

Approved

MeWEA Executive Board Meeting Agenda
City of Saco Public Works Department - In person
December 20, 2024

MINUTES

In-person: Emily Cole Prescott, Stacy Thompson, Jeff McBurnie, Terry Tucker, Phil Tucker, Andre Brousseau, Rob Pontau, Sierra Kuun, Tim Wade, Andy Begin, Cindy Wade

Virtual Attendance: Charlene Poulin, Alex Buechner, Gregg Wood, Paula Drouin, Dan Marks, Peter Zaykowski, Evan Pereira

Call to Order: President Emily Prescott called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

Quorum: It was determined there was a Quorum.

Minutes: Motion made by Rob Pontau, seconded by Jeff McBurnie, all approved the November 15, 2024 minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff McBurnie did not submit a report and asked to table the budget. Stated we were in good shape, but still need to be conscious of spending. He is currently transferring everything over to new accounts with MMA.

Phil is going to put together proposed new rates to discuss as part of the budget process.

Motion was made by Phil Tucker, seconded by Tim Wade, all approved to table the budget until the next Executive Board meeting.

Old Business:

Utility Manager Committee report: Rob Pontau reported the following:

- They met last week about 7 showed up and had some good discussion. Shared folder is now set up and working out pretty good.
- Terry and Rob spoke about making the Utility Manager's Committee a permanent stand-alone committee which would not fall under a Council Director. The Committee would be chaired by the President-Elect and Co-Chaired by the Vice President.

Motion was made by Jeff McBurnie and seconded by Phil Tucker, all approved to put the by-law change as presented and bring before the members for a vote at the Spring Business Meeting.

Planners & Wastewater Utilities Event Update: Emily Prescott had no report at this time. She indicated she will make an update when things start happening.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

DEP REPORT: Gregg Wood reported the following:

Gregg discussed the Human Health Criteria put out by EPA for PFOS and PFOA, which if passed would not be good. Emily Prescott asked what MeWEA could do to help. Gregg stated that the State Toxicologist will need to look at it and DEP will provide comment. There is a 60-day comment period. Emily asked that the PFAS subgroup be put together again to discuss further so MeWEA can provide comment.

JETCC-NEIWPCC: Peter Zaykoski

Peter recapped his report as follows:

- There is still room in the collection system exam prep class.
- Rescheduled WET testing class to January 23rd.
- Peter asked about putting trainings on the calendar on the website. Paula stated that we met with MMA on the website and they will be providing log-ins for access.
- Peter noted that Spring will be retiring and will be looking for a replacement.

MWUA Update: Andy Begin reported the following:

- Just held their bi-monthly meeting.
- Gearing up for the legislative season.
- Working on the February Annual Conference.
- Public Awareness Committee has been resurrected to try to ramp up its communications a bit more.

NEBRA UPDATE: Phil Tucker did submit a report. He added that the 600 Rules of New Hampshire were passed which established extremely low rules for any sort of land application.

NEWEA State Director – Paula did not have a report. Jeff reported on the DC Fly-In that it will be April 8-9. Terry Tucker stated that she is trying to work with NEWWA to find out how many people they are planning to send as well so that we can travel and meet together as one water.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Cindy stated that they have been working to get things transferred over to MMA.

COUNCIL DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

OUTREACH COUNCIL: Phil Tucker did submit a report, but also reported on the following:

- Matt Sullivan from Seacoast Online reached out looking for any stories on clean water. Phil is working with Diana on this. They are looking at Saco's upgrade as a good story.
- Emily asked as we move forward with stories and working with Diana to also think about the housing and development aspect of things.

Government Affairs- Dan Marks reported the following:

- Right now, just preparing for the Legislative Breakfast which is February 25th. Diana sat in on a joint planning session with MWUA for the Legislative Breakfast and helped with outlining an agenda.
- We are watching this session for bills that are important to us. Cloture is January 10th.
- Legislature has made some changes in regards to placeholder bills which should change things for the better.

- The expiration of the Bulky Waste bill is up in July is a big item for us. BGS report won't be ready until mid-January. Working on getting something together for this. Trying to get out there and meet with some representatives to see if we can get ahead of this.
- Phil stated that regardless of what the report says, we are still going to need to extension.
- Phil also mentioned the bill for the family medical leave. It doesn't seem like we should spend the energy and time on this one as there is probably no chance of this passing.

Membership – Jen Nicholson was not present

Public Relations – Evan Pereira was present and reported on the following:

- Meeting continuously on a biweekly basis with Diana. He stated that we had a planning session for the year, and working with Diana and Government Affairs.
- Evan also mentioned reaching out to see if there is any more interest in sponsoring from different utilities.

PERSONNEL ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL: Stacy Thompson, Director, reported the following:

Stacy reported on the following:

Ski Day - Currently working on getting proposals from Loon and Attitash.

Convention – Justin Barnett and Tim Wade – They need to submit a budget.

New Professionals – Sierra Kuun – working on getting a poo and brew together and Sea Dogs Event again.

Professional Development

Charlene reported that we are all set for the MWUA conference. Still looking for moderators. Gearing up for fall.

TREATMENT SYSTEMS OPERATION COUNCIL: Paula Drouin submitted a report. She recapped her report as follows:

Pretreatment Committee

- NEWEA had an industrial wastewater committee conference at Allagash Brewing in Portland. There was a really good turnout and everything went well.

Residuals Committee

- Andre reported on Waste Management's Dryer project. The project has started up in Norridgewock. Expecting dryers to be delivered sometime in February and are ahead of schedule. They also just opened up a 20-acre landfill cell that will not need bulky waste. They will also be doing PFAS removal of condensate.
- Aries is also looking to set up a similar drying facility on a private piece of land. Sanford has been asked to support that project if it comes to fruition.

Treatment Plant Operators Committee

- They haven't met for a while but Paula stated that she expects that they will have one sometime early next year.
- Operations Challenge – looking for one new team member. Ops Challenge is looking to do a silent auction.
- Still plugging their peer-to-peer program. Just approved 3 operators who will be taking advantage of this program.

Stormwater Committee

Nothing to report at this time.

Collection Systems Committee

Paula stated she attended their meeting on the 10th. Kevin Eaton has stepped down as Chair and Ashley Jones will be moving into the Chair position. They talked about their budget for next year, the cornhole tournament, etc., and what they want to do. Ashley's plan will be to plan to attend convention committee meetings closer to the convention in relation to the cornhole tournament.

Lab Committee reported: Paula stated that she was actually able to hold a meeting on the 5th and there were 5 people on that call and talked about trying to revive this committee and what the committee can be used for. They will try to meet quarterly.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Presidents Report: Emily reported on the following.

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President-Elect Report: Terry Tucker reported the following.

- She met with Chelsea Carll who will be our new admin person with MMA and went over everything with her and what to expect.
- Still working on some transitional things to MMA.
- Been working with MWUA on the newsletter template with MailChimp. Pretty much will be a plug and play and working on setting up a shared drive and hopefully have a first draft newsletter in February.
- Been working with MWUA on joint sponsorships and new ways to do those. A packet will go out the first of the year and sponsors will pay one lump sum and check a box for add-on sponsors such as cornhole, sea dogs, and ski day for the separate organizations. The one lump sum will go into one account that can be used where needed. This will help streamline the sponsorships.

Motion was made by Jeff McBurnie to accept the new joint sponsorship form and make minor revisions as needed going forward seconded by Phil Tucker all approved.

Vice President Report: Rob Pontau reported the following.

- No report

Immediate Past President: Tim Wade

- Tim did not have anything to report, but thanked everyone for his time on the Board.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

ADJOURMENT

Motion made by Rob Pontau, seconded by Phil Tucker, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:59 am.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|---------------------------|---|
| NEWEA Annual Conference: | January 27-29 - Copley Place, Boston |
| MWUA Annual Conference: | February 5 th and 6 th – Augusta Civic Center |
| North Country Convention: | April 2 nd and 3 rd – Presque Isle |