



APPROVED

MEWEA Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

9:00 a.m.

York Sewer District or Zoom

MINUTES

Attendance: Rob Pontau, Charlene Poulin, Paula Drouin, Phyllis Rand, Sierra Kuun, Andy Begin, Amanda Smith, Brett Willard, Terry Tucker, Phil Tucker, Gregg Wood, Chris Cline, Rosalie Turner, Stacy Thompson and Chelsea Carll (MMA).

Call to Order: Rob Pontau called the meeting to order at 9:04 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 June 10, 2026 board meeting.

Motion by Amanda Smith to approve the minutes from June 10, 2026, seconded by Terry Tucker. All approved. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Stacy Thompson submitted a report in advance but was not in attendance at this point of the meeting. A vote was not held to approve the report.

Old Business

None.

Representative Reports

1. Representative Reports

- **DEP Report:** Gregg Wood reported on the following: A legal ad on MS4 permit renewals is in the newspaper for municipalities, state and federal facilities. They expire between July 1 2027 and October 1 2027. Chapter 595 (SRF program) had a modification of that rule regarding the fees. The fees were affixed at 5%, and to be consistent with the rest of the country, the rate is now adjusted in line with the IUP. It will impact how much money that can be allotted to administer the programs. Two new permit writers have been hired and start mid-August. Lastly, Gregg has asked Rob to circulate a class on nitrogen to the board.
- **JETCC-NEIWPC:** Brett Willard submitted a report in advance. He added to the training calendar planning that if any committee want to co-host a class, they are able to split revenue 50%. They've done that notably with the collection systems class, of which they have done a series of 2 courses this past year and are planning 2 more in the fall and spring.

- **MWUA:** Andy Begin reported that they have hired a new program and events manager, Christine Dunn. They have their summer outing coming up on August 4, and a golf outing August 5. Andy told the board that they should start seeing more frequent membership communications soon. It is one of Ed's goals to increase their communication and visibility. Andy complimented Rob for his frequent communication to MeWEA membership. MWUA has some ongoing exam prep classes for grades 1 and 2.
Rob added that he is pleased to hear about their newest team member and hopes to see MWUA become more involved with the joint newsletter for the Fall edition and other initiatives. Rob is also going to send a formal invitation to utility managers on the water side at MWUA to join their utility managers' group. Additionally, he hopes to partner with MWUA on future fundraisers, like the Sea Dogs game, and possibly work on a Maine Celtics or Hearts of Pine game.
- **NEBRA Update:** Phil Tucker reported that they are getting ready for their annual conference in Portland in November. Other than that, they are working on reading through the new PFAS risk assessment that was sent out by EPA and comments are due by the end of August.
- **NEWEA State Director:** Andre Brousseau submitted a report in advance. Rob raised some items to discuss for Andre including marketing of the film, "Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong". Terry said that they will present it at WEF and at the Fall Convention. Rob added that Andre is working with Diana (Blackfly Media) and the NeWEA stakeholder group on stories to share.
- **MMA:** Chelsea Carll reported that the registration sites are up and running for the golf tournament and exhibitors. The attendee registration can go live once the final agenda and credits have been determined. From there, she will need to work with Charlene to customize the certificates in Conference Tracker.

2. Council Directors & Committee Reports

- **Outreach Council:** Phil Tucker, Director – submitted a report in advance.

Government Affairs –Amanda Smith reported that this past spring, Representative Campbell offered to submit a bill for them, and Amanda is working to narrow areas of focus such as the expiration of LD718.

Membership: Phil Tucker reported that Sophia (?) is interested in taking over the membership committee duties. Phil will meet with her on Thursday to discuss the role.

Communications: Rosalie Turner was not in attendance. Rob spoke about the need to build off the momentum that Chris Cline had with the Maine Mariners partnership to raise funds for Ops Challenge, and to do the same kind of thing with a Celtics or Hearts of Pine game fundraiser. He would like to see if communications or public relations would be willing to lead the next fundraiser campaigns. Rob will reach out to Evan to see if he is able to assist.

Public Relations: No report.

- **Personnel Advancement Council:** Stacy Thompson, Director
- Convention: Stacy reported that attendee registration will open soon once the agenda is finalized. Charlene will work on providing that to Chelsea for the packet today. Exhibitor registration has been open for a week, as has the golf tournament.

Awards: Stacy reported that the nominations are in, and Mike needs recommendations by July 31.

New Professionals: Sierra reported that the Sea Dogs event went well and they are planning a beach cleanup on September 12th. She will circulate a flyer when it is ready.

Professional Development: Charlene Poulin reported that she will send the convention committee and Chelsea the agenda, and then send it to Judy for wastewater credit allocations. She will also send it to NeWEA for approval of water credits.

- **Treatment Systems Operations Council:** Paula Drouin, Director
Collection Systems: A report was submitted. Chris Cline added that their sponsorships are coming in and they are working on a couple of trainings with JETCC.

Laboratory: Phyllis Arnold Rand & Alana Dougherty – Report submitted.

Pretreatment: David Dane – Report submitted.

Residuals: Andre Brousseau – Report submitted.

Stormwater: Ali Clift & Jodie Keene – No report.

Treatment Plant Operators: Alex Buechner – Report submitted.

Rob reminded the group that nominations for all awards are due to Mike by July 31. Phyllis asked if another letter will be sent to membership to encourage nominations for the Lab award.

3. Officer's Reports

- President Report: Rob Pontau asked everyone to RSVP for the August 14 summer meeting and outing.
- President-Elect Report: Amanda Smith - Amanda Smith spoke with Charlene about finding a good time to set a meeting up for utility managers during the conference.
- Vice President Report: Charlene Poulin reported that she is working on the agenda for the convention today. She shared that she is very busy at work opening a new treatment plant.

Rob spoke about the flyer that Paula circulated in the zoom chat about the New England Biosolids Conference and the Raggin Award flyer. He said that based on RSVPs, they are going to move forward with the outing in August.

- Immediate Past President Report: Terry Tucker spoke about the role of the nominating committee to draft the slate for the annual meeting at the convention. She will work with Rob on what she did last year in preparation for the meeting. Paula shared that she is looking for a replacement on the board. Terry added that they have a strategic planning session meeting coming up next Tuesday.

4. Other New Business

- MWUA Membership
Rob presented an arrangement for MeWEA and MWUA representatives to exchange complimentary memberships with one another. Rob offered (3) free memberships to MWUA's director, Ed Molleo, as well as Molly King (*Finance & Membership Manager*) and Christine Dunn (*Program & Event Manager*). MWUA will cover MeWEA's admin services coordinator + president + president elect each year moving forward by default.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Terry Tucker, seconded by Amanda Smith, all approved to adjourn at 9:51 AM.

Treasurer Report

Date: July 14, 2026

ACCOUNT/BUDGET STATUS: Recap of April and May balance sheets received since last meeting. At the end of April MEWEA's total assets were \$63,681.06, while end of May was \$51,446.50. Most of the expenses incurred during the month of May were related to the NEWEA Spring Meeting and consultant fees. Revenue was received mostly from membership dues and sponsorships. We should see a significant increase in accounts receivable when the Fall Conference vendor registration opens the week of July 6th. This will include registration fees, golf registration, and sponsorships. This should put us in a better position heading into the Fall Conference.

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.

MEWEA Communications Report July 2, 2026

Current:

Social Media

- Posting consistently – working on getting more readers to the newsletter via posting about the individual articles (plan to touch base with Mike to see if it's working).
- Working on posts to highlight the committees and the work they do
- If you haven't already, give the account a follow, like and share with friends/family/peers. The more people know, the more they care

Newsletter

- Currently thinking about the fall newsletter edition of OneWater. Researching different formats to find the most aesthetically pleasing and user friendly (or maybe we stick with this one).

Looking Ahead:

- Next meeting set for 7/9/2026 at 2pm. Planning to do joint meetings with PR to keep momentum.
- In our next meeting we will discuss the newsletter moving forward and set hard deadlines. **September 23, 2026**, is the fall equinox- working to time the newsletter after that.
 - Timeline Draft
 - Solicit articles from July 13th to September 13th. (Maybe have a highlight piece on the MEWEA's fall conference.
 - Edit from September 13th to the 30th.
 - October 1st newsletter release.
 - Need to reach out to Mike & Ed at MWUA to confirm.
- Potential content ideas discussed in last meeting:
 - Who will be the next facility spotlight
 - An update on data center research
 - MEWEA conference highlights
 - MEWEAs drawing contest
 - The must have's
 - President update
 - Force Maine update
 - PR update
 - GA update

Meeting Schedule

- Meetings are still held virtually the 2nd Thursday of every month at 2pm.



REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

15 University Dr
Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE NAME: Laboratory Committee

REPORT DATE: 6/17/2026

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 3/18/2026

RECENT ACTIVITIES: MEWEA's Lab Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, 6/17/2026:

- The EPA signed a new proposed Methods Update Rule (MUR), MUR 22, on December 6, 2024. This action proposes promulgating three new EPA methods into 40 CFR 136.3. This action also proposes to withdraw the existing EPA methods for measuring seven Aroclors (PCB mixtures). Finally, the EPA is proposing to simplify the sampling requirements for two volatile organic compounds, acrolein and acrylonitrile, and make a series of minor corrections to existing tables of approved methods.
- Water Environment Federation Laboratory Practices Committee Update: Ongoing discussion on sample holding times (HT). There is no EPA definition of HT. HT is based on how long it takes a sample to get to a laboratory, not based on degradation. Bring this to EPA's attention.
- Fecal Coliform Test Results: Membrane Filtration vs. IDEXX Colilert-18: The Portland Water District has been running into issues switching from membrane filtration to the IDEXX Colilert-18 method at two of their WWTFs. Both WWTFs are seeing too numerous to count results with Colilert-18, but <10 cfu/100mL with membrane filtration. After conferring with IDEXX, it was thought there may be seawater intrusion or other bacteria interference. Dilutions were performed which reduced the interference but still resulted in violation. Seawater was ruled out with some conductivity testing. Phyllis is reaching out to her lab network to see if anyone else in Maine has marine discharge, fecal permit limits, and UV disinfection. PWD will conduct side-by-sides in the future after further investigation.
- DMRQA-46: Open date TBD, maybe available in August. DEP is now requiring running an Entero positive as part of DMRQA.

DECISIONS MADE: N/A

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: N/A

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: Next meeting 9/15/2026 (virtual).

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: MEWEA David Anderson Laboratory Excellence Award Nominations. Submit nominations to: MEWEA Awards Chair at michael.guethle@wbrcinc.com.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: MEWEA Lab Committee

NAME: Alana Dougherty-Bouttenot, Co-chair

DATE SUBMITTED: 6/23/2026

cc: MEWEA Lab Committee



COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

**Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330**

COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: July 14, 2026

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: State Director

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: André Brousseau

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Attending NEWEA's GAC meetings, and NEWEA's Black Fly media meetings

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:

Attend Black Fly meeting on August 13th, report back to NEWEA on the venue costs and future showings of "Unless something terribly goes wrong"

Report back to the same group for our white paper and the formation of the future stakeholder group dealing with our limited biosolids disposal outlets.

Looking for an operator to go to Connecticut for the exchange program slated for October 7-9, 2026. The exchange involves 5-6 plant tours, social networking during CTWEA business meetings, and a chance to attend technical sessions.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

Nick Rico and I will be speaking after the showing of the documentary on August 6, 2026 at the Wells Public Library.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: André Brousseau

DATE SUBMITTED: July 13, 2026

DISTRIBUTION:

MMA Affiliate Liaison

Executive Committee Meeting

Other: _____

NEWSLETTER

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



COMMITTEE / OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

**Local Government Center
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330**

COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: July 14, 2026

COMMITTEE/OFFICE NAME: Residuals

CHAIR/OFFICER NAME: André Brousseau

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Monitoring statewide efforts for biosolids options. WM Norridgewock's facility is undergoing their dyer startups. They have accepted 300 wet tons into the receiving hopper. They plan to commission each dyer individually with a goal of having all three-running simultaneous within a few weeks.

The City of Sanford has enacted a 6-month moratorium on any biosolids drying facility proposal. The city's goal is to set local ordinances geared towards this type of development.

The Sanford Sewerage District's Biogenie contract will not be extended beyond July 31, 2026

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: André Brousseau

DATE SUBMITTED: July 13, 2026

DISTRIBUTION: MMA Affiliate Liaison
Executive Committee Meeting
Other: _____

NEWSLETTER

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REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

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:

- Two final live-remote JETCC classes were held in June. Phyllis Arnold Rand led a class on Biochemical Oxygen Demand on June 9. Scott Lavine of AC Electric led a class on Electricity Basics for Water & Wastewater Operators on June 10. These were the last JETCC classes of the Spring 26 semester.
- Wastewater Operator School 2026 held its final class on June 11 at Portland Water District, with a visit to the Cape Elizabeth treatment facility. All 19 students in this year's program graduated. Of these 19 students, 3 became certified during WOS, and 6 students have had exams approved and waiting to test.
- Management Candidate School 2026 students are participating in Operator Exchanges throughout July and August.
- Management Candidate School 2026 students will attend the MEWEA Fall Convention during the first day for their graduation. JETCC will pay MEWEA the student rate for each of the 19 students at \$50 each.
- JETCC will hold their annual awards ceremony during the MEWEA Fall Convention. JETCC has reached out to MEWEA to discuss logistics and timing for the event. Award nomination forms have been announced and sent via the JETCC Newsbrief. Nominations are due by August 13. Please let Brett know if you would like to receive nomination forms.
- Brett is currently planning the 2027 JETCC training calendar. Ideas are welcome for 2027 trainings.
- The 2027 JETCC North Country Convention will be held from May 12 to May 13 at Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle.

DECISIONS MADE:

- No JETCC meeting has been held since the last MEWEA ExComm meeting.

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:

APPROVED

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

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

DATE SUBMITTED: 6/29/26

Treatment Systems Operations Council Report

July 14, 2026

The **Collections Committee** reported:

- Last meeting was held on June 25th.
- Part 3 of their training series will be in October and will be on Asset Management. Part 4 will be in Spring 2027 and will be on Rehab and Rehabilitation.
- The MWUA summer outing is Wednesday August 4th @ Lost Valley in Auburn. The committee will be managing the cornhole tournament again.
- The committee plans to have a session at the Fall Convention about “AI in the collection system and beyond!”
- The committee plans to manage the cornhole tournament at the Fall Convention and are still working on securing sponsorships.
- “The Raggin Award” is back and will be presented at the Fall Conference prior to the cornhole tournament. Submit nominations by 9/7.



The **Treatment Plant Operators** Committee reported:

- The committee plans to meet on August 4th, 2:00 at Mast Landing Brewing in Freeport.
- Reminder to take advantage of peer-to-peer training. Virtual trainings would be open to consideration.



MEWEA
PEER-TO-PEER
TRAINING PROGRAM

LEARN. | CONNECT. | EARN CREDITS.

Are you interested in learning more about a specific wastewater process, piece of equipment, laboratory procedure, maintenance practice, or just about any other topic in the wastewater field?

The MEWEA Peer-to-Peer Training Program gives wastewater operators, mechanics, laboratory staff, and managers the opportunity to visit other facilities and learn directly from experienced professionals while earning continuing education credits toward license renewal.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- LEARN**
practical, real-world skills outside of the classroom
- CONNECT**
with wastewater professionals across Maine
- EARN FREE**
continuing education credits

HOW IT WORKS

- 1 CHOOSE A TOPIC**
Identify a subject you want to learn more about and download the form using the QR Code at the bottom.
- 2 CONTACT THE TPO COMMITTEE**
Contact the MEWEA TPO Committee at meweaTPO@gmail.com to connect you with an experienced host for your subject.
- 3 COMPLETE THE TRAINING**
Connect with your host for training.
- 4 SUBMIT YOUR FORM**
Submit completed form to meweaTPO@gmail.com for committee review and approval.

All MEWEA members are eligible for up to 3 credit hours per year.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO GET STARTED!



The **Lab Committee** reported:

- The EPA signed a new proposed Methods Update Rule (MUR), MUR 22, on December 6, 2024. This action proposes promulgating three new EPA methods into 40 CFR 136.3. This action also proposes to withdraw the existing EPA methods for measuring seven Aroclors (PCB mixtures). Finally, the EPA is proposing to simplify the sampling requirements for two volatile organic compounds, acrolein and acrylonitrile, and make a series of minor corrections to existing tables of approved methods.
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interference. Dilutions were performed which reduced the interference but still resulted in violation. Seawater was ruled out with some conductivity testing. Phyllis is reaching out to her lab network to see if anyone else in Maine has marine discharge, fecal permit limits, and UV disinfection. PWD will conduct side-by-sides in the future after further investigation.

- DMRQA-46: Open date TBD, maybe available in August. DEP is now requiring running an Entero positive as part of DMRQA.

The **Residuals Committee** reported:

- The biosolids project by Aries is in a hold pattern with the city of Sanford enacting a 6-month moratorium. Andre is on the task force.

The **Pretreatment Committee** reported:

- Ben Pendleton has been hired as the new DEP Pretreatment Coordinator.

The **Stormwater Committee** had no report.

Outreach Council Executive Committee Report

Date: July 14, 2026

Council Director: Phil Tucker

Communications Committee – Bryanna Denis (Rosalie Turner)

- See sperate report

Government Affairs Committee – Daniel Marks

- I am working on reaching out to potential members of the stakeholder group for sludge management.
- Ivy at Friends of Casco Bay also asked if we wanted to co-author an article for Maine Policy Review – I plan to do this – abstract is due next week.

Membership Committee – Phil Tucker

- Am meeting with Sophia Holmes of Vortex to talk about her taking on the chair of membership. This is a great move and she sees far more people than I do in the course of a month.

Public Relations Committee – Evan Pereira

- Continued regular meetings with PR/Communications
- Identified list of potential future events/external opportunities to attend to promote MEWEA, likely will need to be planned for fall 2026/2027
- Begin planning for next statewide PR story/opportunity to leverage with Black Fly Media

Personnel Advancement Council Executive Committee Report

Date: July 14, 2026

Council Director: Stacy Thompson

Convention – Justin Barnett and Terry Tucker

- Vendor packet and registration, including golf, for vendors should be open week of July 6th.
- Attendee registration to follow upon completion of sessions.

New Professionals – Sierra Kuhn

- Working on planning a beach cleanup during Maine coastal cleanup week. This is being held on September 12th at 9 am at the East End Beach in Portland. Here's a link for more information:
<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/programs/maine-coastal-program/marine-debris-maine-coastweek>

Personnel Advancement – Charlene Poulin

- Currently working on the convention schedule and sending emails out to speakers and those not chosen. This should be out by the end of week (July 6th).
- Once schedule is set, Judy will get the sessions to approve wastewater credits and MWUA will work on drinking water credits.

Awards – Mike Guethle

- Order for award plaques needs to be placed by July 31st. Committees, get your winners into Mike beforehand.