

Approved

MeWEA Executive Board Meeting

Brunswick Sewer District

In-Person & Zoom

December 15, 2023

MINUTES

Attendance: Andre Brousseau, Bryanna Denis, Tim Wade, Charlene Poulin, Sierra Kuun, Terry Tucker, Phil Tucker, Rob Pontau, Jeff McBurnie, Emily Cole Prescott, Stacy Thompson, Amanda Smith, Jennifer Nicholson, Jim Cohen & Cindy Wade.

Zoom Attendance: Gregg Wood, Paula Drouin, Alex Buechner, Evan Pereira, Diana Nelson.

Call to Order: President Tim Wade called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

Quorum: It was determined there was a Quorum.

Minutes: Motion made by Phil Tucker, seconded by Rob Pontau, all approved the November 17, 2023, minutes

Treasurer's Report/Budget: Jeff McBurnie reported on the November 2023 financial report. & budget. Jeff reported the following:

- Rob Pontau made a motion to approve the November financial report, seconded by Phil Tucker, all approved,
- Jeff McBurnie reported on what was completed to date on the budget.
- Jeff recommended that we postpone voting on the budget until January giving the Committee Chairs time to relook at their individual budgets to see if additional cuts could be made and to hold off on the contractual concerns until the Strategic Planning Session.
- Jeff noted that Travis does not want to be the new Treasurer and will need to get a replacement on to train as he only has 2 more years.
- Phil indicated that someone from Kennebunk Savings might be interested.

- Motion made by Andre Brousseau, seconded by Emily Prescott to table the approval of the 2024 budget until January.

Old Business:

Utility Manager Committee report: Rob Pontau reported the following:

- There are about 15 or 16 signed up to be on this committee.
- Trying to keep it to one person per utility facility.
- They have not had a meeting yet.

Planners & Wastewater Utilities Event in the Spring Update: Emily Cole Prescott reported the following:

- Working on a wine/water event with utilities along with Economic Development and Planners.
- Met with GPCOG and Biddeford/ Saco Chamber to talk about next steps.
- Working on a date for this event for some time in March or April, possibly to be held at Thorton Academy.
- Hoping to have everything all set by the end of January.
- Phil mentioned that the State Housing Commissioner is also interested in being a part of this.

Black Fly Meda: Evan & Diana reported on the following:

- They met recently with the Public Relations and Legislative Committee. They came up with some key bills. Productive meeting and having some check in meetings to keep moving forward.
- Diana gave a brief update of how things are going with public outreach. The strategy is finally sound and moving in the right direction. She mentioned that the press is stretched thin and press releases are the better way to go. She mentioned that she has had 4 positive media stories but is looking for more potential stories that are positive and can help put us in a better light. She is currently working on a couple stories now, one being about veterans in the industry, and she will be getting a quote from Travis Peaslee on that.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

DEP Report: Gregg Wood reported the following:

- Did a presentation at Management Candidate School at Yarmouth. It was a good class.

- Had a Public Hearing on Section 316B of the Clean Water Act regarding cooling water intake.
- Updating the MEPDES rules.
- EPA wants Maine to start using their applications.
- Moving forward with the phosphorus rule. Notices will be coming out regarding rulemaking.
- Having trouble hiring the last permit writer.

JETCC-NEIWPC: Peter Zaykoski was not present. But he submitted a report.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE: Jim Cohen reported the following:

- SRF – Report from drinking water. Is there is a gap from what was allocated to what is available? Now is the time to get a handle and should we push the legislature to make sure we get allocation. We need a collective effort with DEP, MEWEA, and MWUA.
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- Amanda noted she had a long conversation on this with Brian K yesterday. He indicated they need an association like ours to lay a foundation for some kind of sustainable form. Brian will give a presentation on this at the Legislative Breakfast. Tim suggested they work with the MWUA Legislative committee.
- Legislators start up again on January 3, 2024.
- Legislators will review all carryover bills and have till the end of January.
- There are over 60 bills.
- They will adjourn around April 16th or 17, 2024.

State Directors Report: Paula Drouin submitted a report. She added the following:

- Working on getting NEWEA a list of MeWEA 2024 events.
- Tim asked about the workforce email & getting it out.

MWUA: Rob Pontau reported the following:

- MWUA Bi-Monthly meeting was yesterday.
- Job posting is out for a new Executive Director.
- Kate Marriner who worked part-time for MWUA has moved on, however Cindy has hired a temp for now.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards: Mike Guethle: No report!

Collection System: Charlene reported that they met on Monday. Kevin & Ashley will be the new Chair of this committee. They will start getting some training programs going.

Communications: Bryanna Denis reported on the following:

- The November newsletter went out. Going down to 3 a year working out better and are reaching out to try to get more sponsors.
- The next issue will be going out at the end of March.
- The deadline for the March issue for articles will be mid-February.

Convention: Stacy Thompson had nothing to report.

Ski Day: Stacy indicated the brochure is almost completed. This event will be at Saddleback. She is trying to keep the price reasonable. It will be \$5 more this year than in 2023.

Government Affairs: Amanda Smith indicated that she is working on the Legislative Breakfast.

Laboratory: Andy Wendell was not present.

Stephen Knollmeyer of Alpha Analytical will be the new Chair of this committee starting in January.

Membership Committee: Jennifer Nicholson submitted a report.

- Discussion on if MeWEA wants a booth at the MWUA conference.
- Rob indicated MeWEA could do a drive to get other organizations to join.

Personnel Advancement Report: Charlene Poulin reported the following:

- All set on sessions /track for MWUA conference.

- Needs to reach out to get Moderators and speaker forms.
- She will be calling for Abstracts for the fall convention in early spring.

Pretreatment Report: Terry Tucker reported the following:

- Going to hold a meeting the day after the Legislative
- Breakfast at the South Portland Treatment Plant.
- Brief discussion about Jim Crowley being huge asset and that this will be his last Pretreatment.
- Riley Cobb will be the new Chair of the Pretreatment Committee starting in January.

Public Relations: Evan Pereira submitted a committee report (attached at the end of minutes). He added the following:

- Start of the New Year he will get a group together to get involved in PR.
- He reached out to several districts about getting sponsorship for Black Fly media for part of 2024.

Residual Management Report: Travis Peaslee & Andre Brousseau submitted a report. (attached at the end of minutes). Andre Brousseau added the following:

- NEWIPCC is going to be monitoring the activity throughout New England regarding drying technology. What are municipalities doing with solids handling and what are they trying out?
- Statewide biosolids study will be hitting the streets in the next couple of weeks.

Stormwater: Charlene Poulin reported the following:

- Was going to have a meeting today but not because of the MeWEA meeting.
- Paula will be contacting her committees as new Council Directory to get a meeting going.

Treatment Plant Operator Report: Alex Buechner reported the following:

- Clean Water week Poster Contest announcement went out.

- Going to set up a meeting soon.
- More updates coming on the peer-to-peer review.

New Professionals Report: Sierra Kuun reported on the following:

- They will be holding a meeting next week and they are working on the Water professional's day which is scheduled for June 22nd.
- She also mentioned that someone reached out to her in regards to a potential Mentor Program.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Presidents Report: Tim Wade reported the following:

- Tim asked if there was a good plan moving forward in relation to the new Council Directors.
Phil mentioned they were getting ready to reach out to their respective committees to have a meeting and get some collaboration moving forward.
- Tim thanked everyone for their support over the past 3-4 years.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Phil mentioned that he is on NEBRA's Board and asked about NEBRA coming to their meetings.

Jeff indicated they attended last year's Legislative Breakfast. After brief discussion it was decided to have a representative from NEBRA to give updates.

Bill in Massachusetts – No PFAS structure. This bill is very concerning. There was a brief discussion on this bill.

Upcoming Events

MeWEA & MWUA – Legislative Breakfast, January 16, 2024, Augusta Civic Center.

MWUA

MWUA Annual Conference - January 31-February 1, 2024, Augusta Civic Center

NEWEA

2024 Annual Conference January 21-24, 2024. Boston Marriott Copley Place Boston, Massachusetts.

Spring Meeting May 19-22, 2024 – Spring Meeting, The Viking Hotel, Newport, RI.

MeWEA Fall Convention –September 18,19,20, 2024, Sunday River.

JETCC

North Country Convention – Spring 2025. Presque Isle

NEXT BOARD MEETING: January 16, 2024, Augusta Civic Center

Adjourn: Motion made by Phil Tucker, seconded by Terry Tucker, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 a.m.



REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER **REPORT**

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

15 University Dr

Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE NAME: JETCC

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: November 16, 2023

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Our fall training schedule will wrap up next week with a three day Grades 3-5 Exam Prep class in Bangor at EMCC (December 19-21). We will kick off the new year with a four day Grade 1-2 Exam Prep class in Bangor (January 8-11) and a remote 6-hr training on Biological Nutrient Removal with Michael Gerardi on January 16-17.

Management Candidate School continues in Yarmouth. Our second class covered Rules, Regulations, and Why on December 13. Our next class will be on January 10 and cover Real World Management and Leadership Skills.

Wastewater Operator School registration is open. We currently have 10 students signed up. Please encourage anyone who is interested to register within the next week. The program will begin on January 4.

DECISIONS MADE:

The Committee will seek to plan an event associated with the May meeting to solicit ideas on training topics for the next fiscal year. I intend on inviting a wide variety of industry professionals. Please reach out with your interest to help me plan this event or ideas on how to make this effort successful.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: The date for the next JETCC Meeting is February 8, 2024. It will be held at KSTD.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

NAME: Peter Zaykoski, JETCC Program Manager

DATE SUBMITTED: 12/14/2023



REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER **REPORT**

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

15 University Dr

Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE NAME: Membership

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Membership renewal letters will be going out

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: None

DECISIONS MADE: None

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: No action plan right now

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: None

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: None

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jennifer Nicholson

NAME: [Jennifer Nicholson](#)

DATE SUBMITTED: December 6, 2023



REPRESENTATIVE/COMMITTEE/OFFICER REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

15 University Dr.
Augusta ME 04330

COMMITTEE: NEWEA State Director

NAME: Paula Drouin

- Legislative Breakfast, Ski Day and Fall Convention dates are on the NEWEA calendar, but if we have any other known event dates and locations for next year, please let me know so I can update the shared NEWEA calendar that is used for planning.

Upcoming events: (<https://www.newea.org/events/calendar/>)

- January 21-24: NEWEA Annual Conference, Boston Marriott Copley Place
 - April 9 – 12: WEF/NEWEA Collection Systems and Stormwater Conference, Hartford, CT
 - April 8 – 9: DC Fly In Hilton Washington DC National Mall
 - April 10 – 12: WEFMAX - Old Town Alexandria, Virginia
 - May 15 - 17, 2024 - WEFMAX - Park City, Utah
 - May 18-22 Spring Meeting, The Viking Hotel, Newport, RI
 - September 27, 2024 NEWEA Golf Classic - Derryfield Country Club, Manchester, NH
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- I attended the MEWEA Govt. Affairs meeting on 11/15 and Unconscious Bias training on 11/15 & 11/28.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Paula Drouin

DATE SUBMITTED: 12/15/2023