



APPROVED

MEWEA Executive Board Meeting
Friday, January 17, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Remote Access via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendance: Terry Tucker, Rob Pontau, Amanda Smith, Emily Cole-Prescott, Jeff McBurnie, Phil Tucker, Paula Drouin, Stacy Thompson, Andy Begin, Andre Brousseau, Daniel Marks, Sierra Kuun, Ali Clift, Alex Buechner, Gregg Wood, and Chelsea Carll (MMA).

Absent: Travis Peaslee, Bryanna Denis, Jennifer Nicholson, Peter Zaykoski, Justin Barnett, Tim Wade, Michael Guethle, Ashley Jones, Charlene Poulin, Evan Pereira, Jodie Keene, David Dane

Call to Order: President Terry Tucker called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Quorum: It was determined there was a quorum to conduct business.

Minutes: Terry Tucker reported that the minutes were drafted by herself.

Motion made by Phil Tucker, seconded by Rob Pontau, all approved the December 20, 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff McBurnie submitted a report. He added that he sent officers and council directors a drafted 2025 MEWEA budget for review. He estimated a 5.7% budget increase over last year and will start the year with over \$93,000. He reported that about half of the forecasted membership dues have been collected, and sponsorship funds are forthcoming. He advised the group to be mindful of their expenditures, ensuring they are necessary in alignment with the board's mission. He summarized that it would be a total operating budget of approximately \$225,000.

Jeff reported that there is a new check request form templated and will work with MMA on aligning the form to their preferences. One discrepancy is that there is one field on the MMA form for treasurer approval, so Jeff has asked council directors for their pre-approval via email.

Motion made by Rob Pontau, seconded by Amanda Smith, all approved the 2025 MEWEA Budget. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Utility Manager Committee report: Rob Pontau reported the following:

The committee met in December and added a few committee members since that meeting. He reported that the committee is going well and does not anticipate an increase in members would impact their progress.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**DEP REPORT:** Gregg Wood reported the following:

The Water Bureau is meeting next week internally to feed information to the commissioner's office to assist with their response to the human health criteria proposed by the EPA. He said that everything PFAS-related goes through the commissioner's office and anticipates that the office will have a formal response to the proposed criteria at some point. Gregg will focus on advocacy for their position on the topic and follow up with any updates.

Gregg spoke about a call he participated in with Brian Kavanaugh and a half a dozen others regarding Maine's engagement in a lawsuit against 3M and Dupont over PFAS. He reported that the attorney representing the state is requesting "all of our records" on DMR data, applications, permits, and other files to be compiled for this case, of which he said will take considerable efforts. He said that this is all public information, and reported this case to ensure everyone was aware. Amanda Smith inquired about who the attorney was, and a name was not given.

Gregg reported that he is working with Brian on proposed fees increases for storm water and agriculture, as they have not been updated for several years. He will follow up with the board on those proposed increases, and the intentions behind them.

Gregg is in his third round of MS4 appeals, and looking to get his next draft of modifications out by the end of the month.

Lastly, he reported that two more permit writers have been hired and will begin work in the next 4-5 weeks.

Amanda inquired Gregg about whether Katie Rosenberg is going to be the state representative for the EPA, and Gregg confirmed that will take place. Andre asked Gregg who the MS4 appeal is from, and Gregg said that it is from the Friends of Casco Bay.

JETCC-NEIWPC: Peter Zaykoski is out on paternity leave, and Jeff McBurnie reported the following:

The spring schedule is set for 2025 for upcoming trainings, and management candidate school is currently underway. He reported that the North Country Convention will take place in April, and registration is open. He advises everyone to make their hotel reservations as soon as possible.

MWUA Update: Andy Begin reported the following:

Andy reported that an upcoming board meeting will take place on January 21, and will include a review of audit findings, a review of employee handbook policies, and the election of officers. Their annual conference is taking place February 5 and 6, and is currently open for registration, as well as the Legislative breakfast on February 25. He told the group to save the date for their summer retreat on August 6 at Lost Valley.

NEBRA UPDATE: Phil Tucker reported the following:

Phil reported on the recent biosolids risk assessment, and NEBRA's current task to determine how they plan to respond.

NEWEA State Director: Andre Brousseau reported on the following:

Andre reported that he is heading to Boston to participate in ASA meetings and noted that he plans to attend an executive meeting on Sunday, and awards committee on Tuesday. Jeff McBurnie added NEWEA has begun making plans for the DC Fly In, and shared that they are partnering with NEWWA

this year on the event, along with NACWA and AWWA. NEWWA and NEWEA representatives have met to discuss the arrangement. Jeff spoke about their communication strategy to market this event to state directors, and to help solicit delegates to participate. He added that NEWEA's government affairs committee will be meeting soon to discuss the organization of the event.

Andre asked for the event dates of the Fly In, and Jeff said that it is April 8-10. There was a discussion about who will be attending for water and wastewater representation. Terry will be going as the MEWEA President, Emily will go as planning director of Saco, Rob might attend as president-elect, and there may be an opening if the state director wants to go. Andre will coordinate with the attendees. Paula inquired about a YP scholarship to bring one to the Fly In. Emily added that last year's scholarship was \$800.

MMA AFFILIATE LIASON: Chelsea Carll reported on the following:

Chelsea Carll introduced herself to the board as their new contact for administrative services at MMA. She outlined her role, and how she assists the board.

Chelsea presented proposed language for MEWEA to adopt for their cancellation policy for their future events. She explained that each affiliate group has an established cancellation policy for registration changes/refunds/cancellations, and their policy would be posted to their website. The language she proposed reflected MMA's current policy, with the addition of a statement that their policy may change dependent upon the event and for interested members to see the final brochures for cancellation timelines.

Jeff McBurnie supports the implementation of the cancellation policy. The group agreed to move forward without a vote.

Chelsea also inquired with the group about their plans for their executive board meeting on May 16. There was a question whether this meeting would be hosted at MMA or remotely. Emily confirmed that the May meeting will be hybrid and hosted at Saco City Hall.

Chelsea ran through the event timelines that are in accordance with MEWEA's administrative services agreement. MMA requires all brochure details for an event by 8 weeks in advance, and from there, a week is required for processing.

Chelsea Carll also reported that she sent out a communication to membership regarding how to be prepared with a login for the eBusiness platform in advance to next week's registration opening for Ski Day.

Terry spoke with Stacy about arranging a call with Chelsea to speak about the 2026 Fall Convention.

COUNCIL DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

OUTREACH COUNCIL: Phil Tucker submitted a report, and did not have anything further to add.

Communications- Bryanna Denis was not present to add to the report.

Government Affairs- Amanda Smith and Dan Marks reported the following:

Amanda thanked Dan for his recent work on the committee. Dan added to the submitted report that he met with Falmouth's delegation this week, which included Senator Pierce (majority leader

in this year's Senate. He reported that they spoke about the LD25 \$50 million bond and the sunset of LD718. Dan was in Augusta this week and introduced MEWEA to the ENR committee. He is awaiting information on future committee dates. Amanda inquired Dan about whether the language for the extension on LD718 was submitted before cloture, and Dan believes it was submitted in time. Dan also is working with MWUA on the agenda for the Legislative Breakfast.

Membership – Jen Nicholson was not present to add to the report.

Public Relations – Evan Pereira was not present to add to the report.

PERSONNEL ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL: Stacy Thompson submitted a report, but also reported on the following:

Registration will be open next week for Ski Day, hosted at Attitash Mountain. Patty is working on the logistics regarding that venue. Stacy is working on the awards nomination timeline, will be working on a call for Abstracts soon, and meeting with Chelsea in February to discuss Convention plans.

Awards – Mike Guethle was not present to add to the report.

Convention – Justin Barnett and Tim Wade were not present to add to the report.

Young Professionals – Sierra Kuun reported on the following:
Sierra will be meeting with Dennis next week to look at Sea Dogs outing dates.

Personnel Advancement – Charlene Poulin was not present to add to the report.

TREATMENT SYSTEMS OPERATION COUNCIL: Paula Drouin submitted a report, but also reported on the following:

Stormwater Committee – Paula reported that Ali was not available for today's call due to tech issues and reported on her behalf that they have received a request for MEWEA's comments on Chapter 583 for new freshwater criteria.

Treatment Plant Operators Committee – Alex Buechner reported on the following:
There is an Ops Challenge meeting at NEWEA in Boston in two weeks, and he will be working with MMA to work on further communications for the Poster Contest.

Residuals Committee – Andre Brousseau was present and reported on the following:
They met on LD25 Biosolids Infrastructure \$50 million bond this week and is anticipating feedback from the Governor's office within a week. Andre reported that the EPA put out a risk assessment for PFOA, PFAs and biosolids, and mentioned the CDD with LD1718 and that it is expiring in 2025. He said that Travis met recently with VERIDI for the Brunswick Digester, and they are moving ahead with the design phase. He reported that Travis also met with Norridgewock's waste management at their facility and said that they are likely to be making their rounds to clean water facilities for agreements over the next couple of weeks and months. Andre reported that he recently visited the Linden Aries facility in New Jersey this past Monday, as they are citing a similar facility in Sanford. He reported that there are some issues with conveyance at the Sanford location and spoke about changing out their dryer with a different model. Rob added to Andre's report regarding the Brunswick Digester, that they are moving forward with the design, that they should be getting their permit with the district without issue, however they are still

working with the town on zoning since the town adopted contract zoning. They have a hearing with the town council on January 27 to address it. Rob's board of trustees approved a letter of support to submit to the town council, and encouraged others to send support letters.

Pretreatment Committee – Paula reported on David's behalf:

Paula reported that their next meeting is February 11 at 9, at York Sewer District. She added that beginning January 2026, annual pretreatment reports will have to be submitted electronically.

Collection Systems Committee – Ashley Jones was not present to add to the report.

Phil Tucker commented that he met with DEP, a commissioner, water bureau, waste management bureau, and air quality bureau, and that they are going through supercritical water oxidation for four facilities in Maine (and one in Massachusetts). He reported that it appears there will be no additional permitting required if the supercritical oxidation is taking place at the facility itself.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Immediate Past President: Emily Cole-Prescott reported on the following:

Emily reported that she is assisting and had a good meeting with the Friends of Casco Bay. They are looking to coordinate a luncheon for February 11, in which Emily and Andre plan to attend. They will report on that meeting at the February Legislative Breakfast.

Presidents Report: Terry Tucker reported the following:

Terry reported that they have been working on the \$50 Million bond (LD25) on a talking points sheet to share, as well as reaching out to various organizations to get their support on the bond. She reported on the same meeting with Friends of Casco Bay she attended with Emily. She is also working with the government affairs committee and MWUA to get materials finalized for the Legislative Breakfast, and MWUA circulated the flyer to legislators.

President-Elect Report: Rob Pontau did not have a report.

Vice President Report: Amanda Smith reported the following:

Amanda offered her time and support to any committees other than government affairs if they need it.

Jeff inquired to Terry and Emily about whether some of the topics covered at the breakfast will be helpful to add to the Fly In agenda. They may share some topics.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

Jeff McBurnie inquired if there is going to be an extended discussion on the draft risk assessment from the EPA and spoke about the importance of having a proactive, coordinated effort across various organizations for comments. Terry reported that the PFAS subgroup met this week to prepare comments and will meet again on February 3. WEF and NACWA representatives will be attending the next meeting. There was a discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Phil Tucker, seconded by Jeff McBurnie, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 am.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| January 27 – 29 | NEWEA Annual Conference – Copley Place, Boston, MA
https://2025-annual-conference-exhibit.events.newea.org/ |
| February 5-6 | MWUA Annual Conference – Augusta Civic Center
https://mwua.org/mwua-annual-tradeshaw-conference/ |
| February 25th | Legislative Breakfast - Augusta Civic Center
(registration coming soon) |
| March 13th | Ski Day |
| April 2-3 | North Country Convention – Northern Maine Community College
Presque Isle |

COUNCIL DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS - SUBMITTED



TREASURER'S REPORT

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

**Maine Municipal Association
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 1/17/2025

TREASURER NAME: Jeff McBurnie

ACCOUNT/BUDGET STATUS: I've reviewed the end of year (12/31) financial documents, and everything looks to be in order. We ended the year with nearly \$73,000 in our checking account and over \$25,000 in our CD account. Roughly \$29,000 in membership dues have been received, which means that we will still have some revenue coming in to start the year; \$45,000 was forecast/budgeted. Additionally, we should see Sponsorship and Advertising money coming in as well. In our draft budget we have proposed (but not yet approved) an increase of 5.7%, slightly more than \$12,000 year-over-year, so we need to be laser-focused on expenditures this year while continuing to fulfill our mission obligations to our membership. I was able to update the check request form and associated Chart of Accounts so that they are in conformance with the MMA accounting codes.

REMINDER: As always, if you spot errors, have questions, or just want to discuss the Association's general financial status, please don't hesitate to contact me.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: 1/17 Exec. Comm. Mtg - Budget approval

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS: Discuss & Approve Budget

REPORT SUBMITTED BY: Jeff McBurnie

DATE SUBMITTED: 1/16/2025

DISTRIBUTION:

- X MWUA Affiliate Liaison
- X Executive Committee Meeting
- Newsletter
- Other:

Please check if item should be expanded for external release.

Outreach Council Executive Committee Report

1/17/25

Council Director – Phil Tucker

- COVID!

Communications Committee – Bryanna Denis

- Final printed newsletter went out on January 13th.

Government Affairs Committee – Amanda Smith/Daniel Marks

- We held a GAC meeting on December 18.
- Legislative Committees have been assigned. January 10th was the cloture date
- We have been working on Legislative Breakfast content and logistics for invites
- Working with Jim to develop a bill to extend LD 718 (delay of CDD ban) ahead of cloture. As we understand it now, Rep Bridgeo submitted a bill (from Casella) that would extend LD 718 another 3 years
- I met with Rep. Ankeles (D-Brunswick) and Rep. Bell (D-Yarmouth) at the Brunswick Plant for a tour by Rob and crew. It was a good face-to-face where they got see first hand what we do

Upcoming:

- I am meeting with Sen. Pierce on Monday (Falmouth delegation)
- I am planning to attend ENR Committee orientation on Wednesday 1/15

Membership Committee – Jennifer Nicholson

- Nothing

Public Relations Committee – Evan Pereira

- Held meetings with Diana/planning for PR support with Maine DEP around proposed LD25 WWTF Biosolids bond in collaboration with Government Affairs Committee.
 - Finalizing a fact sheet for use in lobbying during legislative session.
 - Working to identify other organizations in support of the proposed bill.
- PR Support for Legislative Breakfast planning with Government Affairs Committee.
- Finalized Q1 PR Plan, with Diana for MEWEA, MWUA plan for Q1 being finalized now.

Personnel Advancement Executive Committee Report

1/17/25

Council Director – Stacy Thomposn

- Working with Patty (NHWPCA) to solidify planning of ski day, which will be March 13, 2025 at Attitash. Registration should be open early next week.

Awards – Mike Guethle

- No update.

New Professionals – Sierra Kuun

- Working on Sea Dog event in early summer. Will touch base when next New Professional meeting is scheduled.

Personnel Advancement – Charlene Poulin

- Sessions are set for the MWUA happening in February.
- After this is set, will begin requestion abstracts for the Fall Convention in September 2025.

Convention– Justin Barnett

- Will soon begin planning for Fall Convention (Early-mid March).

MEWEA Executive Committee Meeting – January 17, 2025
Treatment Systems Council Director Report
Submitted by: Paula Drouin

The Stormwater Committee reported:

- MS4 permittees are still waiting on field and desk audit information for their permit
- The permit modification for low impact development ordinances is under revision, hoping for another review draft by end of January
 - permittees are beginning to adopt low impact development practices while waiting for permit modification
- There have been lots of DEP policy changes
 - Chapter 500 (stormwater management rules) revisions - stakeholder process is winding down, so the rule making process and stormwater manual updates will be happening soon. <https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/stormwater/ch500.html>
 - New Maine Construction General Permit is in effect <https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/stormwater/construction.html>
 - Chapter 583 - Nutrient Criteria for Class AA, A, B, and C Fresh Surface Waters (*Will MEWEA be submitting comments regarding this proposed new rule? comments due 1/28 @5 PM*)
 - There is a proposed DEP bill to update the permit fee schedule, the annual MS4 permit fee would increase ~\$1,000
- MS4 permittees are gathering information for assessing outfalls for wet weather monitoring
- DOT, Long Creek Watershed Management District, and communities are working on chloride reduction BMPs and pilot projects but likely won't have enough information for national Winter Salt Awareness Week (1/27-1/31)

The Residuals Committee reported:

- The CDD study and associated legislation to address LD 718 which expires July 2025
- Travis Peaslee met with Viridi (Brunswick Digester), they are still moving ahead and are currently in the design phase
- Travis Peaslee met with Waste Management, they are currently under construction and plan to offer service agreements to facilities over the next few weeks
- Andre Brousseau visited Aries gasification project in NJ and has been having local discussions about sitting a project within Sanford. Andre noted they have conveyance issues, but they plan to address them if they come to Sanford.
- LD25 – Biosolids infrastructure bond for dryer projects. Should hear from the gov office soon

- EPA published the risk assessment for PFOA and PFOS in biosolids - <https://www.epa.gov/biosolids/draft-sewage-sludge-risk-assessment-perfluorooctanoic-acid-pfoa-and-perfluorooctane>

The Treatment Plant Operators Committee had no report.

The Collection Systems Committee had no report.

The Pretreatment Committee reported:

- Their next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th at 9:00 at York Sewer District.
- On December 16, 2024 State Pretreatment Coordinator Bradley Kelso emailed the Committee regarding the State's compliance with 40 CFR 127 (NPDES Electronic Reporting) as it pertains to Pretreatment Annual Reports. Annual Reports submitted on or after January 1, 2026 must be submitted using EPA's Central Data Exchange (CDX) platform. EPA has offered several webinars on this topic. EPA Region I Pretreatment Coordinator Jay Pimpore has offered to provide an overview of the program to Committee members.

The Laboratory Committee reported:

They will be planning their next meeting for some time in March.