

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Week of February 3, 2025

Just like that we are already into February and it's finally starting to feel like winter.

January has proven to be quite eventful thus far. Things are starting to move on the legislative side. MeWEA has been collaborating with the Maine DEP to support [LD25](#). The allocated funds from this bond will be utilized for grants aimed at assisting municipalities, quasi-municipal entities and unorganized townships with wastewater treatment facility planning and construction of infrastructure projects facilitating proper management and disposal of wastewater sludge or biosolids.

Some legislative items we are keeping an eye on are:

[LD231](#) An Act to Update the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy.

[LD235](#) Resolve, Regarding the Operation and Future Capacity of State-Owned Landfills

[LD297](#) An Act Regarding the Management of Oversized Bulky Waste

We will continue to keep members updated as we continue to move forward through this legislative session.

As you know EPA has released the draft effluent criteria as well as the draft risk assessment for biosolids. MeWEA will be working with NACWA and WEF to issue comments. We will keep you updated as we proceed.

I had the honor of attending the NEWEA conference in Boston last week and I would like to give a shout out to the award winners from Maine:

EPA Wastewater Trainer of the Year: Patrick Wiley, Southern Maine College

EPA Industrial Pretreatment Program of the Year: York Sewer District

Stockholm Junior Prize Winner – Minchae Kim, Fryeburg

Operator Award - Daniel Laflamme, Wells

Alfred E. Peloquin Award – Howard Carter, Saco

Youth Educator Award – Annette Sloan, York Coastal Ridge Elementary School

Founders Award – Phyllis Rand, Lewiston

Paul Keough Award – Greater Augusta Utility District

NEWEA President-Elect – Scott Firmin, Portland

WEF Quarter Century Operator Award – Philip Tucker, York

WEF Operator Scholarship – Stacy Thompson, Saco

We are preparing for our annual MeWEA/MWUA Legislative Breakfast scheduled for February 25th, as well as the annual DC Water Policy Fly-In taking place in April. MeWEA will partner with NEWWA for the Fly-In to promote the One Water initiative.

MeWEA's spring business meeting will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the North Country Convention. Formal notice with a link for the virtual option will be coming soon.

### Upcoming Events

February 25th	Legislative Breakfast - Augusta Civic Center Registration ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Ski Day – Attitash Mountain Registration ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
April 2-3	North Country Convention – Northern Maine Community College Presque Isle Registration ( <a href="#">click here</a> )

Theresa Tucker, MeWEA President