



APPROVED

MEWEA Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Greater Augusta Utility District & Zoom

MINUTES

Attendance in Person: Rob Pontau, Charlene Poulin, Andy Begin

Attendance via Zoom: Andre Brousseau, Brett Willard, Paula Drouin, Sierra Kuun, Stacy Thompson, Phyllis Arnold Rand, Abraham Damuth, Chris Cline, Gregg Wood, Nathan Abbott, Amanda Smith, Terry Tucker, Kevin Prevost, Alex Buechner, Dan Marks, Phil Tucker

Call to Order: Rob Pontau called the meeting to order at 9:01 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 April 17, 2026 board meeting.

Motion by Andy Begin to approve the minutes from April 17, 2026, seconded by Terry Tucker. All approved. Motion carried.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Stacy Thompson submitted a report in advance. Rob relayed the report she submitted, available at the end of the minutes.

Motion by Andre Brousseau, seconded by Amanda Smith, all approved the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Old Business

None.

Representative Reports

- **DEP Report:** Gregg Wood reported that they had a meeting with Matt Hight from commissioner's office last Thursday. Hight oversees the rulemaking for the Water Bureau. They discussed Chapter 595 (Clean Water SRF program), where Wood's team proposed significant changes to the rule regarding fees. This change will be open for public comment from May 12 – June 12. Wood referred questions to Matt Hight. Rob offered to circulate the article he shared with the board to membership, and to keep everyone apprised of updates in the newsletter:
<https://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=dep-rulemaking&id=13349405&v=govdel>

Wood reported that the EPA will be in Maine auditing “the books” from May 26th through May 28th. They come up on an annual basis and check out, make sure everything's in order. He said that they received \$375 million in project requests, and have about \$75 million to lend out. They have ranked the projects, and they will follow up on their offers in the next few weeks.

Wood added that they are experiencing personnel issues again. They are going to be down three out of five permit writers. They have the positions posted to fill as soon as possible. Brad Kelso, the lead compliance inspector in the central main office, and pretreatment coordinator, is leaving to go to the radiation program at DHHS. That position will need to be filled as well.

He provided an update on the nitrogen case with the EPA. They have met a couple of times and are awaiting something in writing by the end of the month that affirms that their requests are applied throughout the country; not just Maine.

He reported that he saw an article recently about a Georgia wastewater treatment plant operator who's being indicted for lying on their DMRs and the backup information. He encouraged the board to make their members aware that this is a big deal, and suggested that new operators and new people coming into the business may need to be reminded.

- JETCC-NEIWPCC: Brett Willard submitted a report and added:

Terry Tucker and Israel Culpit have both been approved by DEP to begin their full JETCC terms, effective as of May 1. He congratulated them both. JETCC hosted their first of three preparing for inspection classes earlier this month in York. 12 attended, 2 no-shows. The class went very well and he is proud of everybody for getting it together quickly. He thinks this is going to be something they can do every year.

In the four regions, they're looking to do Northern Maine in the fall, because we just couldn't match up instructors and facilities with dates in late spring, as people are busy with other projects. They hope to do that in September or October.

They have an upcoming community engagement event for JETCC next week on May 21 at EJP in Gardiner. He have circulated the reminder to the board to RSVP by Monday. It is free event with lunch included. There will be a networking session in the morning then committee meeting and training on pipes, fittings, and valves in the afternoon. The training is good for drinking water and wastewater operators, and is eligible for 3 TCHs. Morning attendees can attend the training for free.

They have a few students from Management Canada School attending today's meeting including Abraham Damuth, Nathon Abbott, and Kevin Prevost. They are attending as part of their management candidate school committee observation assignment. Their operator exchanges for MCS are going to be starting later this summer.

Wastewater operator schools ending soon, which is crazy, in June.

They are going to be doing a couple more JETCC classes in June. Phyllis is going to be doing a remote class on BOD, and final details are coming together for an electricity basics for water and wastewater operators remote course and hope to advertise it this by mid-June.

The next JETCC board meeting is May 21 at the community engagement event.

- MWUA: Andy Begin reported that they are still seeking a training and events coordinator for MWUA. They had 10 applicants so far and hope to fill the position soon. Lost Valley summer outing plans are underway for August. Rob added that they have an item in new business for the one water newsletter and wants to know how to share the newsletter to membership via pdf file vs web version.
- NEBRA Update: Phil Tucker & Janine Burke-Wells: No report
- NEWEA State Director: Andre Brousseau submitted a report and checked in on the nominations for NEWEA, as their conference is next week. Rob submitted his nominations and encouraged the board to do so as well. They need the operator exchange candidate confirmed for Oct 7-9.
- MMA: Chelsea Carll reported that Sunday River has been in touch to begin early planning for the fall convention, and we have been assigned to a different event manager than in years previous. She sent the 2026-2027 catering menu to the convention co-chairs and Stacey. She also reported that she had a meeting with her database team to map out the plans for convention registration processes for exhibitors, with the hope that they can purchase their booths on ebusiness directly and pay with credit card, as opposed to a more manual process with order form. She is also working on golf registration updates, including adding a loophole for guests without ebusiness access to be registered for the golf tournament and registration reporting formatting. She reminded the group of the July 22 deadline for final brochure details.
Chelsea has a meeting today with finance and database team to update the revenue accounts for the sponsorships listed on your ebusiness account, including ski day and cornhole products.
Peter Osborne attended a demo of a conference tracker program he is considering using with MeWEA for Fall Convention, and we will follow up once it is confirmed.
Chelsea offered to stay after the meeting today to confirm the group's preferences for posting their one water newsletter on their website. Rob requested as link to be added to the top of the main webpage and the Newsletter page. If a pdf version becomes available, it will be added to the archives on the webpage.

Council Directors & Committee Reports

- **Outreach Council:** Phil Tucker, Director
Government Affairs: Amanda Smith & Dan Marks submitted a report. Dan added that the session is over, the bond is dead, and they are trying to make progress with the stakeholder group.

Public Relations: No report
Membership: No report
Communications: No report

Alex Buechner reported that the clean water calendars are done and are down the printers. They moved to all digital submissions and saw the lowest participation in the past few years. They had 500 on average every year, and this year is was around 130. There was a discussion about possible reasons why participation was low.

- **Personnel Advancement Council:** Stacey Thompson, Director
Awards: Mike Guethle – No report. Stacey received award nominations to date and have sent them to Mike.

Convention: Justin Barnett & Terry Tucker – already covered in the discussion so far.

New Professionals: Sierra Kuun shared the link to order tickets to Sea Dogs for Water and Wastewater Professionals Day: <https://www.mwua.org/water-wastewater-professionals-day/>

Professional Development: Charlene Poulin reported that they are continuing to advertise their call for abstracts. So far, Collections will have a session, Scott will have a roundtable session, and they have received one external submission. She will send the link out to some firms following this meeting. Rob said that he got an abstract from Wright Pierce, and they want to sponsor the movie screening. The group considered when it would be good to including the film and incorporate credits. They agreed on a “lunch and a movie” idea for the Friday program. Terry said that Judy Bruenjes can join the session and grant credits as long as it is interactive. They suggested a panel discussion following the film.

- **Treatment Systems Operations Council:** Paula Drouin, Director
Collection Systems: Chris Cline reported that they held a meeting on May 6, where they discussed bringing back the “Raggen” award, which was an award in which facilities can submit photos of their biggest and baddest blockage. They want to hand out the award prior to the cornhole tournament. They are going to begin soliciting cornhole sponsors soon for board sponsors, drink, and food sponsors.
They are working on a class for JETCC which will be held in late October. It will be part three of their collection system maintenance series. Part four will be in Spring 2027.
Chris confirmed with Paula that they will be holding a session during the fall convention. He reminded the group that the Northern Maine Children’s Water Fest is October 13 and they are seeking 30 minutes sessions for 4th-6th graders. Rob and Tim Wade will be hosting a session, demonstrating pipes.
Rob presented the collection committee’s request for a PA system. For context, last year, the collection system community requested buying a PA system to be used essentially at cornhole events, but beyond that as well. While they had not budgeted for the expense last year, they have done so for 2026. They are requesting \$1,100 and they've already brought in over \$1,000 in partnership with JETCC training course revenue. They have anticipated revenue for their course in October as well.
They justify purchasing the system for the golf tournament, cornhole and the dinner following golf. Maine Water Utilities may use it at their summer outing. The package

could be kept in Yarmouth with Chris. Stacy clarified that they have not budgeted specifically for this request. A straw poll resulted in favor of the purchase.

Laboratory: Phyllis Arnold Rand reported that they are trying to put together an abstract for the convention. They want to have a hands-on presentation if possible, and will work with the committee on finding the equipment to do so. Paula offered to assist.

Pretreatment: Paula reported that they are working on revising the Pretreatment Excellent Award criteria and will present it to the board once completed.

Residuals: Andre Brousseau reported that the waste management drying facility at the Crossroads Landfill in Norridgewock is bringing on some contracts and they are close to putting some residuals through the dryers. Locally in Sanford, ARIES is trying hard to put a plan together for the planning department for the City of Sanford, and are facing resistance from their citizens because they do not want a biosolids drying facility there. They formed a coalition of "Clean Air, Clean Water for Sanford". waste management, uh, drying facility at the Crossroads Landfill. Andre has met with them after the two open houses held by ARIES. They recognize that the state has a biosolids disposal issue, but they do not have faith in the ARIES business plan due to their failure at a New Jersey facility. The issue is now the city council is listening to the coalition and is most likely going to call a referendum vote this coming November for a 6-month moratorium.

Stormwater: Ali Clift & Jodie Keene – no report

Treatment Plant Operators: Alex Buechner reported that Ops Challenge Force Maine is competing next week at the NEWEA Spring Conference. Chris Cline will be streaming the event live on their Facebook page. The Treatment Plant Operators have a meeting scheduled on June 9 where they will talk about Ops Challenge. They want to start meeting in person rather than remote moving forward. He also spoke about the status of the peer-to-peer CARES program, which only has one participant. Paula will be sending people to join the program.

Officer's Reports

- President Report: Rob Pontau will discuss items under new business.
- President-Elect Report: Amanda Smith invited the board to attend the next UMC in Freeport on May 28 at 2:30 PM. She noted that she has been very busy with work due to staffing challenges.
- Vice President Report: Charlene Poulin shared a comment on the Residuals' report and spoke to her experience with their work to get a drying facility for her region.

Dan Marks asked Andre if there's anything that the state legislature could do to help support projects for residuals, and if home rule can be overridden in certain cases. There was a discussion.

- Immediate Past President Report: Terry Tucker spoke about the survey that was circulated recently from the strategic planning committee. They have seen 44 so far, and membership is comprised of 600, of which 10% are operators. We need more to participate in the survey and encourage the board to circulate the link to their operators.

Other New Business

- Award eligibility for board chairs
Rob facilitated a roundtable discussion about the board's thoughts on board eligibility to receive MeWEA awards. The group chose to address each nomination of a board member on a case by case basis to assess nominations for board members to receive nominations for awards.
- June meeting 6/10/26 – Rob asked the group if they would prefer to reschedule or keep the date, as some members have a scheduling conflict. Amanda offered to host the meeting if Rob can't attend. The group agreed to keep the meeting date.
- Rob added a note about the livestream for the NEWEA conference and will let membership know about it.

Adjournment

Motion by Charlene Poulin, seconded by Amanda Smith, all approved to adjourn at 10:17 AM.

Treasurer Report

Date: May 14, 2026

ACCOUNT/BUDGET STATUS: Notices for past due invoices (120+ days) were sent on May 8, 2026, totaling \$3,690.75. At the end of January our balance sheet was as follows: Our CD was at \$21,731.77, checking account at \$19,067.94, and accounts receivable \$14,995.75 totaling \$55,795.45. Good news, slightly higher than the \$54,175.99 we ended 2025 with. Positive thinking!

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.

Treatment Plant Operators

The **Pretreatment Committee** reported that they have been working diligently to revise the MEWEA Pretreatment Excellence Award criteria and will be approving a final version soon.

The **Lab Committee** reported that they are developing a “hands on” lab session for the fall convention.

The **Treatment Plant Operators Committee** reported:

- Force Maine will be competing at NEWEA on 5/18. Check out the teams FB page to see the events live streamed.
- Next committee meeting will be held on 6/9. We have two new members.
- We have only had one person participate in the Peer-to-Peer training program so far in 2026. Just a reminder that this is a more engaging opportunity to get CEUs AND ITS FREE! Please encourage your operators to participate.

The **Collections Committee** reported:

The committee met on May 6th. Discussions items included:

- Recap of Part 2 of their training series - Inspection Methods. Attendee reviews were very positive. As part of the revenue sharing program with MEWEA and JETCC this provided the committee with an additional \$1022. Part 3 will happen in the fall and the topic will be Asset Management.
- Mentioned that MEWEA is looking for volunteers for October 13th to hold 30-35 minutes sessions with 4-6 graders at the Northern Maine Children’s Water Festival - @ UMO. No one immediately voiced interest.
- Discussed the MWUA/MEWEA summer outing, including managing the cornhole competition. The event is on Wednesday August 4th @ Lost Valley in Auburn. Will likely bring back “The Raggin’ Award” and present it before the tournament. Brief discussion about soliciting nominations on social media, Paula and Rosalie can help, just need a few photos from when it has been awarded in the past.
- Discussed the Fall Conference – the committee will likely submit an abstract for a presentation.
- Discussed the possibility of a new chair coming on for 2027. No one immediately expressed interest.

The **Stormwater Committee** had no report.

The **Residuals Committee** reported:

- WM drying facility is entering into contracts and starting to use dryer
- Aries still trying in Sanford, but there is strong public resistance due to failed efforts at their NJ facility. Aries plans to get the NJ plant back on site. There will be a 6-month moratorium on ballot this November.

COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

GUIDELINE FOR OFFICER / COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: May 14, 2026

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: State Director

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: André Brousseau

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Attended the DC fly-in, NEWEA GAC meeting, NEWAE awards committee meeting

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Attend NEWEA EC meeting on May 17, NEWEA awards committee meeting on May 19th and GAC meeting on the 20th.

Support Force Maine on May 19th for the operations challenge event

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: make sure the award nominations are complete

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: André Brousseau

DATE SUBMITTED: May 13, 2026

DISTRIBUTION: MMA Affiliate Liaison
Executive Committee Meeting
Other: _____

NEWSLETTER

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

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

COMMITTEE NAME: JETCC

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 3/12/26 – Greater Augusta Utility District

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- Terry Tucker was approved by Maine DEP and appointed to JETCC. Terry fills the MEWEA District or Municipality seat on JETCC. Her term began on May 1 and will go until April 30, 2029.
- Isreal Colpitt was approved by Maine DEP and appointed to JETCC for a full term as an at-large member. Isreal was previously serving as an interim member. His term began on May 1 and will go until April 30, 2029.
- JETCC is hosting a series of three regional-in person classes called “Preparing for Inspection”. 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) on May 29. A class planned for Northern Maine has been postponed for a date in JETCC FY 27, likely September or October 2026.
- JETCC Community Engagement Event & Training will take place at EJ Prescott in Gardiner on May 21. 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. The training “Pipes, Fittings, & Valves” is pending approval for 3 TCHs and was developed by EJ Prescott Staff, with input from Chris Cline.
- Management Candidate School Class of 2026 Operator Exchanges will take place in July and August 2026. Students are currently being matched with host facilities based on their preferences.
- Wastewater Operator School Class of 2026 will conclude in June.
- Two more remote JETCC classes will be hosted before the end of JETCC FY 26 at the end of June, including a Biochemical Oxygen Demand class with Phyllis Arnold Rand (J2625) on June 9, and an Electricity Basics for Water & Wastewater Operators (J2626) with Scott Lavine of AC Electric on a date TBD.

DECISIONS MADE:

- JETCC has not held a Committee meeting since the last MEWEA Ex Comm meeting. No decisions made since.

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, Environmental Analyst – Training Development Specialist, NEIWPC-JETCC

DATE SUBMITTED: 5/5/26