



APPROVED

MEWEA Annual Business Meeting
Thursday, September 18, 2025
11:30 a.m.
Sunday River Grand Summit Resort

MINUTES

Attendance: Justin Barnett, Andy Begin, Andre Brousseau, Alex Buechner, Chris Cline, Bryanna Denis, Alana Dougherty, Paula Drouin, Kevin Eaton, Michael Guethle, Sierra Kuun, Daniel Marks, Jeffrey McBurnie, Jennifer Nicholson, Evan Pereira, Robert Pontau, Charlene Poulin, Phyllis Rand, Amanda Smith, Stacy Thompson, Phil Tucker, Theresa Tucker, Peter Zaykoski, and Chelsea Carll (MMA).

Absent: Emily Cole-Prescott, David Dane, Travis Peaslee, Ali Clift, Jodie Keene, Gregg Wood

Call to Order: President Terry Tucker called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

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

MEWEA Board Introductions: Terry Tucker introduced all board members in attendance and asked them to stand to be recognized.

Management Candidate School Students Introductions: Terry Tucker recognized MCS school graduates, asking them to stand to be recognized. She referred to those interested in enrolling in the school to see JETCC's booth for more information.

Welcome New Members & Guests: Terry Tucker recognized new members and guests of the convention.

Convention Highlights: Terry Tucker reminded attendees of the convention agenda, including the program sessions and activities. She said that there will be a vendor raffle during the meet and greet tonight hosted by the New Professionals Committee, encouraged attendees to visit Ops Challenge table to see some demos and bid on their silent auction, and to please take part in this evening's activities including the parties at the Vortex House and Brown & Caldwell/Hayes Pump House, as well as the annual Cornhole Tournament hosted by the Collections Committee.

Approval of Minutes: Terry Tucker reported on the minutes for the Spring Business Meeting on April 3, 2025.

Motion made by Jeff McBurnie to approve April 3, 2025 minutes, seconded by Phil Tucker. All approved. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff McBurnie reported that he will be retiring from his profession soon and will be passing the role of Treasurer to Stacy Thompson. Jeff reported that while the convention is a major revenue builder for the organization, he let members know that budgets are tighter than in years past to help them achieve their goals. He thanked all attendees, sponsors, and vendors for their support. He spoke about the work that the volunteer board does for their members, including professional and personal advancement of operators and advocacy. He spoke about MeWEA's commitment to their mission for public health. He spoke to legislative advocacy expenses that have impacted their budget, as well as the Ops Challenge project, despite their independent fundraising. He asks members to encourage their peers to engage in the benefits of membership and to get more professionals to join.

Slate of Officers:

Terry Tucker presented the slate of officers for 2026's board:

Rob Pontau – President
Amanda Smith – President-Elect

Charlene Poulin – Vice President
 Stacy Thompson – Treasurer
 Paula Drouin – Treatment Systems Council Director

Terry asked if there were any nominations on the floor. None were present.

Motion by Jeff McBurnie, seconded by Peter Zaykoski, to close nominations and approve the slate as presented. All approved.

MeWEA Awards Presentations:

Past President Award: Terry Tucker presented this award to Emily Cole-Prescott. While Emily was not in attendance, Terry thanked her for all she does for the clean water community. Stacey Thompson received her plaque in her absence.

Outstanding Service Award: Terry Tucker presented this award to Jay Pimpare, EPA. She shared that Jay has been a steadfast pillar of support, knowledge and guidance for pretreatment coordinators in Maine and across New England. She spoke about his impact on MeWEA's Pretreatment Committee; always providing timely information, training and expert advice. Terry also spoke about the impact of his leadership with the New England Regional Pretreatment Coordinators' Association.

Communications Award: Terry Tucker presented this award to Evan Pereira. She shared that he has gone above and beyond in sharing MeWEA's mission and working to help promote the importance of the clean water industry. His efforts extend well beyond his formal role, using both traditional and social media to connect with industry professionals and the public alike.

Roger Gagne Award: Terry Tucker presented this award to David Hughes. This award honors those who have shown long-term dedication and service to MeWEA and the water environment profession. David has devoted nearly 40 years to the wastewater industry, starting as a project engineer and now serving as Superintendent of the Scarborough Sanitary District. He has led numerous full-scale evaluations to optimize treatment processes, sharing invaluable practical knowledge with his team and wider community. He is also an engaged MeWEA member.

Al Jellison Lifetime Achievement Award: Terry Tucker presented this award to Phyllis Arnold Rand. The award honors those who have given their heart, energy and expertise to MeWEA and protecting Maine's water quality. Phyllis has spent over 35 years in the industry, and been an industrial pretreatment inspector, lab supervisor, safety instructor, certified trainer, and permit writer for the Maine DEP. Her dedication has left a lasting mark on the profession and the environment.

David Anderson Lab Excellence Award: Phyllis Arnold Rand presented this award to Jason Prout. A highly experienced professional with nearly 27 years in wastewater treatment, Jason Prout plays a crucial role in ensuring the accuracy and consistency of lab operations at the Brunswick Sewer District, which is essential for the BSD's strong compliance history. Jason's crucial role was particularly evident during the PFAS crisis at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station. Jason's efforts were pivotal in navigating the PFAS crisis, solidifying his position as a laboratory analyst and leader within the Brunswick Sewer District.

New Professional Award: Sierra Kuun presented this award to Evan Kane. Since joining the Portland Water District in 2022 as an Associate Engineer, Evan has made a lasting impact on PWD's operations, asset management, and project delivery. He brings a tireless work ethic and a positive can-do attitude to every challenge—large or small. Evan's contributions include leading a complex upgrade at the Westbrook facility with zero permit violations, helping coordinate a \$10 million project at East End, and developing a criticality-based inventory of over 8,000 assets—work he presented at the NEWEA annual convention. Currently, Evan is managing a \$22 million upgrade, involving the coordination of multiple vendors and pilot studies. From troubleshooting processes to pump station upgrades across six communities, Evan's work has elevated the team and our industry.

Pretreatment Excellence Award: Terry Tucker presented this award to Sun & Surf Restaurant in York. She called it the model food service establishment. The collection lines that were once caked with grease from their discharge, now are clean,

clear pipes. Mr. Ramsey and his head of maintenance, Keith Perkins, keep an open line of communication with the District. They have even gone to lengths of allowing the District to use them as a reference and resource for other food service establishments concerning their interceptors and maintenance schedule. The relationship that has developed is a perfect example of a POTW and commercial or industrial entity working together in good faith toward a common goal of reducing overflows and protecting the environment.

Stormwater Award: Terry Tucker presented this award to Kerem Gungor for his dedicated efforts to update Maine stormwater policies, regulations, and permits at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Land Resources. Kerem has championed the process of updating the State of Maine's stormwater regulatory policies in the Land Bureau, enhancing their effectiveness in protecting and preserving the state's natural resources. In addition to strengthening stormwater protections within the recently updated Maine Construction General Permit, Kerem has also led the extensive Chapter 500 revision process. In addition to the extensive regulatory updates, Kerem is coordinating the updates to several DEP technical manuals need throughout the industry to ensure meaningful compliance. Kerem's many contributions to date have been appreciated in improving Maine's stormwater management.

Charles Perry Collection System Award: Chris Cline presented this award to Mark Damon from the Town of Falmouth. Mark has dedicated 40 years of service to his community, spending his entire career in the collection system. He knows every inch of Falmouth's 60 miles of sewer, but more importantly, he knows and cares about the people he serves. The Town Manager even calls him the 'resident whisperer,' because Mark has a way of connecting with everyone he meets. Mark's commitment goes far beyond his technical knowledge whether it's helping residents on weekends, or even fixing a lawn mower and mowing a customer's yard during a sewer replacement project. He truly embodies the spirit of Charles Perry: always willing to give his time and help others. Mark was unable to attend due to his daughter's wedding. His Superintendent Dan Marks accepted his plaque on his behalf.

Operator Award: Alex Buechner presented this award to Tim Abbot. Over the last 10 years of dedicated service, Tim has consistently exemplified professionalism, technical excellence, and an unwavering commitment to public health and environmental protection. As Lead Operator, he is responsible for the day-to-day performance and reliability of treatment operations. His leadership and in-depth knowledge of plant processes have been instrumental in maintaining full regulatory compliance and achieving consistently high-performance metrics year after year. In addition to his technical achievements, he is a respected mentor and team leader. He takes the time to train and support new operators, encourages continuous learning, and fosters a workplace culture centered on safety, responsibility, and collaboration. His steady presence and willingness to go above and beyond make him an invaluable asset to the district. This operator is a shining example of what it means to be a dedicated public servant in this vital industry.

President's Service Award: Terry Tucker presented this award to Dan Marks. The President's Service Award is a special recognition sponsored by the Association President to honor a member, person, or group whose support has been vital in advancing the President's goals — going well beyond any formal board duties. Dan Marks demonstrated outstanding dedication to MEWEA and truly made a difference. Over the past year, Dan has devoted countless hours to Government Affairs, tirelessly helping to advance our mission. Whether drafting or delivering testimony, standing before the legislature, or meeting with various organizations, Dan has been both a powerful voice for our Association and a skilled bridge-builder — fostering relationships and ensuring that our concerns are heard clearly and effectively. Dan's commitment and leadership have been invaluable.

Richard B. Goodenow Award: Tucker presented this award to the Saco Water Resource Recovery Facility. This award honors water pollution control facilities in Maine that demonstrate exemplary operation, creative problem-solving, and deep community commitment. The Saco Water Resource Recovery Facility team embodies these qualities through their outstanding stewardship and operational excellence, consistently exceeding effluent standards while leading the way in innovation. Their bold investment of \$60 million to upgrade to an AquaNereda aerobic granular sludge system is a generational commitment that sets a new standard for wastewater treatment infrastructure in Maine. More than just a facility, Saco Water Resource Recovery Facility represents a culture of professionalism, pride, and forward-thinking leadership — embracing sustainability and community engagement every step of the way.

Maine DEP Certificate of Achievement: Holly Ireland presented the certificate of achievement to Roland Arsenault, speaking to his exceptional work in management of the Rumford Sewer District treatment system. Roland is a Grade V

operator and Superintendent of the Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District. Roland has done an outstanding job revitalizing the treatment facility that he inherited. He has excelled at coordinating the management of a collection system with 28 pump stations, which is operated by 3 separate towns. Over the past 5 years, Roland has excelled at learning the treatment system and is continually looking for ways to optimize operations at the facility. He maintains all assets at peak performance and maximizes efficiencies which speaks to his dedication to providing the best treatment to protect the environment.

JETCC Awards Presentations:

Peter Zaykoski hosted the JETCC Award presentations as follows:

Founder's Award: This year's recipient is Jeremy Court of Biddeford Wastewater. The award is given annually to an operator, maintenance worker or laboratory personnel working in a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment system in Maine. It is given in honor of Mr. Jerome "Frenchie" Guervremont, one of the original founders of JETCC. Jeremy is a dedicated professional who has worked in all areas of wastewater from installing pipe to working in the lab. He has helped his system move away from reacting to issues and instead finding them and resolving them before they become a problem.

Hanson Excellence in Management Award: This year's recipient is Jonathan McCabe of Freeport Sewer District. This award is intended to recognize a manager in the water and wastewater field who demonstrates commitment to their employees, their facility, and our community. It is given in recognition of Leeann's three decades of service to the community. This year's recipient demonstrates excellence in management through leadership, ethics, and service. He has developed cost-effective solutions to aging infrastructure challenges that allow for uninterrupted plant operations. He communicates effectively about wastewater processes that build understanding among staff and customers. His professionalism is a great model for those he supervises.

Lee Agger Award: This award was presented to Judy Bruenjes, Maine DEP. This award is selected by the committee members of JETCC to recognize an individual or organization that has contributed significantly to training efforts in the state. Judy has helped advance training efforts throughout her tenure at Maine DEP. She was instrumental in helping to organize and develop JETCC's Wastewater Operator School program and continues to teach multiple days of the program. She has a deep interest in helping operators advance their careers and develop the knowledge and skill required to ensure clean water in the state.

Past Service Recognition: This award was presented to Jonathan Helstrom, Caribou Utilities District. The JETCC Past Service Award is provided to former members of the committee in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the organization. Jon served on JETCC starting in 2018 and served his final year as the Committee Chair. He provided valuable insight to the needs of northern Maine operators. He was always willing to help make things happen in the County and ready to volunteer his time for their events, including the North Country Convention. His staff members, Derrick and Fred, received his award in his absence.

Passing of the Gavel: Terry Tucker recognized incoming president, Rob Pontau. Rob made a few remarks regarding his upcoming term as president and the goals he has for the organization. He made a few comments regarding the efforts of Ops Challenge, and the invaluable benefits of MeWEA membership including training and networking. He thanked all of the vendors and attendees for joining us at the convention this year.

Adjournment: Motion by Andre Brousseau, seconded by Phil Tucker to adjourn at 12:15 PM. All approved.