



APPROVED

MEWEA Executive Board Meeting

Friday, August 14, 2026

9:00 a.m.

183 Hunt Road, Windsor, ME

MINUTES

Attendance: Rob Pontau, Charlene Poulin, Sierra Kuun, Andy Begin, Brett Willard, Chris Cline, Rosalie Turner, Andre Brousseau, and Chelsea Carll (MMA).

Call to Order: Rob Pontau called the meeting to order at 9:07 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 July 14, 2026 board meeting.

Motion by Charlene Poulin to approve the minutes from July 14, 2026, seconded by Andy Begin. All approved. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: No report.

Old Business: None.

Representative Reports

1. Representative Reports

- **DEP Report:** No report.
- **JETCC-NEIWPCC:** Brett Willard submitted a report in advance.
- **MWUA:** Andy Begin reported that they hired a new program and events manager, Christine Dunn. They have ongoing exam prep courses and Christine is working on the training calendar and marketing. The summer outing was a success, but they are looking to move venues next year. Turnout was smaller than in prior years, but it was a nice, casual setting. They may consider Thomas Point Beach next year. Their golf tournament was a success. They are still seeking abstracts for their February conference and have extended that deadline. They are always seeking to grow their membership, and are exploring innovative ways to reach new people, and partner with volunteers to grow their membership.
- **NEWEA State Director:** Andre Brousseau reported that NeWEA has started an AI task force (including himself, Phil Tucker, Nick Ellis, and Peter Garvey). They have met a couple of times virtually and will meet again in a few weeks. They are reviewing the

environmental impacts of AI data center developments. He spoke about his personal interest in this subject, with potential developments in Sanford.

They hosted a screening at the Wells Public Library last week of the film, *Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong*. They had around 20 in attendance.

He spoke about the cybersecurity breaches that have been prevalent in the state recently, and how the movie helps move the conversation on that risk, among others.

There is a quarterly meeting in September for the executive committee in Mass.

Rosalie asked Andre a few questions regarding the potential data center in Sanford.

Charlene asked about the moratorium for the Sanford project, and it will go until the end of December. ARIES is in the task force, and he spoke positively to that partnership.

Andre will circulate notes from their meetings.

- **MMA:** Chelsea Carll reported that the registrations are still coming in for convention. 39 out of 53 have been sold or claimed. Chelsea will need to have the credit allocations confirmed for drinking water and wastewater operations for the certificate tracker. Also asking for any setup needs/rehearsal needs for the Friday film. They determined that the AV setup from the night before can be on standby for the film on Friday. They will try to have a tech rehearsal on Wednesday during the golf tournament.

Andre added that the Ops exchange delegate is confirmed, Ian Mendez, from CT. Local plant tours are planned.

2. Council Directors & Committee Reports

- **Outreach Council:** Rob reported that Phil Tucker resigned from the Outreach Council director position 2 weeks ago. Rob explained that the executive directors must name a replacement for the rest of the term and will vote on someone to take on next term at the annual business meeting. Rosalie Turner offered to step in for the position. Dan Marks is interested but he is slated for another role. Rob will work with Charlene and Terry on the slate. For the present, Rosalie has offered to serve in that position and Paula offered to work with her.

Motion by Andre Brousseau, seconded by Andy Begin to nominate Paula Drouin and Rosalie Turner as the co-directors for the remainder of the term. Rosalie abstained.

- **Outreach Council:** Rosalie Turner, Director

Government Affairs – Rosalie reported on Dan's behalf for Government Affairs. They are gaining momentum on building a stakeholder group. They have contact with the conservation foundation and the Council of Maine. Their first meeting is in September. He has been in contact with Holly Ireland (DEP) and they plan on meeting with her at the conference. He is also working with Brett at JETCC on governmental affairs training. Brett spoke to how this training would help operators understand how policy impacts water and wastewater operations at large. They plan to host the training in Augusta, but further details have not been set. It will be part of a larger series of supplemental management training outside of MCS, among other ideas. Andy encouraged Brett to work with Ed for leadership training

opportunities. He is meeting with Roger Krouss in 2 weeks to speak about Maine water utilities needs. Rosalie reported on Dan's thoughts on the hall of flags for this year. Rob encouraged them to work on that reservation as soon as it is open. The group spoke about their interest in trying to get a spot.

Jim Cohen will be joining the MeWEA board for their November meeting to give a debrief after the election and provide a forecast for the next session.

Public Relations: Evan Pereira – No report.

Membership: Sophia Holmes – No report.

Communications: Rosalie reported that she is working on producing two newsletters annually and continues partnering with MWUA. It is posted on MWUA's website and referenced on MeWEA's website. Their next edition is in progress with 6 articles and they are soliciting more. She is interested in adding a piece on data centers. Their planning meetings are scheduled out, and they are soliciting more committee members. The communications committee meets once per month. She reported that Instagram is staying active, and she encourages the board to follow and like their posts.

- **Personnel Advancement Council:** Stacey Thompson, Director
Awards: Rob reported on Mike Guethle's behalf that nominations for awards are all in, has ordered the plaques, and noted that some awards are not being given out.

Convention: Justin Barnett & Terry Tucker – no report.

New Professionals: Sierra Kuun reported on the beach cleanup for 9/12 on the east end. They got their awards ordered. Sierra will work with Chelsea on the raffle flyer for the convention.

Professional Development: Charlene Poulin reported that she has one speaker (Janine Burke-Wells) who needs help covering her registration for the convention, as NEBRA funding is limited. The group agreed to give her a complimentary registration. Chelsea will place the order. Charlene also reported that moderator solicitations went out yesterday, and they will work on the conference tracker details. Speaker forms are incoming. Drinking water credits are pending. She confirmed that Wright-Pierce is sponsoring the session signs. Charlene confirmed that they have a session at the MMA convention as well and will circulate the details to the board. Rob gave his thanks to Charlene for a great lineup of sessions at the convention, and she spoke about the volume of great abstracts they received.

Rob, Charlene and Chelsea spoke about best practices for the conference tracker and how to best prepare moderators and may consider having extra moderators to assist for busier sessions.

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

Collection Systems: Chris Cline reported that they have been practicing weekly for Ops Challenge and are headed to the RI Rumble in a few weeks. Chris spoke about their plans for convention including the session, silent auction, and cornhole. The PA system is working. He

encouraged the group to send anyone interested in ops challenge his way to learn more. Brett asked for recruitment flyers. 10/25 and 2/20 Mariners Games fundraisers have been set. Rob is working on a Celtics game for January. Ed with MWUA is still working on a Hearts of Pine game.

Laboratory: Phyllis Arnold Rand & Alana Dougherty – No report.

Residuals: Andre Brousseau reported that waste management is rolling along and they are getting contracts. He spoke about a waste load that was diverted from Quebec to another location.

Pretreatment: Paula reported in advance that their next meeting will be 9/22/26. Location TBD.

Stormwater: Ali Clift & Jodie Keene – No report.

Treatment Plant Operators: Paula submitted in advance:

- Reminder to utilize Peer to Peer training program
- The Ops Challenge team has been practicing weekly in preparation for the RI invitational event.
- The committee is sponsoring a training session on BOD troubleshooting for the fall conference.
- The committee did their first in person gathering this week. Five people attended and there were valuable conversations. They will be trying to make this a regularly occurring event and all operators are encouraged and welcome to join.
- The 2027 calendars are printed and in my office. All ready for the fall convention.

3. Officer's Reports

- President Report: Rob Pontau spoke about the assets and liabilities as of June 2026 (\$48,650) and how the convention will continue to impact the bottom line.
- President-Elect Report: Amanda Smith – no report
- Vice President Report: Charlene Poulin reported that they received three proposals for phase one of their drying biosolids facility, and they are in the process of reviewing them.
- Immediate Past President Report: Terry Tucker – no report

4. Other New Business

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Andre Brousseau, seconded by Andy Begin at 9:58 AM.

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:

- Management Candidate School 2026 students are participating in Operator Exchanges until the end of August.
- Management Candidate School 2026 students will attend the MEWEA Fall Convention during the first day for their graduation. All 19 MCS students are expected to graduate. During the Convention, MCS students will also have their final evaluation and discussion group for the class.
- JETCC Awards nominations are due by August 13. MEWEA members are encouraged to submit nominations for the Hanson Award and Founder's Award. Very few nominations have been submitted.
- Brett is currently planning the 2027 JETCC training calendar. Ideas are welcome for 2027 trainings.
- In July Brett took a "Tour de Plant" visiting different wastewater facilities in Maine. Brett visited with facilities in Wells, Saco, Kennebunk, Sanford, Yarmouth, Falmouth, Bath, Bangor, Ellsworth, Brewer, and Rockland, in addition to the industrial wastewater facility at McCain Foods in Easton, Northern Maine Community College, and the Northern Maine region Maine DEP office. The tour allowed Brett to meet with facility supervisors to discuss training needs, priorities, and ideas. Brett will use outcomes from these conversations to build the 2026/2027 JETCC training calendar.
- The Wastewater Operator School manual, used by WOS students, is currently under review by JETCC staff. The manual will be edited for images and layout, with the idea that it will be published for purchase and use by wastewater operators outside of the WOS program. The manual is expected to be printed by spring 2027.

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 27 at 9:30 am at York Sewer District
- The 2027 JETCC North Country Convention will be held from May 12 to May 13 at Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

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

DATE SUBMITTED: 8/6/26