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President's Message

Week of January 20, 2020

Happy New Year! In continuing with tradition, MEWEA will be sending President's Updates and messages to all members throughout the coming year. We've found it to be a great way to keep all members up to date with events and conversations happening within the association. I would also love feedback on the updates; and if you have anything you need me to share with the association, just let me know and I will make sure it gets included.

We had our first executive meeting on January 17th in Augusta at the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) offices. At this meeting we reviewed MEWEA responsibilities for the upcoming convention season, and began planning for our April Washington DC Clean Water Policy Fly-In. We also discussed several committee plans and goals for 2020. Many of our committees have outstanding events and goals prepared for the upcoming year, and we look forward to accomplishing these goals with current and newly active members. If you happen to be interested in serving on a committee, please contact the chair of that committee. Information on different committees and contacts for committee chairs can be found on the website at www.mewea.org.

Our next meeting is from on February 27 at the Senator Inn in Augusta, following the Legislative Breakfast. The meeting is from 9-12 and as always, members are encouraged to attend.

Upcoming Events:

January 26-29: NEWEA Annual Conference: Boston Marriott Copley Place.

February 5-6: MWUA Trade Show: Augusta Civic Center

February 21: MEWEA Family Ice Skate Night: 5:30-7:30 pm at Thompson's Point in Portland.

February 27: Legislative Breakfast: 7-9 am Senator Inn in Augusta.

~ Mike Guethle

Michael.guethle@wright-pierce.com

Michael A. Guethle, PE

Wright-Pierce | Project Engineer

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President's Message

Week of February 14, 2020

NEWEA Annual Conference and MWUA Trade Show: MEWEA officers had the pleasure of attending both the NEWEA Annual Conference and the MWUA Trade show the past two weeks. Both associations put on a fantastic show, with a good number of vendors and excellent sessions. At the NEWEA Conference, we spent a substantial amount of time coordinating with regional governmental affairs and technical committee efforts, including several presentations and discussions on biosolids management. At the MWUA trade show, I was able to learn more about GAUD's and Anson-Madison's experiences with peracetic acid. Thank you to all the presenters and organizers at both shows.

2019 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey: The MaineDEP is still taking responses from Publicly Owned Treatment Works for the 2019 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey. This survey information will be beneficial in showcasing funding needs for POTWs. If you have not already responded to the survey, please find more information about the process at the DEP's website link for the survey, <https://www.maine.gov/dep/water/wwtreatment/index.html>

Annual Family Skate Night – February 21st: The Young Professionals Committee is again sponsoring the MEWEA Family Skate Night at Thompson's Point Rink in Portland, February 21st at 5:30 PM. This is well-attended event, and a great winter alternative to other association's "summer picnic" type events. Please coordinate with the YP Committee Chair, Max Kenney, at mkenney@woodardcurran.com if you would like to attend.

Legislative Breakfast and Executive Meeting – February 27th: The Legislative Breakfast will be held on February 27th in Augusta at the Senator Inn, with our next executive committee meeting to follow. This year we will be communicating our standard legislative asks, while also focusing on emerging contaminants. If you are interested in attending, or inviting your local legislators, please register here: <https://memun.org/Training-Resources/Workshops-Training/Training-Resources-View/ArticleId/12635/MeWEA-39-s-2020-Legislative-Breakfast-sponsored-by-Maine-Water-Environment-Association-2-27-20>

Ski Day – March 27th: The annual ski day with the New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association (NHWPCA) will be held on March 27 at Sugarloaf Mountain. Come out for a day of skiing/snowboarding and some great networking! Register today! <https://www.mewea.org/annual-ski-day/>

MEWEA Spring Conference – April 3rd: Our spring conference is being held at the Black Bear Inn in Orono in April. MEWEA's Personnel Advancement Committee are working hard on the session agenda to provide a wide range of topics! I'm looking forward to attending this convention and hope to see many of you up there!

Upcoming Events:

February 21: MEWEA Family Ice Skate Night: 5:30-7:30 pm at Thompson's Point in Portland.

February 27: Legislative Breakfast: 7-9 am Senator Inn in Augusta. Executive Committee meeting to follow

March 26: Maine Sustainability and Water Conference: Augusta Civic Center

March 27: Ski Day: Sugarloaf Mountain, Carrabassett Valley

April 2: MEWEA Strategic Planning and Executive Committee Meeting, Black Bear Inn (Orono)

April 3: MEWEA Spring Conference, Black Bear Inn (Orono)

April 25: Urban Runoff 5k and Green Neighbor Festival: 8-12, Deering High School in Portland.

Best,

Michael Guethle, 2020 MEWEA President

Michael.guethle@wright-pierce.com

Michael A. Guethle, PE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH 12, 2020

The COVID-19 virus outbreak has gathered substantial media attention over the past weeks, with several organizations taking additional precaution over the past day. As such, MEWEA finds it prudent to update the membership on our current conversations regarding upcoming MEWEA events; we find it equally prudent to forward the general guidance from WEF, our parent association, for specific safety protocols for clean water facilities and water professionals, as well as general safety guidance from the Center for Disease Control.

UPCOMING MEWEA EVENTS NOTIFICATION

As of today, March 12, 2020, MEWEA has not cancelled the upcoming Ski Day and Spring Conference events. We are in close coordination with the event venues, and other similar Maine organizations, to determine the best path forward. Individuals directly involved in the planning of these events are meeting next week to review recommendations of health officials.

I will be sending an updated President's Message by March 23, 2020, highlighting any additional precautions, policies, or postponements we determine as necessary at this meeting.

INFORMATION FOR WATER PROFESSIONALS

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) has released materials to inform and update water professionals about the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

WEF produced and broadcasted a webinar last week, providing the most up-to-date information on the virus and featuring a variety of infectious disease control and emergency response professionals as speakers. A [recording of the webinar is now available online](#).

Additionally, WEF has developed a [written guide on Coronavirus for water professionals](#). The guide provides a summary of current information known about the virus, including the origin and history of this pathogen, how it is transmitted, and how this affects clean water facilities and the professionals working at these facilities.

GENERAL INFORMATION FROM THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) provides a level of information regarding general best practices for general day-to-day activities. For more information on formal statements from the CDC as this topic develops, please find additional information at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Please feel free to be in contact should you have additional information on this item.

Michael Guethle, P.E.

2020 MEWEA President

michael.guethle@wright-pierce.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH 16, 2020

The COVID-19 virus outbreak has officially been considered a Civil Emergency in Maine as of Sunday, March 15, 2020. As such, MEWEA finds it prudent to update the membership on our current conversations regarding upcoming MEWEA events; we find it equally prudent to provide the general guidance from WEF, our parent association, for specific safety protocols for clean water facilities and water professionals.

UPCOMING MEWEA EVENTS NOTIFICATION

Unfortunately, ***MEWEA will be cancelling our Spring Conference event***, originally planned for April 3 at the Black Bear Inn in Orono, Maine. MEWEA will be in close coordination with other organizations to help ensure training credits are available later in the year when the Civil Emergency status is lifted. Any prior registrations and sponsorships through Maine Municipal Association will be refunded via check in the upcoming weeks.

Our ***March 27 Ski Day event will be cancelled***, and will not be re-scheduled for 2020. Any prior registrations and sponsorships through Maine Municipal Association will be refunded via check in the upcoming weeks.

Our ***Annual Strategic Planning Session, originally planned for April 2nd, will be cancelled***, and may be rescheduled at a later date. We will update the membership as more information on this topic becomes available.

In replacement of the Strategic Planning Session, at 9:00 AM on April 2nd, MEWEA will have an Executive Board Meeting, which will be held as a remote call-in meeting, with no in-person location provided. A call-in number will be provided on the MEWEA website prior to the meeting for members to call in.

We are also strongly suggesting MEWEA committee meetings be suspended or held through remote teleconferences until the State of Maine Civil Emergency is lifted. This decision and specific information for MEWEA committee meetings will be the responsibility of each Committee Chair.

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR WATER PROFESSIONALS

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) has released materials to inform and update water professionals about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Whereas we are aware this information is continually developing, we find it prudent to provide a link to WEF information, which will be updated with the most recent information available to them, from the MEWEA Website, <https://www.mewea.org/>

Please feel free to be in contact should you have additional questions on this item.

Michael Guethle, P.E.
2020 MEWEA President
michael.guethle@wright-pierce.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 29, 2020

It saddens me to inform the membership of two passings in the industry over the past month, as well as an update on one member's health condition.

Frank Woodard, professor, engineer, and founder of Woodard & Curran, passed away earlier this year. His impact to the industry over his lifetime includes numerous memories and achievements, with several memories catalogued at the link below:

<https://www.woodardcurran.com/blog/remembering-our-friend-and-colleague-frank-woodard>

Kate Biedron, engineer for CDM Smith, MEWEA Executive Committee member, passed away on April 23. Her roles in environmental stewardship, organizational leadership, and developing a very welcome environment in the clean water industry will be greatly missed. Additional information on Kate's incredible levels of involvement in the industry and community can be found here:

<https://www.dracutfuneralhome.com/obituary/Katelyn-Biedron>

Steve Broadbent is currently in hospice care. Steve is a Past President of MEWEA, holding several wastewater industry jobs throughout his storied career. Steve is well-known for his sense of humor, and many of us have been subject to his elaborate practical jokes. He is always optimistic, no matter the challenge or setback. Even with his current serious illness, he remains positive and thankful for all the friends he has made over the years.



Our thoughts and prayers are with all these individuals, and their friends and family, and all can be proud of their legacy and commitment to the clean water industry.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

The COVID-19 virus outbreak has officially been considered a Civil Emergency in Maine as of Sunday, March 15, 2020, and has most recently. As such, MEWEA finds it prudent to update the membership on our current conversations regarding upcoming MEWEA events; we find it equally prudent to provide the general guidance from WEF, our parent association, for specific safety protocols for clean water facilities and water professionals.

While business as usual has slowed for the association, several additional initiatives we are working on are listed below:

- Planning options for potential limits to operator staffing ability;
- Sending information to membership regarding COVID developments in the industry;
- Reviewing alternatives to provide our membership with training credits;
- Reviewing additional public relations support for impacts from non-flushables;
- Discussing additional coordination with government officials regarding anticipated impacts to the clean water industry;
- Coordinating with DEP and other utility associations on a weekly basis;
- Reviewing potential federal stimulus legislation and providing input.

While I end every message with a request to join committees or ad-hoc discussions, it is critical to note the association would appreciate anyone who would like to assist in the above initiatives. Similarly, please reach out if the outbreak is affecting your facility, as MEWEA is simply an organization of several folks who may be able to help. None of us know everything, but combined, we can work through a lot of issues plants are facing.

UPCOMING MEWEA EVENTS NOTIFICATION

Our May 15, 2020 executive board meeting will take place on-line instead of in-person. We will continue to monitor the state and federal requirements for future meetings. Due to security concerns with posting open meeting invitations on our website, please contact me for the login information if you are not a committee chair or board member and would like to participate in the meeting.

We are also strongly suggesting MEWEA committee meetings be suspended or held through remote teleconferences until the State of Maine Civil Emergency is lifted. This decision and specific information for MEWEA committee meetings will be the responsibility of each Committee Chair.

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR WATER PROFESSIONALS

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) has released materials to inform and update water professionals about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Whereas we are aware this information is continually developing, we find it prudent to provide a link to WEF information, which will be updated with the most recent information available to them, from the MEWEA Website, <https://www.mewea.org/>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 13, 2020

This week brings more bad news. We have recently learned that Rick McCarthy will not be returning to the State House and will be home with his family and hospice care for the upcoming weeks. Rick has been our advocate and lobbyist at the State House for several years now. He has been fighting a courageous battle with cancer for many months. Rick helped guide us through a number of legislative "mine fields" over the years and oversaw a number of our bills result in successful adoption of important legislation.

This session, Rick worked tirelessly for our industry and the drinking water industry to craft and get a bill accepted that would provide sustainable annual funding for both industries. Rick was diagnosed with cancer while he worked on getting this important legislation passed. He even endured the arduous treatment regimen while trying to wrap up the bill, being more concerned about seeing the bill through.



Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends, many of whom are reading this notice. We are all proud of and grateful for his commitment to the clean water industry and his work to help the people of Maine.

We are also aware of some individuals in the industry, and some of our family members, who have become afflicted with COVID-19. We wish a speedy recovery to all who have been impacted by or afflicted with the virus.

UPCOMING MEWEA EVENTS NOTIFICATION

Our May 15, 2020 executive board meeting will take place on-line instead of in-person, from 9:00 to 11:00. We will continue to monitor the state and federal requirements for future meetings. Due to security concerns with posting open meeting invitations on our website, please contact me for the login information if you are not a committee chair or board member and would like to participate in the meeting. I promise coffee and doughnuts at the first meeting when we can meet in person again.

INFORMATION FOR WATER PROFESSIONALS REGARDING CORONAVIRUS

As an association, MEWEA continues to monitor the advice of our parent organization and industry experts. The Water Environment Federation (WEF) has released materials to inform and update water professionals about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Whereas we are aware this information is continually developing, we find it prudent to provide a link to WEF information, which will be updated with the most recent information available to them, from the MEWEA Website, <https://www.mewea.org/>. Additional CDC and other professional links have been provided here as well.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions, thoughts, or information to help distribute to the membership. Best,

Michael Guethle, P.E.
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 18, 2020

Hi all,

Following up from our board meeting on May 15, we have several items to notify membership about. I hope all are staying safe and looking forward to Memorial Day Weekend!

First off, we have an update on Steve Broadbent's condition. As noted in a prior message, Steve is currently in hospice care. Steve is a Past President of MEWEA, holding several wastewater industry jobs throughout his storied career. Steve has appreciated the outreach and support of the membership over the last several weeks, and he also is now respectfully asking us and others to limit direct outreach to those closest to him and his family. He remains in our thoughts and we wish him and his family the best in his time of need.

AWARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Operations Challenge is still looking for one more team member for 2020. Please contact Rob Pontau, rpontau@brunswicksewer.org, if you have interest in this exciting opportunity.

MEWEA has a substantial recognition program, providing a number of awards for outstanding association members. With many of us taking on new responsibilities and stepping up to new challenges, now is as good a time as ever to submit an application for a worthy member. Please find additional information at the following link: <https://www.mewea.org/recognition-program/>

MEWEA is also seeking nominations for the Peloquin Award and Operator of the Year Award, as administered through NEWEA, with information here: <https://www.newea.org/about-us/awards/>

EPA is taking nominations for a POTW pretreatment award. To nominate a facility or department, please submit a few paragraphs discussing the positive actions that organization is taking to Justin Pimpare at pimpare.justin@epa.gov or James Crowley at james.r.crowley@maine.gov. Nomination deadline is August 1st.

UPCOMING MEWEA EVENTS NOTIFICATION

We have made the decision to cancel the MEWEA Spring Conference, which was originally planned to be postponed from the April date. Receipts will be mailed for those who pre-registered initially, and we are in the process of coordinating options for additional training credits.

UPDATED CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION FOR WATER PROFESSIONALS

WEF, NEWEA, and the CDC have released materials to inform water professionals about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Whereas we are aware this information is continually developing, we find it prudent to provide a link to this information, which will be updated with the most recent information available to them, from the MEWEA Website, <https://www.mewea.org/>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May 21, 2020

It saddens me to inform you that Steve Broadbent passed away on May 19. As he has been a prominent figure in the clean water community and past president of the association, MEWEA has been updating membership on his ongoing health condition, and in his final days he mentioned his appreciation for the amount of outreach he received from the clean water community. Information is not yet available regarding memorial arrangements. Our hearts go out to his family, and those closest to Steve.

2020 CLEAN WATERSHEDS NEEDS SURVEY

As was notified in an e-mail to facilities earlier this week, MaineDEP (DEP) is reaching out to all Maine municipal and quasi-municipal wastewater entities and stormwater groups to gather information on the state's wastewater and stormwater infrastructure via the 2020 Clean Watersheds "Needs Survey" (CWNS). What we need from membership is the wastewater and stormwater needs information that reflects the current situation in your system by completing the survey. The CWNS is located at <https://www.maine.gov/dep/water/wwtreatment/index.html>.

Please note that if federal funding becomes available for wastewater and/or stormwater projects through National Infrastructure Stimulus funding, MaineDEP will only be accepting applications for stimulus funded projects that have been reported to us in response to the 2020 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey.

AWARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Operations Challenge is still looking for one more team member for 2020. Please contact Rob Pontau, rpontau@brunswicksewer.org, if you have interest in this exciting opportunity.

MEWEA has a substantial recognition program, providing a number of awards for outstanding association members. With many of us taking on new responsibilities and stepping up to new challenges, now is as good a time as ever to submit an application for a worthy member. Please find additional information at the following link: <https://www.mewea.org/recognition-program/>

MEWEA is also seeking nominations for the Pelouin Award and Operator of the Year Award, as administered through NEWEA, with information here: <https://www.newea.org/about-us/awards/>

UPDATED CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION FOR WATER PROFESSIONALS

WEF, NEWEA, and the CDC have released materials to inform water professionals about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Whereas we are aware this information is continually developing, we find it prudent to provide a link to this information, which will be updated with the most recent information available to them, from the MEWEA Website, <https://www.mewea.org/>

Michael Guethle, P.E.
2020 MEWEA President
michael.guethle@wright-pierce.com



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June 1, 2020

Happy June, MEWEA members! As we progress towards the summer months, the association leadership has several updates to provide to our members:

UPCOMING EVENTS

The June 12 executive board meeting will be held virtually. If you are interested in attending, please let me know and I will provide any member the meeting login information.

The executive board is in the process of reviewing options for our Fall Convention, currently planned for September. Please be on the lookout for a survey regarding membership training and networking preferences!

2020 CLEAN WATERSHEDS NEEDS SURVEY

As was notified in an e-mail to facilities in May, MaineDEP (DEP) is reaching out to all Maine municipal and quasi-municipal wastewater entities and stormwater groups to gather information on the state's wastewater and stormwater infrastructure via the 2020 Clean Watersheds "Needs Survey" (CWNS). What we need from membership is the wastewater and stormwater needs information that reflects the current situation in your system by completing the survey. The CWNS is located at <https://www.maine.gov/dep/water/wwtreatment/index.html>.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June 12, 2020

The Maine Water Environment Association has made the difficult decision to move our Fall Convention online, replacing the originally scheduled events for September 16-18, 2020 at the Sunday River Summit Hotel.

This decision was made due to the realities and uncertainties of the ongoing COVID-19 regulations, and to ensure the safety of our membership and conference attendees. Even as some restrictions begin to lift, there is substantial uncertainty surrounding the availability to gather in larger crowds by September, and we have further been made aware that several utilities, municipalities, and companies within the State have restricted unnecessary work travel until 2021. As essential professionals and defenders of both public and environmental health, it is our responsibility to ensure that our events do not impact the well-being of our attendees; if the convention were to occur and become a source of an outbreak, the negative impacts to the clean water industry would be insurmountable.

This decision has been reviewed and discussed at prior Executive Board meetings, and was finalized in a board meeting earlier today. The Sunday River Summit Hotel has given the Association very favorable conditions to postpone the contract to 2021, and as such the financial impacts to the Association are anticipated to be minimal.

VIRTUAL CONVENTION PLANNING, TRAINING CREDITS AND NEXT STEPS

I, and all of the Association's leadership, appreciate impacts to membership by moving the Fall Convention to a virtual platform, especially when compounded with cancellation of other similar events. We remain dedicated to working closely with our membership to best define a virtual convention that will suit membership needs. If you would like to provide feedback on the Virtual Fall Convention, we have created the following survey to identify what membership would like to see for training, social networking, and professional networking:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WD3LH5G>

If you booked your conference accommodations, please be sure to cancel those reservations.

If you have any other questions regarding the conference, please feel free to be in direct coordination with myself at 207-319-1512, or the e-mail at the end of this notice.

I also appreciate that a lot of MEWEA's regular activities have been postponed or limited during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As the Association works through the summer, we plan on discussing or providing opportunities for membership in the following categories:

- Additional virtual training, in partnership with other State associations;
- Virtual or distanced public outreach to replace our standard public outreach programs;
- Modified approaches to government outreach;
- Continued coordination with regulatory agencies.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Operations Challenge is still looking for one more team member for 2020. Please contact Rob Pontau, rpontau@brunswicksewer.org, if you have interest in this exciting opportunity.

The MEWEA Young Professionals Committee will be meeting virtually on Tuesday, June 16, at 5:00 PM. Please contact Max Kenney (mkenney@woodardcurran.com) if you would like to participate!

The Urban Runoff will be a virtual event on June 20. For more information on joining the MEWEA team virtually, please contact Max (e-mail above) or register online at <https://cumberlandswcd.org/site/events/urban-runoff-5k-race-walk/virtual-race-info/>

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Have a great weekend, and as always, please feel free to reach out with any MEWEA questions.

Best,

Michael Guethle, P.E.
2020 MEWEA President
michael.guethle@wright-pierce.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 14, 2020

It saddens me to inform our membership of another passing within the clean water community. Our friend Rick McCarthy passed away late last week after several weeks in hospice care and a long battle with cancer. Rick has been our advocate and lobbyist at the State House for several years. He has been fighting a courageous battle with cancer for many months. Rick helped guide us through a number of legislative mine fields over the years and oversaw a number of our bills result in successful adoption of important legislation. A full obituary for Mr. McCarthy is provided below, and my sincerest wishes go out to his family!

<https://www.centralmaine.com/2020/07/12/obituaryrichmond-k-rick-mccarthy/>

VIRTUAL CONVENTION PLANNING, TRAINING CREDITS AND NEXT STEPS

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As always, please feel free to reach out with any MEWEA questions.

Best,

Michael Guethle, P.E.

2020 MEWEA President

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August 18, 2020

Dear MEWEA members,

Please see the attached proposed changes to the Association By-Laws. The revisions came out of the work done by the Executive Committee this year, and are related to voting procedures at a virtual fall convention. The version that is included shows the revisions in red.

The changes will be voted on during the business meeting at the MEWEA 2020 Fall Convention, which will be held on Thursday September 17, virtually.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Guethle

2020 MEWEA President

michael.guethle@wright-pierce.com

MEWEA BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS: AUGUST 2020

AMENDMENTS: Under Article V – Meetings, amend the following information, by adding in the emboldened language:

*Section 2 – A business meeting shall be part of the regular meeting. Thirty days notice of such meetings shall be given by **postal or electronic** mail to all members.*

ADDITIONS: Under Article V – Meetings, add the following information:

Section 3 – A business meeting shall be able to be held electronically by means of teleconferencing or videoconferencing, if voted unanimously by the Officers of the Association.

Section 4 – In the event of an electronically held business meeting, a quorum shall consist of a minimum of 25 members of the Association for purposes of electing new officers. Nominations for new officers will be requested at the beginning of the business meeting, and will be voted on during the meeting as determined by the President of the Association. All members voting will be required to verbally or visually vote. Votes shall be counted independently by the President and Vice President.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 3, 2020

It's September, MEWEA members! As we enter Labor Day weekend, half the state feels like fall while the other half holds on to the last days of summer, MEWEA again looks forward to our annual convention. The Maine Water Environment Association (MEWEA) will be holding its annual conference virtually this year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

MEWEA VIRTUAL CONVENTION: SEPTEMBER 16-18

- The conference will span 3 days (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday).
- We will have 5 sessions each day with a roughly 5-minute block set aside in the middle of each session for vendors to advertise their product.
- Our annual business meeting will replace one session on Thursday, leaving us with 14 1-hour sessions for which people can earn credit towards their certification.
- Additional information will be coming shortly regarding registration, presentations, and other final items.
- Moderators will all be MEWEA E-Board members and committee chairs, and can assist with questions on licensing credits at the end of or before calls. Information on credits will be available shortly.

MEWEA Photograph Challenge – 200 Years of Clean Water

- As part of the fall convention, we're celebrating 200 years of statehood, and 200 years of clean water in Maine.
- As we celebrate 200 years of clean water in Maine, please send along old or new photos of your facilities, staff family pictures enjoying our water resources, and other related events.
- Please send these photos to Paula Drouin at pdrouin@lawpca.org if you would like them to be on MEWEA social media.
- The Young Professionals Committee will be sponsoring a virtual/distanced water cleanup later this month. We plan to keep this activity open through the middle of October for all of our members to send in their pictures.

Best,

Mike Guethle, PE

2020 MEWEA President

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July 14, 2020

VIRTUAL CONVENTION FOLLOW-UP

The 2020 virtual convention has come and gone. Thank you for all who attended, presented, and helped organize! It certainly was not the big annual get-together we hope for, but we were able to provide a substantial number of credits, have a business meeting, and have an opportunity to have a little bit of professional and personal networking as well.

We have sent out a survey to all attendees, and will use this survey to help plan virtual events in 2021. If you have any other questions regarding the conference, or thoughts on suggested changes for the future, please feel free to be in direct coordination with myself at 207-319-1512, or the e-mail at the end of this notice.

MEWEA PHOTO CONTEST

To continue the high spirits from the convention, MEWEA is having a 2-week long photo & caption contest, which will run from 10/7 to 10/21. Each MEWEA member is allowed one submission, and all submissions will be posted on MEWEA social media platforms and entered to win prizes, at the discretion of the contest organizer. Photos can be you and your work team, pictures of your facility, or your favorite clean water resource. Any photos from the YP cleanup will be considered a "bonus submission". Please send your clean water photos to Paula Drouin at pdrouin@lawpca.org.

SUCCESSION PLANNING MEETING

Our next board meeting and 2020 succession planning meeting will be virtually on October 16, 2020, from 9-12. If you have interest in being involved in board leadership or committee leadership in the future, please let me know and I will be in contact. We will have several committee positions opening over the next two years, and it's always good to bring new voices to the table.

UPDATED CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION FOR WATER PROFESSIONALS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December 28, 2020

There is certainly a lot to reflect on as we approach the end of the year. We have spent well over 9 months working through COVID protocols and continue to develop new best practices for workplace safety and training opportunities. 2020 has brought several new and unexpected challenges, and I want to thank you all for your dedication to help keep Maine's clean water resources safe and protected throughout a very difficult year, personally and professionally. MEWEA has been successful as an association this year developing virtual meeting and training methods, continuing our legislative advocacy efforts, advancing the professional committees at the board level, and have continued to work through new COVID-related outreach with other state associations and regulatory groups.

2021 will bring new and continued challenges, with opportunities to perpetuate our ongoing efforts. We invite interested members to volunteer to assist as able. Some of these opportunities are included below:

- Legislative outreach for emerging contaminants, nutrient criteria, utility accommodation, state-level funding, stormwater permit renewal, licensing items, and COVID relief.
- Committee chair openings, such as Personnel Advancement and Laboratory.
- Virtual presentations, new memberships, and involvement at the committee level.

Phil Tucker at York Sewer District is graciously taking over as MEWEA president on January 1, 2021. I am confident Phil, as well as Vice Presidents Dave Beauchamp and Tim Wade, will all do an excellent job in leading MEWEA throughout the next several years. In the last month we have had several e-mails and phone calls to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities, and I will remain a member of the board through 2021 as Past President. As always, please feel free to continue to call or e-mail me should you have any questions, this week and throughout 2021.

UPCOMING EVENTS (all virtual)

NEWEA Annual Convention: January 26 & 28; February 2 & 4 2021

MWUA Annual Convention: February 2-4, 2021

MEWEA/MWUA Legislative Breakfast: February 2, 2021

Please note – MEWEA is aware there is an overlap for the MWUA and NEWEA conventions. NEWEA sessions will be held in the afternoon, and wastewater and stormwater-specific sessions at MWUA will be in the morning. Members are encouraged to attend either or both conventions.

UPDATED CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION FOR WATER PROFESSIONALS

WEF, NEWEA, and the CDC continue to inform clean water professionals about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Whereas we are aware this information is continually developing, we find it prudent to provide a link to this information from the MEWEA Website, <https://www.mewea.org/>

As always, please feel free to reach out with any MEWEA-related questions.

Best,

Michael Guethle, P.E.

2020 MEWEA President

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