ideas include hosting at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, and talk about stormwater infrastructure, go to the Maine Audubon and talk about their native plant program, or visit the Discovery Museum in Bangor and see their new watershed exhibit. There is a village in Portland that has 32 bio-infiltration systems installed, and there is a great list of more interactive events around stormwater that they're looking to do. They're also having conversations with local universities and colleges about stormwater internships, programs, and other workforce development opportunities.

Officer's Reports

Immediate Past President Report: No report.

Vice President Report: Amanda Smith reminded the group to attend a meeting on December 11th.

President-Elect Report: Rob left the meeting prior to his report. Terry asked on his behalf who can staff the MeWEA booth at the NEWEA conference. Andre volunteered and Dan Marks will work with Rob and Andre.

President Report: Terry encouraged all board members and committee chairs to join the December meeting.

Other New Business:

-Committee chairs renewals:

Terry reported that there are several committee chair terms that are up for 2025 and will list a proposed list of committee chairs to approve for renewal for 2026.

Mike Guethle – Stay for just one more year on the Awards Committee
Evan Periera – Renew for another term on the Public Relations Committee
Andre Brousseau - Renew for another term on the Residuals Committee
Travis Peaslee - Step down as Co-Chair of the Convention Committee
Jody Kean and Ali Clift - Renew for another term on the Stormwater Committee
Sierra Kuun – Stay for just one more year on the New Professionals Committee

Motion by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Amanda Smith to approve the proposed committee chair renewals as presented.

Terry added that Phil Tucker will be stepping in as Membership Chair as Jen Nicholson steps down, and they should also formally approve Chris Cline as chair of the Collections Committee.

Motion by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Amanda Smith to approve the proposed committee chair renewals as amended. All approved. Motion carried.

-MMA Admin service renewals

Terry proposed that they extend MMA service contract for one more year to 2027.

Motion made by Phil Tucker, seconded by Amanda Smith, all approved the proposed extension for the 2027 MMA Admin Service Agreement. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Jeff presented the drafted budget for 2026 with the board. He went through each line. Stacy shared that she will be working with the convention chair and MMA on ways to reduce costs to the golf tournament portion of the convention.

Chelsea asked for clarification as to when the budget will be approved. Terry clarified that the budget will be voted upon at the next board meeting.

Adjournment

Motion made by Phil Tucker, seconded by Amanda Smith to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 AM. All approved.



TREASURER’S REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

Maine Municipal Association
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 11/21/2025

TREASURER NAME: Jeff McBurnie

ACCOUNT/BUDGET STATUS: Thanks to all of you who submitted timely budget requests. We have a few more that are outstanding, but the bulk have been submitted, allowing for the creation of a draft of the 2026 MEWEA budget. There are a few items that still require discussion and finalization but overall, we have a good starting point. Early indications are we will have a reduction over the 2025 budget and will be flat compared to 2024. In order for this organization to stay fiscally sustainable, we’ll need this level of commitment and attention to detail for the foreseeable future. Your efforts are much appreciated. I have reviewed the MMA Financial Reports up to 9/30 and everything is generally in order. The account balance was rebounding, but the Annual Conference bill (covering the conference, the golf tournament, and the cornhole tournament) will set us back about \$75K and will hit the November Financials. New revenue from membership renewals should keep us at an acceptable asset level as we approach year’s end.

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: 12/19/2025

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: None

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff McBurnie

DATE SUBMITTED: 11/19/2025

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 13, 2025

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Our fall calendar is wrapping up with Grades 3-5 Exam Prep, December 16-18 in South Portland, Bangor, & Presque Isle. We will begin the new year with NEWEA Collection Systems Certification Exam Prep with Optional Exam in Gardiner, January 13-15, 2026. Planning for the remainder of the winter/spring semester is ongoing.

The Management Candidate School Class of 2026 began earlier this month at Portland Water District. We have 19 students this year. Students have a new requirement this year to attend a MEWEA, MWUA, or JETCC committee meeting.

Registration for Wastewater Operator School is open. WOS will start in January 2026, primarily held at Portland Water District.

DECISIONS MADE: The Committee approved a motion to offer MEWEA committees the ability to work with JETCC to present training classes with the opportunity for revenue sharing between JETCC and MEWEA.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: The next JETCC meeting is scheduled for mid-March, specific date and location TBD.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: Yarissa Ortiz-Vidal will be terming out from JETCC in the spring of 2026. Her position is one of the MEWEA Municipal/District representatives. I will be seeking input from MEWEA for candidates to take this position.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Peter Zaykoski, JETCC Program Manager

DATE SUBMITTED: 11/20/2025

COMMITTEE NAME: Laboratory Committee

REPORT DATE: 11/20/2025

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 6/18/2025 (September meeting cancelled due to conflict with 2025 Fall Convention)

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Invited speakers to December's Lab Committee Meeting.

DECISIONS MADE: n/a

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: n/a

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Next meeting 12/17/2025 (virtual)

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

Two guest speakers will give the following presentations at the 12/17/2025 Lab Committee Meeting:

- **Laboratory Ethics**
Speaker: J Hunter Adams, Water Source & Purification Superintendent, City of Wichita Falls, Texas, Water Source & Purification Divisions
- **Sample Holding Time Case Study**
Speaker: David Dane, Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator, City of South Portland, Maine
Info: A Significant Industrial User challenged an Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator's interpretation of "sample holding time" which resulted in a violation of the SIU's permit.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: MEWEA Lab Committee

NAME: Phyllis Rand, Co-chair

DATE SUBMITTED: 11/20/2025

cc: MEWEA Lab Committee

COMMITTEE NAME: Collections System

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: September 9th

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- 7 CSC members provided 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 budget approval for \$1150 to purchase a PA system for MeWEA.



NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: December 3rd, location TBA. Discuss WOS/JETCC schedule and upcoming years events.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Chris Cline

DATE SUBMITTED: 11/20/2025

