

APPROVED **MEWEA Executive Board Meeting**
Wednesday, January 18, 2023
Augusta Civic Center
76 Community Drive
Augusta, Maine
In-Person-Zoom

MINUTES

Attendance: Tim Wade, Andre' Brousseau, Emily Prescott, Theresa Tucker, Phil Tucker, Paula Drouin, Travis Peaslee, Rob Pontau, Travis Jones, Cindy Wade, Bruce Berger.

Zoom Attendance: Sarah King, Joan Kiszely, Jeff McBurnie, Charlene Poulin, Evan Pereira, Peter Zaykoski, Gregg Wood, Jim Cohen.

Absent: Stacy Thompson, Amanda Smith, Kristie Rabasca, Bryanna Denis, Dave Beauchamp, Sierra Kuun, Alex Buechner.

Tim Wade reported on the success of the Legislative Breakfast.

Guest: Travis Peaslee introduced NEBRA – Mike Lannan. Mike talked about NEBRA and what they do. He talked about difference between NEBRA & MeWEA. The name was New England Biosolids & Residuals, but it got changed to Northeast Biosolids & Residuals Association. They have one board member from Canada.

Call to Order: President Tim Wade called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Quorum: It was determined there was a Quorum.

Minutes: Motion made by Rob Pontau, seconded by Phil Tucker, all approved the December 16, 2022, minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff submitted a report to Google Drive. Jeff indicated they didn't end to bad. Jeff McBurnie reviewed the Treasurers report indicating everything is too date. He indicated they are in the hole about \$16,000. It was from Administrative & Legislative cost that were up. Phil indicated all the volunteers on the board do a great job.

Motion made by Emily Prescott, seconded by Terry Tucker all approved the Treasurers report.

Budget Review/Contract: This item was discussed later in the meeting. Refer to President's Report for contract discussion.

Jeff McBurnie and Tim Wade reviewed the 2023 draft budget. Jeff indicated the correct budget is on Google Drive. Tim believes the total budget is \$195,00.

Travis Peaslee suggested an Ad Hoc committee be put together to discuss the budget, contract, and to define what services MeWEA needs. Motion made by Travis Peaslee, seconded by Andre Brousseau, all approved the budget and the MWUA contract not to exceed \$195,00 in total. Phil Tucker, Paula Drouin, & Emily Prescott opposed the contract.
7 to 3.

Convention Report: Phil Tucker & Stacy Thompson submitted a report. They added the following:

- Signed the Contract for 2023 Conference at Sunday River

Old Business

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

DEP Report: Gregg Wood reported the following:

- MS4 - EPA wrote a letter to DEP to say they got it wrong. Got an appeal from Casco Bay. An AG has not been assigned to the project.
- PFAS Samples are on-going.
- Reporting for Data
- Permitting- Written 10 permits in the past weeks
- Needs patience until they get more staff.
- Working on modifications and transfers

JETCC-NEIWPC: Peter Zaykoski submitted a report.

NEWEA: Paula Drouin submitted a report. She added the following:

- DC Fly In – She is working on it.

- Operators Exchange Program – No credits lined up right now.
- She will attend the NEWEA Conference and take the booth.
- Not looking to do a lot of handouts.
- Emily will hand out QR codes.

MWUA: Bruce reported the following:

Pine Tree Power Bill and read a report from Jim Cohen. The Tax Revenue loss would be Billions. The public is tired of the high rates.

Tim indicated that MeWEA will sign on.

Preparing for their MWUA conference – gave an update and said MeWEA can have a free booth. Tim is looking to have someone be at the booth. Whoever staffs the booth can come for free. There will be a band playing during the Meet and Greet on Wednesday from 3:30-6:00pm.

The Keynote Speaker is Hannah Pingree

- Legislative Liaison - Jeff McNelly was brought on for 14 hours a week to help at the State House.
- There will be reserved tables at the conference. Bruce indicated that any MeWEA Board members attending can come down in the front and sit at those tables.

Committee Chairs: Tim indicated he worked on the Board & Committee list and sent it out. He thanked all that volunteered to host a board meeting. Terms expiring are all 2023 at this point, but he asked if the chairs would let him know via email, phone what their expected term is?

Membership: No report

MeWEA: Cindy reported on the following for Joan Kiszely:

- Legislative Breakfast was worked on.
- Ski Day working on.
- Clean Water Week Poster Contest notification went out and a reminder will be sent out the first of February.

Legislation Advocate: Jim Cohen reported on the following:

- Successful breakfast.
- 15 Legislators – staff from Collins and King
- List of Legislative LR – about 2,400 range – lots of PFAS – Water – etc. Bills
- Budget was released last week.

- Appropriations will hold committee meetings by February.
- Committees are meeting and doing introductions.
- Committee Orientation

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards Committee: No report

Collections System: Travis Jones reported the following:

- Brown & Caldwell study is ready for receiving but they need funding and just not sure how to fund it. It is with DEP right now and feels they did their part.

Convention Committee: Phil Tucker reported the following:

- Signed the 2023 Contract to be held at Sunday River for the Fall Convention.
- Tim reviewed the 2023 Events/Meeting Schedule calendar.

Communications Report: Bryanna Denis was not on.

Tim reported the following:

- Tim worked with Joan on the Events Schedule. She needs to email it out.
- Tim will host the summer meeting – Potluck BBQ at his home in Oakland.
- Joint Board meeting at the MWUA’s Conference for officers from both boards to talk about how things are going and anything else they think needs to be discussed.

Government Affairs Report: Amanda Smith and Emily Cole-Prescott -They reported on the following:

- Jim gave a good update.
- Stakeholders Meeting
- Thanked everyone on the work of the Legislative Breakfast
- January 25 - Amanda Smith will attend the ?? Needs talking points.
- Maybe reach out to Diana
- Doing it in Alpha order
- Jim Cohen indicated the following: Keep remarks positive. Highlight on who we are and who we represent. Goal & Mission to educate and we serve a purpose. Issues we follow. Encourage people to take tours.
- Emily will set up a meeting the end of January,

Laboratory: Andy Wendell was absent. No report.

Personnel Advancement Report: Charlene Poulin submitted a report.

She added the following:

- Having more collaboration with other groups.
Phyllis is working with Youlanda Brooks for the MWUA conference session.
- Believes we are all set with their sessions for MWUA.
- She will be starting on sessions for the Fall Convention in the Spring.

Pretreatment Report: Terry Tucker reported on the following:

- She indicated that she would continue with Pretreatment until she finds a replacement.
- They are having a meeting tomorrow with Jim Crowley from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Portland Water District. This is an in-person meeting. There will be an EPA webinar on 1/31/2023.

Public Relations: Evan Pereira reported the following:

- Meeting in December
- Meeting with Diana on Friday
- Will have a more updated plan.

Residual Management Report: Andre Brousseau and Travis Peaslee submitted a report.

- Land Applications
- 87 % of Biosolids is going to Canada.
- Air permitting will be stricter.
- Landfills

Storm Water Report: Sarah King reported not much has changed. She reported on the watershed.

MS4 Regional Permitting: Will be pushing out information.

Treatment Plant Operator Report: Alex Buechner not present.

Young Professionals Report: Sierra Kuun was not present.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Presidents Report: Tim Wade reported the following:

- Term limits on the Board discussion.

- Coalition
- Cindy or Joan to send out the Workforce Survey from NEWEA
- Contract between MWUA & MeWEA. There was a discussion that followed. The response was \$30,778 on the Administrative Contract. Discussion on last year's total number for cost. Phil indicated he played a big role in being with MWUA. Phil is not comfortable in the contract that is presented. He indicated they are looking at NEWEA for administrative services. They do administrative services for Mass, Vermont, CT and New Hampshire. Rhode Island and Maine are looking for their service. NEWEA was supposed to have a quote by the end of December. They pushed that back after Rhode Island contacted them. They also noted it will be at least six (6) months before they would be able to onboard MeWEA. There was a suggest about doing a a la carte approach. Tim and others are not in favor of a a la carte approach. Tim suggested we work with NEWEA in what they can offer for 2024. We do work well with MWUA and there should not be hard feelings on either part. Rob likes the idea to look at NEWEA but for this year we should stay with MWUA. They have provided a list of services they provide.
Travis Peaslee thinks the board needs to look at what is sustainable. Tim would like to have an ad hoc committee to look at the value of what they are getting and there needs to be some thought into what their needs are. Maybe the committee should look at what the other State gets from NEWEA.

1st Vice President Report: Emily had no report.

2nd Vice President Report: Terry Tucker indicated that Peter would like us to get the information about North Country out to our members.

Adjourn: Motion made by Andre' Brousseau, seconded by Terry Tucker all approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.