



APPROVED

MEWEA Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Zoom Only

MINUTES

Attendance: Rob Pontau, Charlene Poulin, Andre Brousseau, Paula Drouin, Sierra Kuun, Chris Cline, Amanda Smith, Terry Tucker, Dan Marks, Phil Tucker, Rosalie Turner, and Chelsea Carll (MMA)

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 May 14, 2026 board meeting.

Motion by Amanda Smith to approve the minutes from May 14, 2026, seconded by Andre Brousseau. All approved. Motion carried.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Stacy Thompson submitted a report and was unable to attend this meeting. Rob presented the financial reports as of January 31 and April 30 to review their financial standing over the course of 2026 so far. He reiterated Stacy's report included in the minutes.

Motion by Phil Tucker, seconded by Paula Drouin, all approved the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Old Business

None.

Representative Reports

- **DEP Report:** Gregg Wood was unable to attend the meeting but told Rob that he did not have any updates. The board discussed the status of receiving their updated discharge permits. Some have received theirs and some have not, including Portland and Falmouth. Amanda said that her permit went out for public comment without advance notice. There was a discussion.
- **JETCC-NEIWPC:** Brett Willard submitted a report in advance and could not attend this meeting. Rob relayed his report including the community engagement event, approval of their operating budget, and important dates and deadlines. They have some virtual

trainings taking place in June, and the final Operator School Class is on June 11 at Portland Water District. They are beginning work on the North Country Convention for 2027, which will be May 12 – 13. There was a discussion about the dates for NeWEA's convention, as they are close to the North Country dates. They are currently accepting award nominations by August 13. Their next meeting is at the York Sewer District on August 28.

- MWUA: Andy Begin was not in attendance. Rob reported that their bi-monthly meeting is tomorrow in Houlton, and he will be in attendance. Rob is working with Ed Molleo on spreading the word about the water professionals day at the Seadogs game. MWUA has made an offer to their candidate for the program coordinator position, and they hope to be fully staffed in the next few weeks. He also reported that the joint sponsorship program is generating revenue.
- NEBRA Update: Phil Tucker & Janine Burke-Wells: Phil reported that NEBRA is partnering with NEIWPC on a series of virtual classes around biosolids management. Courses may span up to a year. He will report back on details as the program comes together.
- NEWEA State Director: Andre Brousseau reported that his trip to the NEWEA Spring Conference was cut short and he did not get to watch the Ops Challenge Maine team compete. He added that the team was just short of placing, and they will regroup for the next competition.
At the executive meeting at the conference, the WEF delegates are starting a working group to study AI data centers, and Andre volunteered to serve on the committee.
- MMA: Since the last board meeting, Chelsea Carll participated in planning meetings for Fall Convention recently regarding the final details for the exhibitor and attendee registrations, golf tournament, and Conference Tracker. She reported that the setups are underway for all Fall Convention and Golf Tournament products. They are testing the capability of ebusiness to have exhibitor orders available for credit card purchase without a workaround/need to submit a form. The design team is working on the exhibitor packet, pending the ordering logistics and hotel link. The goal is to open exhibitor and golf registration by the end of next week, and attendee registration by the end of the month, pending the final agenda and again, hotel link.
The sponsorship products for cornhole and ski day are now reassigned to the requested accounts. The page is active and ready for cornhole orders.
The quote for Conference Tracker and MMA services has been sent to Rob for final review and approval. We are held up by the capacity limit of the product to have exhibitors and attendees participate and will send the final number to Rob for approval.

Rob and Phil spoke about the value of adding Conference Tracker to the convention.

Council Directors & Committee Reports

- **Outreach Council:** Phil Tucker, Director:

Communications: Rosalie Turner reported their recent activity on their social media pages. She said that they have not received suggestions for content via the form they created. Their next meeting is this Thursday to discuss their social media strategy and newsletter. Rob asked if they could track the views on their latest newsletter edition, and Rosalie will investigate it.

Government Affairs: Dan Marks reported that there are no new bills to track since they are out of session and he is doing some follow-up after the last session. The Stormwater commission was funded, which was a bill led by Art Bell from Yarmouth and the Friends of Casco Bay. Funding will go towards gaps in stormwater regulation.

Dan is partnering with the Friends of Casco Bay and Stormwater Commission to get as many nominations as possible for representatives from utilities and municipalities to fill two seats. He received nominations from Senator Daughtry's office yesterday.

Dan has been in email correspondence with the DEP regarding LD 2070, which includes some requirements for sampling sludge that is going to the landfill. He said that the board may see more samplings as a result.

Dan added that Suzanne Miller let them know that they are re-writing all of Chapter 500 rules, and this will be an opportunity for the board to comment on changes they would like to see done.

He has been talking with Janine at NEBRA about the updates that were released from the EPA on destruction and disposal of biosolids. He also had a meeting with CLF and NRCM last week about coordinating a stakeholder group to talk about sludge and try to solve the state's disposal issue.

Dan initiated a discussion with the board about their next legislative event, either in the Hall of Flags or Welcome Center at the State House next year. He will need to make the reservation request in advance for whichever space the group wants to occupy. Rob thought the event at the Welcome Center was a success and defers to the group on their preference.

Dan asked Amanda for assistance checking in with Rep. Campbell who offered to put a bill in and has not commented on the draft they submitted to him. Amanda will contact him. Dan added that cloture for new bills is early Fall.

There was some discussion regarding the stakeholder group.

Public Relations: Evan was not in attendance. Dan reported that he met with Evan this week to discuss how they plan to engage with Diana. Andre added that they are working with NEWEA on building up a compelling story to share in the next couple of months.

Membership: Phil reported that he did not see any unpaid members on the membership report. Chelsea explained that they are cancelled after the renewal deadline has passed. Phil will reference the older membership report against the recent report, and track down members who were still unpaid.

- **Personnel Advancement Council:** Stacey Thompson, Director

Professional Development: Charlene Poulin reported on her progress coordinating the abstracts submitted for the convention. She reported that there was a significant increase in submissions compared to last year's convention. She says they have a lot of interactive topics planned for the event and have confirmed the movie and roundtable for the Friday afternoon session. She is waiting to hear back from treatment plant group about hosting a session.

Charlene also submitted an abstract for the MMA Convention.

New Professionals: Sierra Kuun reminded the group of water and wastewater professionals' day at Seadogs on June 28. They have sold 250 tickets. They are also planning a beach cleanup day on September 12. Sierra is seeking award nominations for the fall convention.

Rob added that they will host the same Maine Mariners fundraiser next winter.

Awards: Mike Guethle was not in attendance. Rob reported on their progress on nominations and the award list. He relayed the urgency to get nominations received. He reminded the board that committee chairs are not eligible to receive their committee's award but can be nominated for any other awards. Rob let the board know that someone nominated the Brunswick Sewer District (BSD) Treatment Division for the Richard B. Goodenow Award for the board's consideration and said that he would abstain from voting.

Paula added that they proposed combining the Industrial Treatment Award and Pretreatment Excellence Award to one award, "Pretreatment Excellence". She circulated their proposed award description. There was a consensus to make the change.

Convention: Justin Barnett & Terry Tucker: Terry reported that she, Justin and Charlene will meet Alex next week to discuss the movie screening logistics and cost for the conference.

- **Treatment Systems Operations Council:** Paula Drouin, Director

Collection Systems: Chris Cline reported that their next meeting is on June 25. They are bringing back the Raggin Award, and submissions are open. He reported that they have secured one drink sponsor and are seeking one \$1500 food sponsor. 3 board sponsors have been claimed for joint sponsors EJP, Wright Pierce and Haley Ward. 3 additional boards will be sold. They anticipate that all sponsors will be secured by the end of the month.

Chris confirmed that they are holding a session at convention and are working with JETCC on a course this Fall, which will generate around \$1000 in revenue.

Residuals: Andre Brousseau reported that the city of Sanford enacted a first reading of a biosolids drying gasification moratorium. ARIES is trying to establish a regional drying facility in Sanford. The second reading is next Tuesday. It is going to be a 6-month

moratorium so they can set ordinances and allow the sewage district to look at their pretreatment. He spoke about Norridgewock's Waste Management Crossroads project but is unsure if they have started their wet commissioning yet. Phil added that they are meeting with Waste Management following this meeting to discuss.

Laboratory: Phyllis Arnold Rand was not in attendance. Rob reported that their next meeting is June 17.

Stormwater: Ali Clift & Jodie Keene were not in attendance. Rob reported that MS4 audits are happening and the audit preparation support from MeWEA has been well received. Their next meeting is June 24.

Treatment Plant Operators: Alex Buechner was not in attendance. Rob reported that the committee met yesterday, and they are trying to plug the peer-to-peer training. Rob suggested that they think about offering training virtually, and Alex said they will consider it.

The committee will be submitting an abstract for convention by next week.

They plan to implement quarterly in-person meetings after-hours.

Pretreatment: Paula Drouin reported that they had a great meeting last week, and Jay Pimpare with the EPA was in attendance. He will be soliciting awards for their pretreatment level. Pimpare mentioned the Influent PFAS study, and there has been no movement on influent guidelines and no proposed dates for categorical industries. She says this affects her at Lewiston-Auburn Clean Water Authority, PWD and probably Bangor.

Paula reported that Brad Kelso has moved on, and he is now the state's nuclear inspector. Ben Pendleton from DEP filling in in the interim. They are interviewing to fill the position soon.

Paula reported that the governor has formed a data center advisory Council. They had their kickoff meeting last week. Emily Cole-Prescott is on that council.

Officer's Reports

- President Report: Rob Pontau reported that their next meeting is the outing on August 14. The invitation has been sent and are seeking RSVPs for the outing at his family camp in Windsor. They will have a brief meeting in the morning if they have a quorum. Zoom will not be an option. This event is weather-dependent.
Rob and Chris spoke about Ops Challenge. They finished 4th at regionals. They spoke about going to WEFTEC. They spoke about fundraising to support training, so that they can return to WEFTEC 2027 in RI. 3 teams will be competing from RI next year.
- President-Elect Report: Amanda Smith reported on a UMC meeting. The meeting had lower attendance than usual, but the discourse was more in-depth. Her takeaway is to avoid another meeting in July or August and focus on the next meeting around or at the convention. She spoke about a shift in relations with DEP.
- Vice President Report: Charlene Poulin reported that their Windham plant will be up and running soon and will plan a tour for the Fall. She added that their RFP for a drying

facility, Phase 1, To determine if it's going to be feasible and how much it's going to cost, went out. She will report back on updates.

- Immediate Past President Report: Terry Tucker reported that the membership survey is due next week. They have received 5 responses out of 600 people. She wants to push the survey out to operators.

Other New Business

- None

Adjournment

Motion by Amanda Smith, seconded by Terry Tucker, all approved to adjourn at 10:01 AM.

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

**60 Community Drive
Augusta ME 04330**

COMMITTEE NAME: JETCC

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 5/21/26 – EJ Prescott, Gardiner

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

- JETCC hosted three regional-in person classes called “Preparing for Inspection”. The classes took 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. All classes were well attended and successful.
- The JETCC Community Engagement Event took place at EJ Prescott in Gardiner on the morning of May 21. The event was attended by ~25 people, including NEIWPCC-JETCC staff, JETCC committee members, past and present JETCC trainers, past and present MCS and WOS students, and other key contacts and collaborators with JETCC. While the program provided valuable feedback, some readjustments may be made ahead of the 2028 Community Engagement to encourage a higher turnout and more participation. The feedback from this event will help shape future JETCC training calendars.
- An afternoon training “Pipes, Fittings, & Valves” was held after the JETCC Community Engagement event on May 21, led by staff from EJ Prescott. The class was hands-on in nature and received positive feedback.
- Two more live virtual courses will be held via Zoom in June. “Laboratory Analysis: BOD” will be led by Phyllis Arnold Rand on June 9, while a new class “Electricity Basics for Water & Wastewater Operators” will led by Scott Lavine of AC Electric on June 10.
- Management Candidate School Operator Exchanges have been assigned. MCS students are currently contacting Operator Exchange Supervisors to schedule their exchanges.
- Wastewater Operator School will hold its final class for the semester on June 11 at Portland Water District.
- The JETCC North Country Convention will be held at Northern Maine Community College from May 12 to May 13, 2027. This marks a change from previous Conventions which were typically held in late March/Early April.
- JETCC will send out nomination forms for its annual awards, including the Lee Agger Award, Hanson Award, and Founders Award in early June.

DECISIONS MADE:

- JETCC approved its operating budget and workplan for FY27 at the May 21 meeting.
- JETCC approved the approval of new dates for North Country Convention for May 2027 at the May 21 meeting.
- JETCC will draft an MOU between NEIWPCC and Maine Water Utilities Association regarding cooperation in programs surrounding issues pertaining to JETCC work, subject to approval by JETCC and MWUA committees.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:

- JETCC Award Nominations will be due by August 13, 2026
- Next JETCC Meeting is August 28 at 9:30 am at York Sewer District

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Brett Willard, Environmental Analyst – Training Development Specialist, NEIWPCC-JETCC

DATE SUBMITTED: 6/1/26

Treasurer Report

Date: June 10, 2026

ACCOUNT/BUDGET STATUS: At the end of February our balance sheet was as follows: Our CD was at \$21,831.31, checking account at \$31,556.22, and accounts receivable \$15,365.75 totaling \$68,753.28 (~\$14,000 higher than end of January). The increase is mainly from member dues (\$6,215), joint sponsorships (\$5,000), and sponsorship (\$1,750). Ski Day wasn't complete at the time of this balance sheet, so we will see how that ended when I receive March's balance sheet.

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 Systems Operations Council Report
June 10, 2026

The **Treatment Plant Operators** Committee reported:

- The committee met on June 9th.
- Peer-to-Peer training – managers, please don't forget about this FREE training opportunity. Send your employees. There was a discussion about whether virtual trainings would be approved. Alex will reach out to Just to discuss. There was also discussion about revamping the Peer-to-Peer info on the website.
- Ops Challenge team finished in 4th place. There have been discussions with MEWEA about possibly sending a fourth team to nationals, but no final word yet.
- There was discussion about possibly doing some Ops-challenge themed events at the convention. Chris Cline will discuss with the Convention committee.
- There was discussion of participating in a Maine Mariners game again next year.
- Alex is going to send nominations for the MEWEA operator award to the committee for a virtual vote.
- There was discussion about leading a session at the fall convention. They know they are past the deadline, so will submit any finalized proposal to the Personnel Advancement committee by next week.
- There was discussion about having an in-person quarterly meeting, similar to the UMC, and all were in favor, so that discussion will continue.

The **Collections Committee** reported:

- Their next meeting is on June 25th, 2026
- They are working on their Fall Conference session – AI in the collection system
- They are prepping for JETCC Asset management class – October 2026
- 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.
- Fall Conference – Cornhole

The **Stormwater Committee** reported:

- MS4 audits are happening so the audit preparation support MEWEA provided has been very well received. EPA is attending many of the audits.
- The Stormwater Study Commission is moving forward and appointments are underway. Lynn Leavitt from the City of Westbrook has been tagged to serve.
- Their next meeting is June 24th at 10:00 (virtual).

The **Residuals Committee** reported:

- Sanford enacted a 6-month moratorium on biosolids drying/gasification projects.

The **Lab Committee** had no report. Their next meeting is on June 17th at 9:30 (virtual).



COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORT

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

PRETREATMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: June 2, 2026

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Pretreatment Committee

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: David Dane

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Previous meeting, March 10, 2026

EPA Update (Jay Pimpore, EPA Region 1):

- Annual pretreatment reports coming in from Massachusetts and New Hampshire are much improved on the second submission — a lot of the issues from the first round have been resolved ("kinks getting worked out").
- Effluent Guidelines (ELG) Program: No updates; no proposal dates for categorical industries.
- POTW Influent PFAS Sampling Study: No significant movement. Only facilities 10 MGD or greater are potentially affected. Nothing to do unless official notice is received from EPA. (PWD, Bangor, LACWA are potentially relevant facilities.)
- MEWEA Lab Committee / WEF question raised about testing biosolids for microplastics — Jay has not heard anything on this; Robin Johnson referenced as a contact.
- EPA Pretreatment Program Awards: Jay will be reaching out to Ben and each New England state in the coming month to solicit nominations. Note that an enforcement screen will be conducted on any nominated programs.

Maine DEP Update (Ben Pendleton):

- Brad Kelso has accepted a position as the State's Nuclear Inspector. Applications for his replacement position closed June 1, 2026, and were posted on the DEP website with a good number of applicants. Ben Pendleton will notify the committee once a replacement is identified. Until then, Ben is the appropriate DEP contact for Pretreatment matters: Benjamin.S.Pendleton@maine.gov.
- Brad made some changes to MEPDES permit pretreatment special conditions prior to his departure.
- Maine Enterprise Licensing System (MELS): The only change relevant to pretreatment is that audit reports will now be delivered to POTWs through this platform. Annual reporting will continue through CDX.
- CDX Annual Report Data Entry: The CDX system opens to POTWs 60 days prior to the Pretreatment Annual Report due date, and is available to approved pretreatment programs only. Data cannot be entered until that window opens. The exception made in Year 1 for programs with a high number of industrial users was a one-time data entry accommodation.
- CDX Tips (from Yarrissa): Submit early. Use the "sandbox" or "test site" with care — do not confuse emails from "CDX" and "CDX Test." Submit and refresh to see validation errors (red flags must be resolved before submission can be completed). Inf/Eff and Biosolids numbers: submit Excel spreadsheet only — do NOT send PDF lab reports. Brett Goodrich, and Judy Bruenjes are available for 1-on-1 help.
- Two MEPDES licensing positions remain open at DEP; backlog continues, but progress is being made on MEPDES permits.

MEWEA Pretreatment Committee (David Dane):

- Pretreatment Excellence Award: David presented proposed language consolidating the Industrial Achievement Award into the new MEWEA Pretreatment Excellence Award. The committee voted unanimously to accept (Theresa Tucker moved, Yarrisa seconded; Jay abstaining). The proposal must be presented to the MEWEA Executive Board and updated in the admin guide.
- NERPCA Workshop (October 20–22, Nashua, NH): An optional local limits training is scheduled for October 20, with the main workshop running October 21–22. There is still a small amount of time available to add agenda items. Agenda expected to be released by the end of July.

Open Discussion:

Discussion was held regarding data centers and what MEWEA's involvement should or could be:

- E2 Tech held a panel discussion on May 28, 2026, in South Portland. Wastewater was described as a "light touch" topic at the event.
- The Governor has formed a Data Center Advisory Council with a kickoff meeting on June 3, 2026 (Emily Cole-Prescott is on the council). One large data center proposal was recently pushed through legislatively. More information: <https://www.maine.gov/energy/datacentercouncil>. The advisory council meeting was scheduled virtually the following morning.
- One proposed data center (Jay) would take cooling water from the river and direct-discharge to the river. Questions arose around maintenance activities such as descaling and their potential wastewater implications.
- General concern: data centers are not always forthcoming with information. There is not yet enough information available to assess impacts.
- A research group was proposed to track new information as it comes in — Rosalie and Paula volunteered. Paula sent a link to the chair. Members asked to keep each other informed.
- Resources referenced: An AWWA paper to help utilities deal with large-scale data centers was sent by the chair to the Committee.

Attendees:

Yarrisa Ortiz-Vidal (Rockland WPCF), Matt Ondra (Rockland WPCF), Phyllis Rand (Compass Rose Training Solutions), Jay Pimpore (EPA Region 1), Ben Pendleton (Maine DEP), Paula Drouin (LACWA), Eric Cavers (LACWA), Nick Textor (Bangor WWTF), Luke Truman (NEEFC), Rosalie Turner (Saco WRRD), Kirsten Bshara (PWD), Lisa Andrews (Barr Engineering), Theresa Tucker (YSD), David Dane (SPWRP).

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Next meeting TBD

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: David Dane

DATE SUBMITTED: 6/8/26

DISTRIBUTION: MMA Affiliate Liaison
Executive Committee Meeting
Other:

NEWSLETTER

Please check if the item should be expanded for external release. ☐

PRETREATMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Pretreatment Excellence Award recognizes an industrial or commercial facility, which is an indirect discharger in Maine, or an individual that has demonstrated exemplary efforts toward meeting the requirements of the National/State Pretreatment Program and/or an industrial user wastewater discharge permit. The award recognizes the facility, or an individual within the facility, that has demonstrated originality in system design, operation, and maintenance to meet environmental stewardship and sustainability goals.

The criteria for an industrial facility are as follows:

- Is designated as a Significant or Categorical Industrial User.
- Demonstrates exemplary design, operation and maintenance of the facility.
- Demonstrates a commitment to reducing the volume and/or concentration of pollutants in the facility's wastewater discharge.
- Provides assistance to professionals outside of the business striving to meet requirements of the National/State Pretreatment Program and/or an industrial user wastewater discharge permit.
- Demonstrates a professional and open relationship with regulatory agencies and permitting authorities at all times. Demonstrates creativity in operations and problem solving.
- Not in Significant Noncompliance (SNC) in the past 12 months.

The criteria for a commercial facility are as follows:

- A commercial facility is a facility that is not designated as a Significant or Categorical Industrial User. Examples of commercial users may include, but are not limited to, restaurants, breweries, laundromats, car washes, medical clinics, veterinary clinics, and hotels.
- Demonstrates exemplary design, operation and maintenance of the facility.
- Demonstrates commitment to comply with the facility's wastewater discharge permit through continuous improvement projects.
- Demonstrates a professional and open relationship with regulatory agencies and permitting authorities at all times.
- Provides assistance to professionals outside of the business striving to meet requirements of the National/State Pretreatment Program and/or a commercial facility wastewater discharge permit.
- Demonstrates creativity in operations, maintenance and problem solving.
- Zero violations within the past 12 months.

The criteria for an individual are as follows:

- Demonstrates exemplary knowledge and application of pretreatment requirements, industry best management practices, and environmental stewardship principles.
- Demonstrates commitment to improving pretreatment program compliance through leadership, initiative, and proactive problem-solving.
- Maintains a professional, respectful, and cooperative relationship with regulatory agencies, permitting authorities, and facility personnel at all times.

- Provides service to the profession through mentoring, training, public outreach, participation in professional organizations, or assisting others in resolving pretreatment or environmental challenges.
- Exhibits creativity and innovation in program implementation, data management, pollution prevention, or operational improvements.
- Has no record of enforcement actions or significant non-compliance associated with job responsibilities within the last 12 months.

