APPROVED

MEWEA Executive Board Meeting
Friday, April 17, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Remote Access via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendance: Rob Pontau, Andre Brousseau, Charlene Poulin, Andy Begin, Brett Willard, Dan Marks, Paula Drouin, Sierra Kuun, Stacy Thompson, Phyllis Arnold Rand

Call to Order: Rob Pontau called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

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

Approval of Minutes: Rob Pontau reported on the minutes from the March 23, 2026 board meeting.

Motion by Charlene Poulin to approved the minutes from March 23, 2026, seconded by Andre Brousseau. All approved. Motion carried.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Stacy Thompson submitted a report in advance and added a reminder for the board to be conscious of the expenses they are making to stay within their budget. Membership dues are still forthcoming. Stacy also reported that she is working with MMA to reassign the revenue codes for some sponsorship products. Phyllis asked about revenue split with JETCC for training, of which Rob confirmed that some revenue has been brought in from joint trainings.

Motion by Andre Brousseau, seconded by Charlene Poulin to approve the Treasurer's report. All approved. Motion carried.

Old Business
None.

<u>Representative Reports</u>

- **DEP Report:** Gregg Wood is not in attendance, and no report submitted in advance.

- **JETCC-NEIWPCC:** Brett Willard submitted a report and provided some updates. He thanked the board for nominating Terry Tucker to serve on the district seat of the JETCC board. Brett added that Israel Culpit has been appointed to their at-large position. Their term is May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027. They are pleased to have both Terry and Israel on their board.

Brett also reported on the revenue share from their second joint collection systems class. In March, they had 16 students attended the class. After removing costs of administering the course, JETCC gave MeWEA $1,022 in revenue as part of their 50% sharing agreement. This fall, they plan to offer a part 3 and part 4 to these trainings, offering more revenue-sharing opportunities for the groups. Brett thanked Rob for filling in as a speaker and host for management candidate school. Brett thanked Rob, Jason and Matt for hosting JETCC for a tour of the Brunswick Sewer District yesterday as part of a wastewater operator school class.
Brett provided an update on the development of a series of inspection classes. After several months of calls and meetings with DEP, they are pleased to have 3 out of the 4 courses ready including "Preparing for an Inspection" on May 5 in southern Maine at York Sewer District, May 27 in central Maine at Greater Augusta Utility District, and May 29 in eastern Maine at FW Web Greater Bangor, and Bangor Wastewater Treatment Plant. The class in northern Maine is coming together in collaboration with Scott Belair and John Hellstrom at DEP.
JETCC is hosting another class on May 6 at Haley Ward's on facility planning.
On May 21, JETCC will be putting together a community engagement event at EJ Prescott in Gardiner. It will include a networking program in the morning and JETCC committee meeting and training on pipes, valves, and fittings in the afternoon. Operators who attend the networking program can attend the training for free. A formal invitation will be circulated next week, but Brett let the board know they are invited.
Brett added that in May or June, he wants to add at least one more online training this summer.

- **MWUA:** Andy Begin reported that they have been working collaboratively on their joint newsletter and plan to publish their first edition in early May. Andy attended an MDOT press conference on National Work Zone Safety and participated in some PR videos. He remarked that DOT is working on a work zone safety campaign in response to recent accidents. MWUA had an article in the Portland Press Herald a few weeks ago regarding Maine's aging infrastructure. MWUA is working on ways to gain more publicity on this topic and contribute their insights into funding strategies/models and shortfalls.
  He added that MWUA had representation at the DC fly-in, and the importance of that opportunity. MWUA has posted a job listing on LinkedIn for their vacant training and events manager position. Andy asked the board to spread the word.
  Rob added that Andre will comment more on the DC Fly-in, and that they did run into Mike and Roger at the event. They met jointly with Susan Collins and had some good facetime.

- **NEBRA Update:** No report.

- **NEWEA State Director:** Andre Brousseau
  Andre Brousseau began his report on the DC Fly-In where he echoed Rob's comments on the positive facetime they had with Senator Collins, as well as with Senator King. He spoke about how they shared time with Roger Krouse and Mike Cummins (MWUA) with Collins staff and had good conversations with them. He added that Amanda Smith was

recognized for her performance in the movie, Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong, at the DC fly in.
Andre reported that the NEWEA Spring Conference is coming up on May 17 -20. He will be attending. He said that they need nominees for the Peloquin award and the Operator of the Year. He will follow up via email for the board's suggestions
For the Operator Exchange this year, they will be exchanging with a Connecticut Operator. They will come to the fall conference, and they need to send an operator to Connecticut's events October 7 -8, which includes 5 tours of their large treatment plants. He asked the board to send along someone who is interested in participating in this exchange program to write to him.
Andre added that Senator Collins' office advised that if a community has applied for directional spending, that they must have matching funds secured to ensure the funds can be appropriated.

- **MMA:** Chelsea Carll reported that per the Treasurer's report, that they are working together to reassign some revenue codes for sponsorships related to the golf tournament, ski day and cornhole. Account updates for sponsorships are forthcoming.
  She reported that the call for abstracts and awards nominations emails have been sent and scheduled out for Fall Convention. She reported that the annual poster contest yielded a significant drop in applications than last year. Paula confirmed that they will proceed with the results they have for this year.

  Rob attended the MMA Affiliate Group President's meeting on April 9, where he spoke positively of MMA staff support and offered his thoughts on the justifications of increased service fees contributing to higher quality events.

Council Directors & Committee Reports

- **Outreach Council:** Phil Tucker was not in attendance. Rob Pontau relayed the report that Phil submitted in advance (attached) for each committee. Dan Marks added items for Government Affairs: The session is officially over and they have a number of bills they intend to prepare for the next session. They are lining up tours with representatives to go to Waste Management Crossroads dryer and work with DEP on a stakeholder group. Dan reported that he attended the DC Fly-In as well and had a good time.

- **Treatment Systems Operations Council:** Paula Drouin submitted a report with notes following the meeting.

- **Personnel Advancement Council:** Stacey Thompson reported that they are contracted for Sunday River for 2026 and 2027. For 2027, it has moved from Wednesday to Friday, to Tuesday to Thursday. She added that award nominations form is out, and Charlene added that call for abstracts is out as well. Rob shared this thoughts on having a keynote or roundtable.

Charlene and Rob spoke about the prospect of presenting at the MMA Convention in October. They asked Chelsea for clarification on the types of programming they should offer. She will connect them with her director.

Sierra Kuun added for new professionals that tickets for the Water and Wastewater Professionals Day at the Portland Sea Dogs are live to purchase.

Phyllis asked the group some clarifying questions regarding age restrictions for new professionals. Stacy said that the cutoff is not age related, but less than 5 years of experience.

Officer's Reports

- President Report: Rob Pontau circulated an article from a Florida news outlet where he was interviewed on Maine's ban on biosolids, as Florida is looking to implement a similar ban. He said that Maine is setting the example for other states starting to consider bans.
  Here is the article he shared with the board: https://www.wuft.org/environment/2026-04-15/florida-joins-growing-national-push-to-stop-the-spread-of-sewage-sludge
  Rob reported that he received a sponsorship request from the Mitchell Center for Sustainability for the upcoming Northern Maine Children's Water Festival. He asked the board for any history of involvement, of which Paula provided that Joe Madigan offered to help in the past when he was still in Orono. Rob shared that the event is October 13 in Orono. He will see if Amanda is interested in participating.
  Rob has been in touch with Terry and Stacey to start putting nominations together for open positions on the 2027-2028 board list. They need an incoming Vice President, and Stacey's council director position ends this year. She will consider renewing her role. Rob said they have a nominating committee meeting next month to review their slate. He is hopeful that more new professionals will be able to step into leadership roles.

  Phyllis reported on Terry's behalf on the strategic task force. Their next meeting is Tuesday, April 21. They are going to talk about the surveys that were sent to MeWEA committees that they then will put forward to the entire membership. More to come.

  Rob shared some photos from recent training sessions that Paula emailed to him during the meeting. He also added that the Ops challenge team had a training session recently. Andre and Rob attended a meeting with NeWEA last week to discuss Ops Challenge. It has gained a lot of traction, and they anticipate there will be six teams at the New England event this year. He said that he thinks Maine will do very well and that there's some great energy and synergy with our Ops Challenge team.

- President-Elect Report: Amanda Smith was absent.

- Vice President Report: Charlene Poulin reported that the movie is still going strong, Dan screened it in Falmouth last week with a good turnout. It'll be screened in South Portland tonight, of which 300 are anticipated to attend, including herself, Scott and Dustin. The city of Westbrook will have it on May 13th. As the movie has gained interest, they encourage members of the public to contact their local treatment facilities to attend tours.
  She added that Scott was recently in DC to meet with the EPA on Wednesday. She hasn't received a full briefing from him, but said that he shared the flyer they had for their needs for funding in Maine for biosolids facilities. Rob added that during their time in DC, they submitted for congressional-directed spending on this issue, and said that an estimated $130 million is needed.

- Immediate Past President Report: Terry Tucker was absent.

- Rob added that Grace Podre from Northeastern University has contacted him about a postdoctoral research project she is doing, and will be interviewing him on how various stakeholders experience and think about PFAS contamination in the context of sewage sludge. He will refer her to Dan for additional feedback as needed.

Other New Business

- MMA Convention Speaking Opportunity
  Charlene and Rob will work with Chelsea on determining a program to contribute to the MMA Annual Convention in October. Charlene is considering a presentation on leadership and outreach initiatives.

- Wastewater Operator School Invoice
  Rob opened a discussion about the invoice MeWEA received to support JETCC and their contribution to the Wastewater Operator School Contribution for $3000 total. There was a discussion about how the board should prioritize their sponsorship giving and consider moving towards offering more in-kind donations rather than monetary spending for certain projects. Brett and Stacy spoke in favor of keeping the arrangement with JETCC spending as has been done historically. The group agreed to pay the invoice.

Adjournment

Motion by Andre Brousseau, seconded by Charlene Poulin, all approved to adjourn at 10:08 AM.

APPROVED

Treasurer Report

Date: April 17, 2026
ACCOUNT/BUDGET STATUS: I've reviewed the end of year (2025) financial documents, and everything looks to be in order. We ended the year with $13,698.47 ($18,745.75 accounts receivable) in our checking account and $21,737.77 in our CD account, for a total of $54,175.99. Almost $34,000 in membership dues have been received, which means that we will still have some revenue coming in to start the year; $51,620 was forecast/budgeted. Additionally, we should see Sponsorship and Advertising money coming in as well. The general rule of thumb (I had to ask Jeff) for MEWEA is to have at or above $60,000. We need to tread cautiously with expenditures.
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.

APPROVED

Personnel Advancement Council Executive Committee Report

Date: April 17, 2026
Council Director: Stacy Thompson

Convention – Justin Barnett and Terry Tucker

- The 2027 contract for the Fall Convention has been signed.
- September 14-16, 2027 at Sunday River. Tuesday-Thursday.

Young Professionals – Sierra Kuhn

- No update at this time.

Personnel Advancement – Charlene Poulin

- Call for abstracts for the conference is out!
- This will run every 2 weeks for April and every week in May.
- Due May 29th.

Awards – Mike Guethle

- Award announcements will be coming soon.

.

APPROVED

Treatment Systems Operation Council Report April 17, 2026

Collections System Committee

Chris Cline submitted the following written report:

- **March 24 — Introduction to Collection Systems & Maintenance (Part 2)**
  - Part 2 of the *Introduction to Collection Systems and Maintenance Series* was held at EJP in Gardiner in partnership with JETCC**.**
  - Committee members from Vortex, Gardiner Area Utility District (GAUD), and Brunswick Sewer District (BSD)
  - GAUD provided their CCTV truck attendees were able to get hands on training
  - BSD provided their manhole inspection equipment with demonstrations
  - Class yielded $1,022.00 for MEWEA. JETCC will be sending check to MMA

- Next meeting in May 6th – 11am – 1pm @ Brunswick Sewer District
  - Prepping for Part 3, Fall Conference, Cornhole for Summer outing

Laboratory Committee

Phyllis Rand reported:

- David Dane, MEWEA Lab Committee Member and Pretreatment Committee Chair, spoke on "Sample Holding Times" for the Water Environment Federation's virtual "Lab Chat" on 4/15/2026.
- Next meeting is 6/17/2026 (virtual).

Treatment Plant Operators Committee

Alex Buecher submitted a written report:

- The team is at the Veolia invitational this week to prep for NEWEA and has been practicing regularly. Two new members this year.
- TPO committee is preparing to start to think about maybe possibly holding our next meeting at some point in the next week to several months. Possibly.

Stormwater Committee

Jodie Keene submitted a written report:

- LD 646 (Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unmanaged Storm Water Pollution) passed in the legislature on Tuesday

Pretreatment Committee

The committee had no report.

Andre Brousseau commented: AI Centers – He was at the NEWEA meeting in Worcester recently where they discussed the issue that there is not a good understanding of what's in the wastewater discharge (e.g. metals). The Sanford Sewerage District received a capacity letter requesting half million-gallon capacity.

Residuals Management Committee

Andre Brousseau reported:

- Aries had their second public hearing – people that were opposed to the facility he is meeting with them 4/18 to give them a tour of his facility
- Florida is starting to discuss banning land application
- He met with Kewit to discuss what they have for plans with Portland. Charlene and Firmin are meeting with him today.

APPROVED

COMMITTEE NAME: Laboratory Committee

REPORT DATE: 4/14/2026

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 3/12/2026

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

David Dane, MEWEA Lab Committee Member and Pretreatment Committee Chair, is speaking on "Sample Holding Times" for the Water Environment Federation's virtual "Lab Chat" on 4/15/2026.

You do not have to be a WEF member to participate in the Lab Chat. Log-in information is below:

Microsoft Teams meeting Join:
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/28618740946531?p=8OKEyTDn1wBr1dqFWu
Meeting ID: 286 187 409 465 31 Passcode: Hh3SY9F9

DECISIONS MADE: n/a

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: n/a

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Next meeting is 6/17/2026 (virtual).

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: None

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: MEWEA Lab Committee

NAME: Phyllis Rand, Co-chair

DATE SUBMITTED: 4/14/2026

cc: MEWEA Lab Committee

APPROVED

Outreach Council Executive Committee Report

Date: April 17, 2026
Council Director: Phil Tucker

Communications Committee – Bryanna Denis

Social Media Updates

- Instagram is up and running
- Still working on getting a consistent posting schedule
- If you haven't already, give it a follow, share, and like. Also share with coworkers, family & friends – working to gain traction on the platform.

OneWater Newsletter Updates

- All articles are in (sent to MWUA for formatting) except for Saco's water story & DC Fly-In stories – on track for an official publish/release date of April 30th
- Discuss use of AI for article submissions moving forward with a focus on keeping MEWEA's content authentic. Discuss potential for a policy, bmp or disclaimer.

Government Affairs Committee – Daniel Marks

- LD 25 is officially dead. The AFA committee grouped all the preferred bonds together. The good news is that LD 25 was one of the preferred bonds, but the bad news was that it was reduced to $20M. The combined bond package then went to the chambers and was further modified before it finally didn't pass. Political shenanigans really as the D's went it alone on the budget and the bonds were the only leverage the R's had
- LD 2070 was originally Rep. Dill's bill to prohibit landfill expansion in wetlands but since that was unworkable and unnecessary it was modified to be a study group which seems to be the legislators attempt at convening our stakeholder group. I have been in touch with DEP about this and Melanie said that she would reach out to MEWEA when they form the group.
- DC Fly In is next week and we will back before the EC meeting and can report out
- Have not yet reached out to DEP to set up quarterly check-ins but still plan to do that
- I am coordinating a trip with legislators to go see the Crossroads dryer
- The legislative session is quickly coming to a close. Between the stakeholder group in LD 2070, Rep. Campbell's follow up with Amanda after our time at the State House, and the tour of WM's facility it may be a busier than usual off-season

Membership Committee – Phil Tucker

- As of 2/12/26 we had 418 paid members and 245 unpaid. The 4/4/26 report shows us at 578 paid members and 89 unpaid members. I sent out 50+ emails on April 7th and the amount of paid members has increased by 2 as of the time I'm writing this. I did just receive a nice shiny new report from Chelsea that is much better than the previous format so I will be digging into that over the next few weeks and reaching out to other unpaid members via email or phone.

Public Relations Committee – Evan Pereira

- Brainstorming stories and PR avenues
    - Portland Press Herald – Reach out to Penelope to cover "Unless Something Goes.. Documentary showing April 17th at South Portland HS
    - Attendance/coverage of York Sewer District's Water Palooza Event – May 7th
    - Potentially Presenting at the Southern Maine Children's Water Festival – May 15th

APPROVED

REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT
MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
60 Community Dr
Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE NAME: JETCC

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 3/23/26 – Greater Augusta Utility District

RECENT ACTIVITIES:
- MEWEA Ex Comm voted to nominate Terry Tucker to the Municipal or District seat on JETCC. ON March 30 Rob Pontau submitted his letter of recommendation to Yarissa Ortiz-Vidal, current Chair of JETCC. A letter will be submitted to Maine DEP by JETCC formally request the appointment.
- Isreal Colpitt has been nominated for a second term as an At-Large seat on JETCC. A letter will be submitted to Maine DEP by JETCC formally requesting the reappointment.
- JETCC & MEWEA held their second joint workshop of the Collection Systems Diagnosis & Inspection Series, Inspection Methods on March 24. A total of 16 students attended the class. Isreal Colpitt, Ashley Jones, and Erik Walling instructed the class, with assistance from Bryan Chonko and Kevin Eaton, and members of Isreal's CCTV crew at Greater Augusta Utility District. As per the income-sharing agreement between MEWEA and JETCC, net revenue will be split 50% between the two groups.
- Rob Pontau recently visited JETCC's Management Candidate School as a volunteer host and instructor on April 1.
- Wastewater Operator School will visit Brunswick Sewer District for its next session on April 16.
- JETCC is hosting a series of four regional-in person classes called "Preparing for Inspection". Development of these classes has been assisted by Travis Jones and Maine DEP. Maine DEP has a strong interest in this series, and regional inspectors are developing much of the classroom portion of the classes on permit interpretation, relationships between operators and DEP inspectors, and how operators can best prepare before, during, and after an inspection. The classes will include classroom work and a facility tour/mock inspection with local operators and DEP inspectors at a facility in each of the four inspection regions of the state. These classes will take place at York Sewer District (J2620) on May 5, Greater Augusta Utility District (J2621) on May 27, FW Webb and Bangor Wastewater Treatment Plant (DETAILS PENDING) on May 29, and in Aroostook County (DETAILS PENDING) on June 2 OR June 4. The classes will be free for Maine residents thanks to a grant through the Harold Alfond Foundation.
- JETCC will host an in-person training called "Facility Planning: GIS, Asset Management, and Capital Planning" (J2602) on May 6 at Haley Ward in Bangor. This is a reschedule of a program originally planned for October 2025.
- JETCC Community Engagement Event & Training will take place at EJ Prescott in Gardiner on May 21. MEWEA Ex Comm members and other committee members will be included on the invitation list. Other invitations will include operators, past and recent JETCC course instructors, past and current MCS and WOS students and instructors, and will be advertised on the NEIWPCC website. The event will include a morning networking session with guided activities, while the afternoon will include a JETCC meeting and a 3 TCH in-person training running concurrently. Ideas are welcome for the training from MEWEA Ex Comm members and should be applicable to both water & wastewater operators.

DECISIONS MADE:
- Dustin Price was voted as in-coming Chair of JETCC, while Chris Cline was voted as Vice-Chair during the March 12 JETCC meeting. They will assume these roles during the May 21 JETCC meeting.
- A 50% income-sharing agreement was made between MEWEA and JETCC to split the net-income from trainings co-hosted and co-developed by the two groups.

APPROVED

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: The next JETCC meeting is scheduled for May 21 at EJ Prescott in Gardiner, during the Community Engagement Event & Training.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Brett Willard, NEIWPCC-JETCC Environmental Analyst- Training Development Specialist

DATE SUBMITTED: 4/3/26