

MeWEA Executive Board Meeting

MWUA

15 University Drive

In-Person & Zoom

May, 19th, 2023

MINUTES

Attendance: Tim Wade, Bruce Berger, Travis Peaslee Jim Cohen, Charlene Poulin, Joan Kiszely.

Zoom Attendance: Gregg Wood, Paula Drouin, Rob Pontau, Mike Guethle, Terry Tucker, Amanda Smith, Jodie Keene, Emily Prescott, Sierra Kuun, Peter Zaykoski, Stacy Thompson,

Absent: Andy Wendell, Jeff McBurnie, Jennifer Nicholson, Alex Buechner, Evan Pereira, Travis Jones. Bryanna Denis, and Phil Tucker.

Call to Order: President Tim Wade called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

Quorum: It was determined there was a Quorum.

Minutes: Motion made by Stacy Thompson, seconded by Terry Tucker , all approved the April 6, 2023, Executive Board meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Travis reported the following:

- Waiting on April financials. Joan indicated that Cindy emailed them out on May 1st. She will resend them to both Travis & Jeff.
- Looking ok at the end of March.
- They have approximately \$100,000 in reserve.
- Government Affairs & Administrative accounts are tracking really high. They need to be careful on spending.
- Mentioned he has not heard back from Vendrix on the credit card. He isn't sure if that means it was not approved or not interested.

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He has on his June calendar to reach out to Bangor Savings to see if we can get a credit card through them.

- Motion made by Charlene Poulin, seconded by Rob Pontau, all approved the financials report by Travis Peaslee.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

DEP Report: Gregg Wood reported the following:

- Chapter 531 – Operators Certification rule was passed
- Brians email: One issue to note that the revised process gives the department more discretion. (Everyone got his email yesterday via email). He wanted to put this out there because there are a lot of rumors out there.
- PFAS – About halfway through the collection of PFAS effluent data from facilities. It is currently in the Commissioner's office. It will be Posted on DEP's website soon.
- SRF Program – They received a request of \$473 million dollars for projects. The request is much higher than what they have. Letters will be going out soon,

JETCC-NEIWPCC: Peter Zaykoski submitted a report and reviewed his report to the Board.

RECENT ACTIVITIES: North Country Convention was a success. Thank you to all who helped with this event! Since the NCC, we've continued with our spring training calendar and have had trainings on Personnel Management and Asset Management.

We have several trainings scheduled through May and early June. I continue to look for a few trainings to put on the calendar in June to

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finish up our spring calendar. If there are any EC members interested in presenting in-person or remotely, please contact me.

The next Management Candidate School class is expected to start in the fall. I anticipate that JETCC will decide on the area of the state to hold the training at its meeting next week. If you know of anyone interested in participating, please provide me with their information. I will be presenting the information I have gathered on initial interest at the meeting and I expect that will influence the decision on location for the program.

DECISIONS MADE: The Committee has not met since the last MEWEA EC meeting. The committee is working on one currently open position and the soon-to-be-open MEWEA Municipal representative position (held by Mark Holt who will be terming out in May).

The Committee voted to increase in-person training rates to match those of remote trainings at \$25 per TCH offered.

I presented the initial concept and next steps related to the peer-to-peer training program at our last meeting. At the upcoming meeting, I anticipate the committee will take a vote on whether to proceed with development and implementation of the program.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS: I am beginning to work on the fall training calendar and on the Management Candidate School program. If you have ideas on what should be included in either of these programs or are interested in presenting, let me know.

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: The date for the next JETCC Meeting May 23, 2023.

NEIPCC: Changed their policy on Covid 19. This will be easier for all they are doing.

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Mark Holt: He is leaving this board and will need to fill this position,

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE: Jim Cohen reported the following:

- Legislators are in their last month and supposed to adjourn on June 22, 2023. If they go past that date, they get paid \$100 a day over.
- 1,980 bills have been printed and could go to 2,100.
- Overwhelming committees and work sessions are going slowly.
- Each committee was told they could carry over up to 10% of bills that were assigned to them.
- Committees are looking at which of the bills they can carry over.
- Committees may have to meet over the summer.
- Next year will be busy.
- LD718 – MeWEA is working very hard on this bill. They provided a letter of support. This will allow outside bulky waste for another 2 years and allow for biosolids to continue to be sent to Juniper Ridge temporarily.
- A request that PUC & DEP evaluate the states landfill and whether or not it is considered a monopoly utility where it might be appropriate for PUC to oversee it. There was a concern that sewer district & sanitary districts should be regulated. PUC Representatives don't think this is the case. Looking to confirm that.
- Another bill they are following is the State Biennial budget. Budget – Part K – removal of the waterfall of money coming out of the liquor operations fund. Concerned about this and recently that landscape has been changed a bit but not in a bad way.
- Part MMMM: Added to the budget, and it included base line water going to the Drinking Water Program, and baseline wastewater going to DEP.
Net amount allocated \$36 million dollars on baseline

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MWUA spoke on support of this. MeWEA should put in a letter to state they support this and are happy.

- PFAUS in products law was a lot of debate in front of the Natural Resources Committee. The legislature is going to keep hold of the issue and meet and discuss the issue in the fall.

NEWEA: Paula Drouin submitted a report and reviewed her report.

- D.C. Fly-In – Emily, Tim and Phil attended the D.C. Fly-In. Howard Carter also joined for the meeting with Senator Collins.
- Operator Exchange – We are paired with Massachusetts this year. If you know anyone who is interested, please reach out. We can avoid sending them at the time of our fall convention since the feedback I received is that our operators do not want to miss it.
- I attended the NEWEA awards committee meeting on 5/10. I sent out a request to the MEWEA EC and chairs for nominations for the NEWEA Pelouquin and Operator Awards and received a couple responses – deadline is by end of day Friday 5/19. I will coordinate electronic voting as needed.
- I attended the NEWEA Affiliated States Associations (ASA) meeting on 5/1.
- I attended the MEWEA PR committee meeting on 5/9
- NEWEA Spring meeting coming up June 7-9

MWUA: Rob Pontau indicated the following:

- MWUA will be doing a Strategic Planning Session.
- Ad Hoc Committee for Administrative Services/Contract. Stacy indicated that the committee is working on a report to give to the President, Vice President, etc.
- Next meeting is next week.
- Training is going on and going well.
- August 2 – Golf Tournament at Val Halla

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- August 10th _ Outing at Cumberland Fairgrounds.
- June Bi Monthly – Subject matter will be PFAS & Water & Bio Solids. Jeff McBurnie will be the speaker. This will be June 15 in Houlton.
- The conference is January 31st & February 1.
- New England Water Works & American Water works is a stand-alone entity.

MEWEA/MWUA Affiliate: Joan Kiszely reported on the following:

- Working on the Exhibitor Packet with the Convention Chairs & graphic designer.
- The goal is to have the Exhibitor packet out by the middle of June
- Will move on revising the Attendee Packet.
- Questioned her task or goals for MeWEA. Stacy indicated that the ad hoc group has met and she has completed her task on it. Tim indicated that there is a process & timeline to do an RFP.
- Admin Services: Discussion should be done with Bruce and then he can pass it to he wants with his staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AWARDS: Mike Guethle verbally reported:

- He will be moving in August. Please make sure you get your recommendations early.
- Quarter Century Award need recommendations
- Feel free to reach out to Mike if one needs assistance.

Collection System: Travis Jones absent

Communications: Bryanna Denis absent.

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Convention: Stacy reported the following:

- Bringing Justin Barnet on board as they phase out Phil on the Convention Committee.
- Signed a contract with a deposit to Saddleback for Ski Day On March 14.
- Working on Exhibitors
- Joan to share the Cover of Exhibitor Packet to the board to vote on.
- Send Stacy 2024 Contract
- Offered to help Charlene on anything she needs.

Government Affairs: The committee did not submit a report. Emily Cole-Prescott verbally reported the following:

- DC Fly-In – Howard Carter & Phil Tucker met with Senator Collins, Emily Prescott & Tim Wade met with Senator Golden's office, and all met with Pingree & King's office.
- Public Hearing Process – Managers need to come together. Maybe all Managers need to be on the same page. Maybe send out an email to gauge interest. Managers would like to have an in-person meeting. Travis Peaslee indicated a Utility Service Manager meeting would be helpful. Maybe set up a Forum
- Tim & Emily thanked Amanda Smith for all her hard work.

Laboratory: Andy Wendell was absent.

Membership Committee: Jennifer Nicholson submitted a report:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS:

[Joan Kiszely](#) reached out, she sent out letters for a membership drive, reaching out to 2022 members that did not rejoin in 2023.

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Personnel Advancement Report: Charlene Poulin submitted a committee report:

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Work on fall conference. Request for sessions made to EC as well as outside entities to complete agenda and get approvals for June 1

DECISIONS MADE: Will review current sessions at the meeting on Friday.

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: June 1 to have agenda and approvals to MWUA for the fall conference.

Pretreatment Report: Terry Tucker reported the following:

- No report
- Scheduled for June 29th meeting
- Officially moving into admin building with new technology
- EC meeting in June in York

Public Relations: Evan Pereira submitted a report:

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- Held meetings with PR Committee and smaller break-out groups in March and April to continue to address the biosolids crisis and how to best represent MEWEA's position.
 - Worked with Black Fly Media to develop guidance fact sheet to distribute to members for use with future media opportunities and general information sharing.
 - Coordinated media opportunities as presented to the committee to approach the situation as a collective to help provide solutions to the problem and inform the general public with knowledge around the situation.
 - Continue to stay engaged on legislative developments around both potential PFAS/Biosolids bills proposed for short term solutions and SRF updates.
- Began planning for potential Maine Calling Panel Discussion based around discussion of the state of and importance of the clean water industry in Maine.
- Began development of Clean Water Week Press Release to highlight events, milestones, and positive storylines throughout the state.
- Continued to field and vet media opportunities as presented to the committee.

NEXT STEPS & MEETINGS:

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- Continue to keep a pulse on legislative developments such as proposed PFAS/Biosolids bill amendments and SRF updates and identify potential PR support for MEWEA as needed.
- Finalize Clean Water Week Press release.
- Continue development of pitch for Maine Calling Panel Discussion, identify panelists.

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- Hold next PR Committee meeting with Diana of Black Fly Media to regroup and confirm next steps for continued rollout.

Residual Management Report: Travis reported on the following:

- Support the Government Affairs Legislation
- Offered to help with PAC sessions.
- Talking to a lot of vendors on residuals stuff
- DEP meeting next Tuesday – workshop
- Brown & Caldwell Study all approved.
- Kick of Meeting – Reached out to the Commissioner.

Storm Water Report: Sarah King and Jodie Keene submitted a report.

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 4/28/2023

RECENT ACTIVITIES: Working with NMSA and CCSWD to identify feasibility of bringing a speaker to

Maine to address programmatic organization. In discussions with Providence-based stormwater LID

infrastructure training organization to potentially organize training.

Evaluated LD 1570 to determine whether

appropriate to support (would establish a fund for stormwater infrastructure maintenance). Looking into the

bill and to understand positions of various other entities. Chloride reduction through limited liability legislation update.

DECISIONS MADE:

ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE/OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS:

Evaluating MEWEA membership against

committee membership. Once this is complete, will follow up with

Tim/Membership Committee. Planning

speaker for fall conference.

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NEXT MEETING/OTHER IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES: June 16th @ 11 am.

Emily stated they have been working hard.

Treatment Plant Operator Report: Alex Buechner absent, however sent a report after the meeting:

- Poster Contest – Checks issued to winners. And a large majority of the 540 entries that we had will be displayed on the windows of businesses on Biddeford Maine for the month of June. With the help of the Heart of Biddeford. Feel free to come check them out. Tell your friends. I'll get calendars started in the next month or so.
- TPO – Ops challenge gearing up for next month. All in good shape.

Young Professionals Report: Sierra Kuun reported the following:

- Had their meeting.
- Ask if anyone was interested in Softball or Wiffle ball.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Presidents Report: Tim Wade reported on the following:

- Tim reported on a spreadsheet he developed on the Sea Dogs game. Sponsors would get 4 to 5 tickets.
- LD 718: Still may have a call of actions. May have some follow-up. PUC is not interested.
- Had a meeting with Andy Smith – State Toxicology
- Gave an update about the meeting.
- Gave a good analogy of questions on PFAS exposure.
- Went to meetings in Bangor & Freeport - Public Hearing on 718

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- Emily thanked Tim & Amanda for going to the meetings and noted they did a good job on the presentations.
- Brian Tarbuck reached out to Tim about a Sludge Day. Maybe getting together at the Civic Center to talk about Sludge. Possible to do this mid-summer. Tim, Emily, Brian, Terry, Amanda, Travis or Andre”

1st Vice President Report: Emily Prescott had no report.

2nd Vice President Report: Terry Tucker had no report.

Immediate Past President: Dave Beauchamp was absent.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

NEXT BOARD MEETING: June 16, 2023, at York Sewer District.

Adjourn: Motion made by Mike Guethle, seconded by Terry Tucker, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m.