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60 Community Drive • Augusta, ME 04330

1-800-452-8786 (in Maine) • 207-623-8428 • Fax 207-624-0128

www.mewea.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 5, 2021

As we wrap up the virtual conventions for both the NEWEA Annual Conference and the MWUA Annual Trade show, we are once again reminded of the unique challenges that Covid-19 continues to present us with. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is hosting a series of webinars on COVID-19 vaccination for essential workers, including a webinar specifically for the Water Sector. The webinar will provide an overview of vaccine distribution and implementation and briefly cover safety and efficacy. Participants are encouraged to submit any questions they have when they register so the presenter can address any FAQs. Here are the webinar logistics:

When: February 10, 2021; 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Update on COVID-19 Vaccination for Essential Workers

Audience: Drinking water and wastewater treatment workforce, including engineers, sanitation workers, and other administrative and professional staff

Register in advance for this

webinar: https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_nldhO7LWQf6kOLCkWq1eXA

Or an H.323/SIP room system:

H.323: 161.199.138.10 (US West) or 161.199.136.10 (US East)

Meeting ID: 161 172 1632

Passcode: 14483787

SIP: 1611721632@sip.zoomgov.com

Passcode: 14483787

I want everyone to know that MEWEA leadership, working with other water and wastewater associations, are doing everything we can to get water and wastewater essential personnel moved up on the priority list for the Covid-19 Vaccine. You can do your part by reaching out to your local state representatives and tell them how important the work we do is. Without drinking water and wastewater utility staff to perform daily operations, this critical infrastructure that underpins society as we know it is at risk. Many of Maine's small utilities could be shut down with just one or two cases of Covid-19 at their facility. I don't have to tell any of you that this simply cannot be allowed to happen. We can't simply close our doors and go home. Hospitals, police stations, and fire stations to name a few all need clean water and sewer to do the especially important work that they do.

Thank you all for your hard work and diligence.

Sincerely,

Phil Tucker

2021 MeWEA President

ptucker@yorksewerdistrict.org



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

It is hard to believe we are already at the end of February. For those of you who love winter sports, you have about a month left. For the rest of us that ask ourselves every single year why we live in the Northeast? It's almost over. I'm very excited to announce our first joint newsletter, titled "**One Water**" with MWUA, which is out today and can be viewed here:

https://www.mewea.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2_21_Final_One_Water_Newsletter_.pdf

The MEWEA Government Affairs Committee is working very hard tracking legislation and offering testimony where needed. MEWEA is looking for sponsors to help fund the cost of a 30-second commercial through Ochang Comics who have done commercials for Keep Maine Clean, BIW, and Southern Maine Chrysler, Dodge, & Jeep. This is to increase awareness of the ongoing non-flushables problem throughout the State. The cost of the commercial is \$3,000, but MEWEA would own the rights to the commercial and would own it forever. Whether it is aired via commercial or social media advertising is still being decided. The goal is to have a funny, but clean, close to home type of commercial that will grab the attention of our younger adults with families as well as all other age groups. If you are able and willing, please make your donations to **MeWEA**, with "Gov't Affairs Committee Donation" in the memo and mail to MEWEA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330.

I'd like to leave you with this poem below written by a retired wastewater operator from Kansas City, MO.

Sincerely,
Phil Tucker, MeWEA President

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Workers' Higher Calling

Around the kingly and regal conference table sat the Chairman and the Board. Staff members were presenting their year-end reports. The chief of staff, Gabriel, stood and reported, "Mr. Chairman, the human race is polluting the waters so much that the natural purification cycle cannot keep up. If the pollution continues at this rate, all of mankind and the poor innocent creatures on earth will soon be poisoned by the contaminated waters."

Gabriel continued, "It is a sad indictment against mankind that these waters that were once clean and clear have now become filthy and foul. The waters that were once bubbling, sparkling, rippling and flowing have now become a nasty, stagnant, foul-smelling cesspool of man's waste." Gabriel requested, "Mr. Chairman may I blow my horn, which will be a signal to our managers to immediately evict all these people who have served as horrible stewards?" The Chairman of the Board rose from His throne-like chair and said, "I understand what you are saying Gabriel, but I am going to give them a little more time on their lease. You see I have a plan to produce wastewater treatment plants to aid in nature's purification process. The designers and builders of these plants will occupy the scene for a while. Nonetheless, the wastewater treatment plant workers will be there from now on and their responsibility will be to maintain and efficiently operate the wastewater treatment plant." So it became a higher calling: the wastewater treatment plant workers' marching orders are to reclaim the waters by recycling, replenishing, and reviving the polluted waters.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 19, 2021

As we move into spring, we are all ramping up for another busy year of construction, disinfection, and for a good portion of the state, tourism. The MEWEA Government Affairs Committee continues to work very hard for our members. The Committee has provided testimony on multiple bills that affect us all. The MEWEA Vice President and Pretreatment Chair continue their work on getting an informational commercial about the problems that non-flushable items cause for sewer systems. Here is a link to a video that was done in New Hampshire: <https://youtu.be/6bmcWqTfhVM>.

I'm sure everyone has heard that President Biden just signed a new \$1.9 trillion stimulus package. Within that legislation \$350 billion was allocated to water, sewer, and broadband and does not need to be COVID-19 related. We do not yet know what the allocations will be for the State or how it will be distributed once Maine gets its share. MEWEA is in contact with state officials to attain this information as soon as possible. We will keep you posted as we become informed.

You may remember in the One Water Newsletter there was a request from DEP for some information regarding biosolids spreading. I am adding that request from DEP to this message to ensure that everyone received it.

1. Review and compile facility records by year for land application fields and quantity land applied per field. This one can be tricky in that we have found that field names often change in the records, so it would be helpful if alias names are used that they be identified in the compilation.

MEWEA supports this effort and encourages members who have run land application programs to provide the requested information if able.

2. Identify major industrial inputs (if any) of PFAS compounds into the biosolids during the time of land application. For example, textile mills may have used PFAS compounds in their process, and hence should be identified if they contributed wastewater to the treatment plant during the time of land application. This information can assist in determining relative risk of a site or field relative to nearby receptors.

MEWEA supports this effort and encourages members who have run land application programs to provide the requested information if able.

3. Take a first cut at prioritizing fields for follow-up evaluation based on information from items 1 and 2 above with the addition of looking at current nearby receptors, typically being residential wells. For example, a field that was subject to higher land application use than another field and has several nearby residential wells would be considered a higher priority than a low-use field with few nearby residential wells.

MEWEA is not inclined to recommend participation but is passing along the request. Along with items 1 and 2, this could require significant staff resources, especially with regard to identifying receptors. Just as the Department has limited resources to take on these tasks, many of our utility members are equally constrained. Given the complexity of this task, this would put pressure on management to take on additional work, where they may already be overburdened by the daily demands of overseeing facility operations and utility management.

4. After discussing items 1 through 3 above with the Department, perform soils testing in identified fields in accordance with approved sampling procedures. This request would necessitate discussions to arrive at an agreed upon plan and would be at a level appropriate for screening a site to understand potential source strength.

MEWEA is not inclined to recommend participation but is passing along the request. Again, the concern is resources, both financial and staffing, as well as other issues that are yet to be defined.

Here is a link to the DEP website where the file information exists for land application programs:

<https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/index.html>. From this page, click on the link to "November 12, 2020 – Maine sludge and ash bio bioash spreading information" for a complete list of all licenses for which there are records. Any information you choose to provide should be sent to Dave Burns at Dave.E.Burns@maine.gov.

Upcoming Events

- The MEWEA Spring Conference is right around the corner and we have lined up 5 sessions plus our regular business meeting. The conference will take place on April 8th and 9th from 8am to noon. Registration information is available here: <https://www.mewea.org/events/spring-conference/>. All sessions have been approved for wastewater operators TCH's and 3 for Water.
- The Urban Runoff, a 5k walk/run to help promote clean water causes in Maine, will be virtual this year. MEWEA annually has a team as part of this event. Please contact the Young Professionals Chair Person Brody Campbell at brody.campbell@wright-pierce.com for more information.
- The DC fly-in is coming up in April and is also virtual this year. This is a great chance for us to coordinate with our federal representatives, please reach out to Immediate Past President Mike Guethle at Michael.guethle@wright-pierce.com if you would like to be involved.

The York Water and Sewer Districts created a coloring book titled, "York's World of Water" that was designed with K-1 in mind. We invite anyone to use it as they see fit. Follow this link to download the coloring book: <https://www.mewea.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/YorksWorldofWater.pdf> I would also invite anyone who wants to share information with the membership to please send it to me at ptucker@yorksewerdistrict.org.

I thank you all again for your continued hard work and dedication to keeping Maine's environment pristine.

Sincerely,
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Phil Tucker, President

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 21, 2021

Spring has finally sprung, and I hope you all are getting out to enjoy the environment we work so hard to protect. There is still a lot of activity going on in the Legislature, and we are all doing our absolute best to represent our members as best we can. I recently met with the folks at the Sunday River Resort in Bethel. We are making plans for an in-person event at Sunday River on September 16th and 17th with a golf tournament to be held on September 15th. Don't forget that on the evening of the 16th we will have our annual corn hole tournament hosted by the Collection System Committee.

We also have the NEWEA Spring Conference which will be held virtually on June 8, 9, & 10.

Please tune in to our very first "Water's Up" podcast hosted by Rob Pontau on June 1 from Noon to 1pm. The podcast is approved for both water and Wastewater TCH's. The podcast will be accessible, for free, on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMeYVXytZZ-O-NPDVIGUI_Q. Both live listeners and those who choose to follow up later will use the same link. Comments and questions for the live show should be made on the YouTube Channel. The link for the quiz will be posted in the comments after the live session.

If you are looking for training opportunities, please visit the following sites:

<http://jetcc.org/index.php>

<https://www.mewea.org/event-calendar/>

<https://www.newea.org/>

For safety trainings, the Maine Municipal Association has a very nice library of presentations **available to MMA members** that provide quizzes you can do as an individual or group. A flyer of the MMA Risk Management Services Online University is attached (next page).

As always thank you all for your hard work and dedication to keeping Maines waters pristine.

Sincerely,

Phil Tucker, President

ptucker@yorksewerdistrict.com

Follow us on



Online University & Safety Management System

Maine Municipal Association is committed to providing participants in our Workers' Compensation Fund and/or Property & Casualty Pool the highest quality educational experience. This training is provided at no cost to you, as a value added service.

Our website features online safety, health and human relations courses specific to governmental operations

Offered **FREE** to members of Workers' Compensation Fund and Property & Casualty Pool, the **Online University** allows members the ability to educate employees on critical safety and health and liability topics while documenting training records and certifications.

We are pleased to introduce you to these powerful new developments in the administrative function of the **Online University**.



New Management Tools include:

- The ability to organize training by Departments and assign courses with due dates via an email format.
- Ability to setup multi-level administrators or supervisory groups with individualized access.
- Courses can be taken by an individual or in a group setting.
- Custom Member content courses can be developed and visible to only you.
- Ability to track live on-site trainings.
- Upload 90 uniquely named Operating Procedures (Policies) with an automatic acknowledgement statement.
- Up to 6 city-wide personnel policies can be uploaded.
- Policies and SOPs can be assigned just like the training modules and will be linked to the training reports.
- Policies and SOPs are only visible to member employees.

If you would like to be set up or explore these new features, please contact us by phone, 1-800-590-5583, or e-mail: (rmslosscontrol@memun.org)

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Maine Municipal Association
RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES

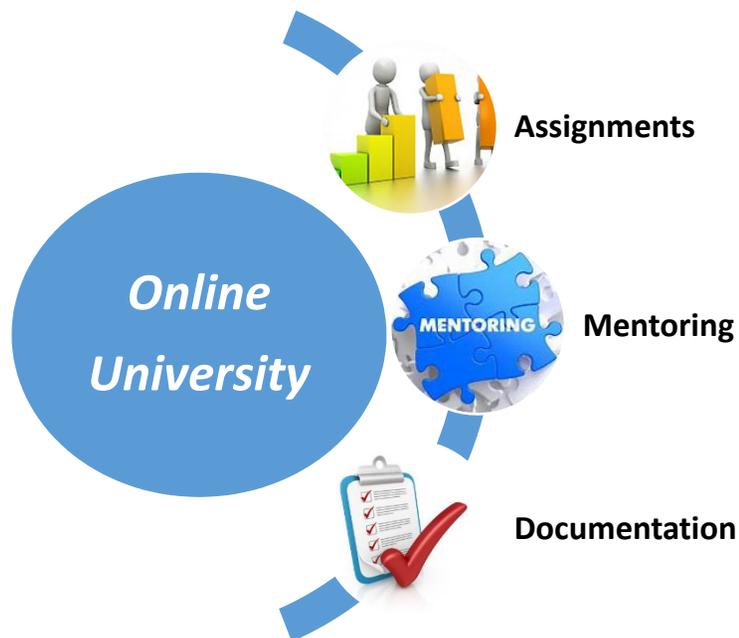
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Within the **Online University** we have courses for Fire, Police, EMS, Public Works, Transfer Stations, Office Staff, Recreation, Utilities and Schools. There are over 230 courses and more to be added. We pre-screen all of our courses before adding them.



Top 10 most frequent taken courses:

- Harassment Prevention for Maine Employees
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Hazard Communication
- Fire Prevention
- Workplace Ergonomics
- Workplace Bullying and Violence Prevention
- Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls
- Lockout/Tagout Training
- Defensive Driving
- Emergency and Disaster Preparedness

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President's Message

June 3, 2021

Dear MEWEA Members: Below is news I'm sharing on behalf of the Scarborough Sanitary District.

Sincerely,
Phil Tucker, MEWEA



It is with great sadness that I must announce the loss of our friend and colleague, Glen Bellefleur. For 31 years, Glen was a dedicated and admired employee of the Scarborough Sanitary District, the past four years as the District's Chief Plant Operator. He was instrumental in the day-to-day operations of the District's wastewater treatment facility, and served as a mentor to many other District professionals. Operators across the state called Glen to get his feedback and help them troubleshoot their operations, since everyone knew his strong skills

and knowledge of the wastewater treatment process. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Water Environment Association both recognized Glen's skills and requested- on several occasions!- his help teaching operators. He participated in the Maine Water Environment Association's Personnel Advancement Committee, helping identify topics that would be helpful and pertinent to wastewater utilities around the state. He was acknowledged by the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee in 2009 with its Founders Award, which is presented to people whose work in a Maine municipal or industrial wastewater treatment system is truly exceptional based on experience, length of service, dedication, performance during significant events, and community involvement.

Glen passed away in Scarborough on May 29th, 2021 at the age of 55. He was born in Hartford, CT to Vernon and Della Bellefleur on October 26th, 1965. He went to school at Van Buren District Secondary School. He married Lisa Sirois on July 24th, 1987 in Van Buren, Maine. He enjoyed vacations, spending time with his family, and 80's rock music.

Glen is preceded in death by his mother, Della, and infant son, Alex. He is survived by his father, Vernon Bellefleur of Van Buren; his wife, Lisa of Scarborough; daughters Kylie (Bellefleur) and her husband, Tim Turner of East Waterboro, and Erica Bellefleur, and her fiancé Kyle Ebersole of Mooresville, NC; son Jake Bellefleur of Scarborough; sisters Donna and husband Don Cyr of Van Buren, and Gail and her husband Bruce Burlock of Caribou; mother in law Cora Sirois of Presque Isle; brother in laws Mike and his wife Jackie Sirois of Bristol, and Roger and his wife Lynn Sirois of Topsham, and several nieces and nephews.

At the request of the family, services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to The Center for Grieving Children at <https://www.cgcmaine.org/>.

Glen V. Bellefleur
1965-2021

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President's Message - June 15, 2021

Good afternoon everyone,

First, let me apologize for not getting this out last Friday as I had intended. There is a lot happening in the clean water community right now. As summer is upon us and we're out enjoying what our state has to offer, take a moment to think about your part in that. Without Maine's wastewater and storm water professionals we would not be able to enjoy our pristine outdoors.

Last Friday the MeWEA executive committee had the honor of speaking with Bill Benson and Karrie Trebbe of Boots2Roots. Boots2Roots is a Maine-based organization that places separating service members into careers. With our aging workforce and shortage of operators in Maine this is a great opportunity to get highly skilled workers into the water sector. Please take the time to email Karrie at program@boots2roots.org. Or visit the website: <https://boots2roots.org>

TAKE ACTION: ASK CONGRESS TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR TREATMENT OF PFAS IN WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER IN INFRASTRUCTURE LEGISLATION

Please reach out to your Members of Congress and urge them to strongly support increased funding for the treatment of PFAS in wastewater and storm water treatment systems in any proposed infrastructure package.

While most in the wastewater sector applaud the Administration's American Jobs Plan, we would like to encourage Members of Congress and the Administration to consider including treatment of PFAS in wastewater – not just drinking water – as a part of the allotted \$10 billion in the American Jobs Plan or any subsequent infrastructure funding package passed by Congress.

Click below for more information and to reach out to your Senators and Representative.

[ASK CONGRESS TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR TREATMENT OF PFAS IN WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER IN INFRASTRUCTURE LEGISLATION](#)

One of our upcoming events include the MeWEA/MWUA co-sponsored summer outing, which will be held August 12th at Brunswick Crossing (formerly Naval Air Station). The event typically draws 500+ people and well over 100 public utilities, vendors, and consultants. The event includes educational training, live demonstrations, vendor booths, live water main tapping competition, a corn hole tournament, a pig roast, steaks, burgers, hot dogs, brats, and social activities. There is no charge if you would like to set up an interactive display to speak with all the utilities that are present. We hope you will be able to join us.

As always keep up the great work you all do and enjoy summer, it will go by far too quickly!!!

Sincerely,
Phil Tucker,
MEWEA President

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JULY 2, 2021

We have reached the halfway point of 2021 and things are starting to get back to normal. I recently had the opportunity to be on a Zoom meeting with NEWEA and all the member associations. In that call I learned of something called a "[Water Advocate](#)." It is a simple way to make your voice heard by your representatives in DC. Just follow the above link and, after a few easy steps, you are ready to go.

As with most industries, water, wastewater, and stormwater are experiencing supply shortages. I spoke with Jason Chadwick of E.J. Prescott this morning and he informed me that PVC pipe is taking anywhere from 3 weeks to 6 months depending on size and quantity needed. It has also almost tripled in price over the last year. Castings have gone up roughly 25% over the last year and currently have a lead time of 4-6 weeks. A quick Google search revealed that although raw materials seem to be in good quantity, manufacturing and shipping is still suffering due to a workforce shortage. A couple of utilities in Maine have even reported having vehicle orders cancelled.

Our legislative group has been hard at work following the infrastructure bills. Emily Prescott and Tim Wade worked hard on letters to both Senator King and Senator Collins supporting the bipartisan infrastructure funding. We are truly fortunate here in Maine that both of our Senators were selected to be a part of this bipartisan effort. As information becomes available, we will be sure to help get the word out to our members.

Finally, I just wanted to tell everyone to have a magnificent Independence Day. 245 years and counting since our forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence. Let us not forget that this day is meant to celebrate our freedom!!!

Cheers,

Philip J Tucker,
President

Follow us on



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Friday the 13th everyone,

I was fortunate enough to attend the MWUA/MEWEA summer outing yesterday, at which I was able to see many familiar faces for the first time in well over a year. It looked like everyone had a great time. A big thank you to all those who helped make the day so successful, from the vendors to the attendees to the coordinators. Keeping with the theme of one water, we had a water/wastewater duo take home the gold for the cornhole tournament. Rob Pontau of Brunswick Sewer District and Keith Levasseur of Sanford Water District were victorious. This was my first time going, and I thought it to be a great event and look forward to next year.

August 26th launches the 2021 Maine [Hire-A-Vet Campaign](#). MEWEA and MWUA will be sharing a booth in support of this annual event. If you are interested, please visit the link above to register. This is a great opportunity to bring highly motivated and skilled individuals into the water sector. Another route for hiring of veterans separating from military duty is through the Department of Defense [Skillbridge](#) program. Please follow the link for more details. We have also partnered with Boots2Roots as part of our workforce development. Please visit the [Boots2Roots](#) website for more information.

There are other avenues for skilled help as well, such as Northern and Southern Maine Community Colleges. Both colleges now have [water/wastewater programs](#). Although it is early, we have had one meeting with Unity College to discuss a water and clean water program, which all of us left feeling excited about. There will be more to come on this after future meetings.

Our fall convention is only a month away at Sunday River. I'd love to see you there. Please register [here](#) if you are interested in going. We have some great classes scheduled (see Session Map in the [Attendee Packet](#)) as well as our special guest speaker, [Travis Mills](#), a meet and greet event with vendors, and the 4th annual Collection System Committees Cornhole Tournament. **Special Challenge:** If anyone can bring a wastewater math problem to Mac Richardson (who'll be presenting Session 2) that he cannot solve, he will buy them a beverage of their choice. Up to three people can win.

As always thank you all for your dedication, and if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me directly. ptucker@yorksewerdistrict.org.

Sincerely,

Phil Tucker
President

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

October 15, 2021

Dear MEWEA Member,

It has been while since I've sent out a president's message. We had our annual Fall Convention at Sunday River last month. I spoke with many of you there and all seemed to be enjoying themselves. We had some great sessions this year thanks to our PAC Chair Charlene Poulin. Travis Mills gave a fantastic message during session 4 on Thursday. We have a new slate of officers for 2022 which are Dave Beauchamp as President, Tim Wade as Vice President, and Gretchen Anderson as 2nd Vice President. These three will usher in a new era of cooperation and continued collaboration with other associations, namely Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA). The Executive Committee voted this morning to move our administrative contract from MMA to MWUA for 2022. I would like to thank the MMA staff for all the years of service that they provided for our association. As we look to the future MEWEA, and MWUA will continue to pool our resources towards a common goal of One Water. The last few years have been very challenging for all of us. Between PFAS, Covid, Nutrient Limits, and various other obstacles that are thrown on top of our daily tasks we are all being spread quite thin. As has always been the case in our industry we will rise to the challenge of anything thrown our way. We made it through Dioxin, we made it through Mercury, we will make it through PFAS as long as science is allowed to lead the way and opinions and conjecture are left on the side lines where they belong. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me. ptucker@yorksewerdistrict.org.

Sincerely,

Philip J Tucker
President



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Nov. 5, 2021

Dear MeWEA Members:

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Kenneth Locke, recently retired Director of Environmental Services and past Superintendent of Brewer Water Pollution Control Facility - affectionately also known as "Emmet." Many of us were fortunate to have seen Ken in September at MeWEA's Fall Convention at Sunday River where he received JETCC's Lee Agger Award on September 16th. That was only the latest of many industry awards that Ken and the Brewer treatment plant received during his career.

Ken Locke's 42-year career in Water Pollution Control included the last 29 years serving the City of Brewer in various capacities. In June, Ken retired from his role as Brewer's Director of Environmental Service. Prior to that, Ken served his community as Brewer's Director of Public Works and as Superintendent of Brewer Water Pollution Control Facility. Throughout his career, Ken led efforts to clean-up CSOs and garnered grants and funds to develop a stormwater and sewer separation program. Ken's work has been instrumental in helping to clean-up the Penobscot River which today boasts a waterfront walking path and other attractions. Always an advocate of community and industry education, Ken assisted with many training classes and always encouraged his staff to do the same.

So many in our industry were shocked by the news of Ken's passing as he was also about to begin post-retirement work with Olver Associates where he was to continue assisting with the operation of Maine treatment plants.

Ken's work was always supported by Brewer's Chief Operator Lou Colburn who had just been hunting with him last weekend. Lou referred to Ken as his "sidekick, his mentor, a true environmentalist, and a great boss. Ken was always proactive in everything including his efforts to take the lead on getting his crew and the City of Brewer at the forefront of stormwater management."

During Ken's retirement party earlier this year Bill Olver of Olver Associates stated "Ken is a humble man, and he is always the first to give credit to the professional staff that he has managed and to the support and financial commitment that the Brewer City Council and Administration have made to its environmental programs. He should be remembered for the pivotal role that this career has played in the success of Brewer's programs. He is the dedicated person on the ground that made it all happen."

Noting sentiments from many who also knew Ken, Leeann Hanson of JETCC stated that "Ken was just a really great person. I remember him from my own early days in this industry. He was always friendly, and one of those silent doers who just gets a lot accomplished. It was always nice to see Ken at events and I recall the many conferences he attended with his wife Kim by his side.

Travis Jones had this to say, "Ken was an excellent boss and mentor, who led by example. He was a consummate professional who lived and breathed his commitment to be the best operator he could be. Ken was a man who did, instead of told. The City of Brewer is fortunate beyond calculation to have had Ken at the helm. I think I'll miss his sense of humor the most, and the way he'd boisterously laugh at a good joke or story. I mourn his loss for Kim & his family, his many friends, myself, and our entire wastewater community. Let us all strive to emulate his unwavering commitment to Clean Water."

Sincerely,
Phil Tucker, MeWEA President