

#### **President's Corner**

By Scott Firmin, MEWEA President

This year, 2016, is shaping up to be an exciting one for the Maine Water Environment Association for many reasons, and I am both honored and pleased to serve as your President this year. First, 2016 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Founding of our Association. Back in 1966, seven forward looking Environmental Professionals came together to form the Maine Waste Water Control Association. Over the intervening fifty years many things have changed, including the name of the Association, but the dedication of the men and women that are the heart and soul of our industry remains the same. Over the year look for many special events and exciting opportunities to become involved in as we both look back at what came before and ahead to what we can accomplish together.

The second matter that comes to mind is seen in the evolution of our organization's name from "wastewater control association" to "water environment association". This change is not just a matter of semantics or keeping up with current lingo. The change is a reflection and recognition that there is more to our mission than control of wastewater. Our growing list of challenges include combined sewer overflows, storm water management, energy management, biosolids and residuals management, odor control, sea level rise and storm intensity increases, aging infrastructure, and many other issues that demand our continued attention. Many of these challenges will require innovative approaches and new thinking to be managed effectively. As daunting as this may seem at first, I am confident that the people of our association and our water quality professionals will be able to rise to the challenge. While it is often comforting to reflect on "the good old days", when it comes to our water environment, these are the good days! Our rivers and streams are cleaner than they have been in over a century, and we have the dedicated Professionals in our line of work to thank for much of it.

Going forward, we need to be sure that we communicate our successes to the public we serve and explain why continued investment in the water environment is still required. We need to continually demonstrate that we are good stewards of the public dollar as well good stewards of the environment. We are up to the challenge and we welcome the next 50 years of improvement!

Let the celebration begin! Happy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the Maine Water Environment Association and the members who have helped to shape our organization through which so much has been accomplished.

#### 2016 Officers

**President** Scott Firmin Portland Water District

First Vice President Matt Timberlake Ted Berry Company

Second Vice President Paula Drouin LAWPCA

Immediate Past President Tom Connolly Yarmouth, Maine

> Secretary/Treasurer Al Jellison Dedham, ME (retired)

NEWEA State Director Mac Richardson LAWPCA

\*For a complete Board Listing, please visit the MEWEA website at: www.mewea.org

#### Upcoming Executive Committee Meeting Dates:

Mar. 3 Monthly Meeting/ Legislative Breakfast - Senator Inn - Augusta

Apr. 14 Long Range Planning Meeting - Hilton Garden Inn Bangor, ME



## **Remembering Ed MacDonald**

#### By Timothy LeVasseur, Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District

*Editor's note:* Ed MacDonald was a beloved character to the Maine Water Environment Community. He passed away on January 29 in a car accident driving home from work on an icy road just weeks before his planned retirement. The following remembrance speaks of the kind of man he was and the impact he had.

Ed, I was always glad to see you and discuss most anything that came up. It seems over the years we would bump into each other in our own personal travels. Of course, we saw each other at formal events related to our work positions. It was often hard to stop our conversations, but most often we had to get along to the next job at hand.

I met Ed in fall of 1975 in Greenville Maine when he was working for an engineering company. His job then was to show how to do a complex water test using an advanced technique. During those days he also assisted with the start-up of new facilities and training operators how to handle the daily grind that comes with the multiple duties that are required when running a wastewater treatment plant. Back then his hair came down passed his shoulders and he sported a beard that touched his chest, but after meeting and working with him - it did not matter, you knew where you stood with this man.

Our paths crossed again in 1982 or so. Ed came to the Maine Waste Water Control Association (the former name for MEWEA) with an unrelenting drive to finish a safety guidance manual that had been started but left uncompleted. Ed stepped in with his characteristic swagger and booming voice and said, "This project needs completion; I want to make that happen," He asked for volunteers and under the weight of his personality and positive attitude, I was in. He went through all aspects of the manual making corrections and clarifying the text, and even then - wanted more of our drafts. He kept pushing and in short order he completed the task at hand. I know for a fact his work on the first MWWCA safety manual reduced injuries and even saved lives, but more important, it was his work that established a pro-active approach to safely training in the State of Maine's operators.

Time went by, and I didn't see too much of Ed until his mug showed up at the Maine Municipal Association, where he spent the last 15 years of his career as the loss control manager. I was so pleased to see him provide motivated and focused leadership in worker's compensation insurance for many municipal treatment plants, public works departments, police departments, fire departments, and school systems. I know we have "safety guardian angel" on our side watching over us from heaven. Ed – thank you for being there, you will be in my mind forever and to Ed's family; thank you for allowing him to spend all those extra hours helping us all.

Timothy J. LeVasseur, a friend for ever

## MEWEA and MWUA Meet with the Legislative Coastal Caucus

By Tim Haskell, Chair, Government Affairs

It was a busy day at the State House on Tuesday, Jan. 12. As you'll see in a separate article, we had already joined forces with MWUA, to educate and inform any legislator daring to cross our paths, in the Hall of Flags that day. This event in itself was a huge success, but there was no rest for the weary. Not wanting to waste an opportunity, I also scheduled a luncheon meeting the same day with a group of legislators being called the Coastal Caucus and organized by Representative Lydia Blume from York.

Representative Blume's goal is to organize as many coastal legislators as possible to share thoughts, information, and goals, and to discuss issues that are shared by all the coastal Districts in the State of Maine. Aubrey Strause worked with Rep. Blume ahead of time to develop a program for ME-WEA and MWUA to present during the luncheon. She and our President, Scott Firmin, along with MWUA Executive Director, Jeff McNelly, took time from the Hall of Flags to meet with 15 to 18 legislators to discuss what each association is about and how we can assist with a tremendously wide range of topics/issues, given the depth of expertise and experience of each association.

The legislators who were able to stay throughout the entire lunch were very engaged and asked questions ranging from ocean acidification and mitigating marine debris to issues surrounding MS4. There wasn't much time to cover the numerous topics Representative Blume had planned to discuss and Aubrey and Scott did their best to deliver but we did run out of time(Sorry, Jeff, but sometimes sewer does come before drinking water). We look forward to having additional opportunities to interact with the Caucus.

Lunch was provided by the York Sewer District.

## Listen for M<sub>E</sub>WEA Messages on MPBN Evening Programs

The Maine Water Environment Association is reaching out give the public a better idea of who is serving them in the area of protecting our State's wonderful water resources. In conjunction with our association's fiftieth anniversary, MEWEA is underwriting news programming on Maine Public Radio with three messages that play during popular programs such as "the World," "All Things Considered/Maine Things Considered" and "Marketplace" Listen for these and spread the word:

- Maine Water Environment Association, hand on professionals celebrating 50 years of protecting Maine Waters. MEWEA dot org
- Maine Water Environment Association, whose members maintain and operate your local municipal and industrial wastewater collection and treatment systems.
- Maine Water Environment Association, working to keep waterways clean and healthy for all Maine People, MEWEA dot org.

## ON MY SOAPBOX: Don't Just Sit There, Get Socializing!

#### By Mac Richardson, Newsletter Editor

Note: The opinions, positions, and views expressed in any "On My Soapbox" feature are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinions, positions or views of the Maine Water Environment Association.

As we start a new year and a Presidential election year at that, I hear that many Americans are concerned about the state of our country and broadly speaking, our country's institutions. Complaints range from the nastiness of political campaigns to the lack of community involvement, and from kids (and adults too) suffering from obesity and diabetes, to a lack of civility in the world. What is going on? Is this a legacy of the internet invading our homes, or close minded politicians refusing to listen or what?

Allow me to take a crack at a few of these while trying to claim humility and assuring everyone that I don't think I have "the answer."

I will start by observing that we are not spending enough time "doing." We seem to spend increasing blocks of time passively on screens - whether of the television or computer variety! We need to step up and participate in the kinds of civic and social activities that have been a bedrock strength of this American Republic virtually since the beginning. I suppose it matters less what you participate in than it does that you participate. I am talking about any and virtually all activities that get people together to socialize and interact with each other. These activities may be as organized as the local PTA, your town conservation commission, boy scouts/girl scouts, etc. or as informal as a bunch of people getting together for a weekly poker night, to run in a 5K, to tip a few brews at the local watering hole, or to visit one another for dinner. What is important, and all too often missing from the lives many of us live today, is interacting with our fellow citizens!

By stepping up and participating connections are made, social webs are woven and we all enjoy life more and feel better about our fellow human beings. We start to share our points of view and actually listen to each other. We open our minds and understand that there often are two sides to an issue. The more we can interact with people having a different life experience or a different point of view from our own, the more we can combat extremism and harsh rhetoric that gets us nowhere. In fact, it has been shown that if a person only shares opinions with people that already agree with their own, opinions tend to become more extreme. This is, in fact, one of the methods used to recruit and incite terrorists to commit some of the horrible acts of violence we have seen recently. Note as well, that people who have committed terrorist acts lately have often spent lots of time on the internet interacting only with those who share their points of view and embellish the grievances they already feel. By having robust networks of people having different backgrounds, it is also more likely that possible action might be taken to keep innocent people from being harmed.

Please remember that civility is also key here – just because you like Chevy trucks doesn't mean that people who like Fords or Dodges or even Toyota trucks are jerks! The more we are able to discuss our inclinations thoughts and opinions, the more likely we are to understand each other including views on religion, politics and sports teams. By interacting with one another we support one another.

So, how about it? Drop that mouse. Get off the couch. Turn off the idiot box! Find a way to get involved with your fellow humans! And in case you need someplace to start, the Maine Water Environment Association can always use your help.

#### Dump Sewage, Spend time in Jail

By Tim Feeley, Maine Office of the Attorney General

Attorney General Janet Mills announced recently that Dennis L. Brown Jr., 32, of Princeton was sentenced to 10 days in jail for violating Maine's environmental laws. The Attorney General alleged that Brown, who served as the certified operator for the Passamaquoddy Tribal Government's wastewater treatment plant in Indian Township, engaged in and directed unlicensed discharge of untreated sewage from a malfunctioning pump station by dumping the raw, concentrated sewage immediately behind a residential area over the course of several days in November 2014.

Brown initially reported to the Department of Environmental Protection that the sewage was being transported by truck to another station that was functional for further pumping to the tribal wastewater treatment plant. Contrary to Brown's report, however, the sewage had been continuously dumped directly on the ground and into nearby woods and water. It is estimated that up to 96,000 gallons were unlawfully dumped before DEP was notified and corrective action was taken.

Brown pled guilty to criminal violation of environmental laws in Calais District

Court on January 27, 2016. Judge David J. Mitchell imposed the 10 day sentence and a \$2,500 fine. Brown also agreed to formally surrender his wastewater operator's certification. Brown is scheduled to report to jail on February 5.

"Public works departments try hard to comply with Maine's environmental laws in order to protect the environment and the health and safety of all Maine people," commented Attorney General Mills. "On those rare occasions when a person violates these laws with criminal intent, this office will prosecute and seek significant sanctions to deter future violations. In this case, not only was there an impact on the environment, but Brown's conduct created a serious risk to the health and safety of nearby residents."

Attorney General Mills thanked the Passamaquoddy Tribal officials and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for their cooperation with this joint investigation. Assistant Attorney General Leanne Robbin and Assistant Attorney General Scott Boak handled the matter for the Attorney General's Office.

## **A Vendor's View of Trade Shows**

By Gene Weeks, BAU/Hopkins

Being a vendor at the trade show usually starts a couple of months before the show with the show sign up. Let's assume that this is a show we have displayed at in the past with fairly good results. Therefore the decision of whether to display at the show or not is an easy one. Other decisions like how many people will go to the show, what equipment and brochures will we display, hotel rooms, etc. will be made as the show gets closer. Budgets are a big item. If it's a new show for us, someone has to justify the expenditure. If we are adding significant costs like a second display area or sponsoring coffee break then that has to be budgeted and justified to the accounting department. It is definitely possible to spend too much money on trade shows, so the trade show budget is very important when decisions are being made. It's not just the cost of this show, it's the cost of all the shows added together that make up the trade show budget.

Another series of decisions involve what are goals for this show? This can be something as simple as continue to build relationships with association members. However usually it's more than that. Are there specific people we want to see, and why do we want to see them. Do we need to make a lunch or dinner date with someone during the show. When we see this person, what do we say or what do we show them? As far as our display, what are we going to display and why? How are we going to get the display items to the show? We should be practicing our "elevator speech". We have 30 seconds to introduce ourselves and our company to someone we have never met who shows up at our display. What do we say?

As the show gets closer hotel reservations are made and decisions regarding the show and the display are finalized. Now it's the day before the show, time to pack up. Organization is important. Hopefully we have a check list to go by. It is very frustrating to get to the show and find that we have left an important part of the display at the office.

When we get there, it's set up time. I try to be ready to set up early in the allotted setup time. This allows me to get the set up right without rushing and hopefully with a few minutes to relax before the show starts.

I have some specific goals for the show, people to see, products to show. I try to be alert and watching for the people I want to see. What about the people who are not on my list? What are my goals for them? First I want to establish (or maintain) contact with that person and that facility. I want to get to know people in the industry. If I already know someone, I want to get to know them better. Also I want sales leads. I will often ask you what is going on at your plant. Any information on equipment that may be replaced, service that needs to be done, long term plans for possible upgrades, etc. will help me. I do not want to know secrets, but I would appreciate knowing what the plans and issues are at your plant. Since I am a knowledgeable person selling good equipment, I may be in a position to help you and help your plant going forward. I keep a little notebook in my back pocket to write down names, contact info, and leads. I also am always looking to add to my collection of business cards.

If you are walking the show, do I want to talk to you? Yes I do. Do you think of yourself as unimportant? Are you the new hire at the treatment plant? I still want to talk to you. As I said

before, I want to get to know people in the industry, and that includes you. I have a lot more equipment available than I have room for in my display space. Maybe if we talk for a minute, I can give you some information that will help you.

In our business all of the equipment vendors need to know the engineers. When I have a minute, I will walk the show myself. This is partly to renew old acquaintances with other vendors, but mostly I am looking for engineers. I will try to introduce myself to any engineer I do not know and renew acquaintances with those I do know. If I can get specifics, that's great. What jobs are you working on? What bids are coming up? And so on.

In the end a couple of good leads will justify the expenditure of time and money at the trade show. I will go back through my notes and write a brief report on the information and leads I got at the show. I send the report to my boss. Next year if someone asks me why we are spending money on this show, I can look up my report and give them specific answers to that question.

## Brunswick Sewer District Completes Work space upgrade

Len Blanchette, Brunswick Sewer District

Members of the Brunswick Sewer District's pumping crew began moving into a new office and garage complex just before Christmas last year. The new facilities include 4,900 square feet of garage and storage space, 2,450 square feet of office space, a 1,200 square foot mezzanine storage area and 2,450 square feet of heated workshop space. Discussion and planning for the new facilities started 15 years ago, and finally are now complete.



**Maine Water Environment NEWS** is a quarterly publication of the Maine Water Environment Association. (Publication months: Feb, May, Aug, Nov) Comments on the content in this publication should be addressed to: MEWEA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330.

Website: www.mewea.org

**Editorial Staff:** Mac Richardson, LAWPCA, P.O. Box 1928, Lewiston, ME 04241-1928 Phone: (207) 782-0917 email: <u>crichardson@lawpca.org</u>



## Old Town Water District Anthony Cote - Operator Profile

#### By Steve Lane, Old Town Water District

Anthony Cote began his career with the Old Town Water District in January of 2015. A graduate of Bangor High School in 2001, Andy began full time work with Eastwood Contractors. He started out as a concrete laborer and progressed up through the company to Project Manager. In that position Andy managed various water and wastewater rehabilitation projects ranging from \$10,000 to \$800,000 in communities from Lewiston to Madawaska with a wide variety of places in between.

Some of the most memorable projects Andy worked on included 4200' of new 8" ductile iron water main installed in Lewiston. Overcoming the narrow streets with multiple utility conflicts was no easy task. Working in multiple locations at the same time in Dover-Foxcroft to update and install 8" PVC sewer mains and 8" ductile iron water mains was also a challenging yet rewarding job. Overcoming these difficulties helped to mold him into the project manager he became. His ability to work productively with others and under difficult conditions has been beneficial in repairing the Old Town Water District Distribution system

and maintaining its integrity-. His previous experiences in the construction industry with Eastwood Contractors have been very beneficial to the Old Town Water District.

Andy has hit the ground running in his new career as a water system operator. He has obtained a class B driver's license and become licensed by the state of Maine to operate a Class III water distribution system and Class III treatment plant. Andy is excited to continue his education in the water field and eagerly seeks courses and seminars to help him accomplish this. Andy takes every opportunity to better his education and bring that knowledge back to the Old Town Water District.

Andy's first priority is spending his time with his wife Sylvia and his 2 year old son Noah. In his spare time he enjoys running and hiking. Andy is a competitor and loves to compete in Spartan races. Andy's joy in racing has brought him all over New England. Races have ranged from 16+ miles to 25+ miles from obstacles up and down Mt. Killington to a charity half marathon in Millinocket and beyond.

## **MEWEA Partners with MWUA to Hold hall of Flags Event**

By Scott Firmin and Mac Richardson

On Tuesday, January 12, roughly 15 volunteers from both the Maine Water Environment Association and the Maine Water Utilities Association assembled a vast array of posters, pictures, displays and samples in the hall of flags at the State Capitol in Augusta. The displays allowed legislators to see such items as an old corroded sewer pipe next to a relatively new pipe, a CCTV camera used to inspect sewer lines (clearly an event favorite), a display of various grades of biosolids products, jars containing wastewater treatment plant influent and effluent, an enviroscape non-point source pollution educational display, numerous brochures and hand-outs covering fats oil and grease (FOG), non dispersibles/ wipes, pharmaceuticals in wastewater, the 2016



MEWEA calendar, and many others. In addition, laptops and monitors were set up to show divers inspecting the Scarborough Sanitary District outfall, a basic description of the wastewater treatment process, and the 2014 Legislative Breakfast presentation that showcased diverse projects around the state of Maine funded through the clean water and drinking water SRF program. The "gang" staffed the tables from 8 am until 1 pm, and found many opportunities to engage both legislators and staff people. Handouts included postcards announcing the March 3 legislative breakfast (an effort of MEWEA, MWUA, NEWEA and NEIWPIC), "Water's Worth It" water bottles, sheets



comparing and contrasting the missions of ME-WEA and MWUA, and packets of mints bearing "compliments of MEWEA and MWUA, thank you for your Commit-mint." These were especially popular (special thanks to the Ted Berry Co for

providing these).

In short, the eye catching displays and real world feel of the samples and equipment coupled with the enthusiasm of the volunteers made this a very worthwhile event. Thanks to all who helped pull it off!

#### London, England, as Seen Through the Eyes of a Wastewater Treatment Professional

By Phyllis Rand, Greater Augusta Utilities District

In October 2015, my husband, Bob, and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary by spending a week in London, England. We were pretty laidback about our plans while there, but the British Museum, the Tower of London, the Globe Theatre and the Royal Naval Observatory were on the list of places we wanted to see. Be-



This is one of about ten "passive debris collectors" placed in channels of the River Thames (pronounced, "Tim's") in London, England. Each passive debris collector removes approximately 40 tons per year of bottles and other trash discarded into the river.

cause traffic is driven on the left-hand sides of the streets, London provides visual cues to school us on which direction we must look before crossing. We carefully followed the cues and were well on our way to checking out what London had to offer.

Being a seasoned wastewater treatment professional, I constantly honed-in on the pollution control devices encountered during my time in London. I saw an air pollution monitoring device, several "Gum + Butts" receptacles and I was especially drawn to a strangelooking barge held in place by a yellow mooring in the River Thames (pronounced, "Tim's). After some on-line "Googling" and conversing with British wastewater operators on Facebook, I learned this barge was one of ten or so floating "rubbish-collection" devices positioned in channels of the Thames.

These barges annually remove 40 tons of bottles and other trash from the river. The Thames, a river notorious for its polluted history, is now a thriving, "working" river that accommodates water taxis and other vessels essential for supporting the London economy. Wastewater treatment plants played a major role in cleaning up the Thames and eradicating water-borne diseases, as do wastewater treatment plants (and the people who build and operate them) around the world.





Ancient water pipe. Photo was taken at the British Museum, London, England.



Ancient Roman water supply system. A description is on the next photo. Photos were taken at the British Museum, London, England.

don's sewers!

When we visited the Tower of London where many kings, queens and other "nobles" lost their heads at the blade of the Guillotine, I was pleasantly surprised to see a "garderobe" in the "White Tower," which was built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. "Garderobe" is a

fancy name for a toilet, and honestly, l was more than pleas-



A receptacle for discarded cigarettes and chewing gum.

antly surprised—I was *very* excited—to see this *very* old toilet! I guess I wasn't the only one, because Bob told me there was a line behind me as I was taking toilet photos. I guess this goes to show that wherever there's a toilet, there's always a line of people waiting to get to it. Oh yeah, we also saw the Crown Jewels. They were pretty and shiny but not nearly as interesting as the old toilet.

Bob and I toured the British Museum where we saw the Rosetta Stone, Egyptian mummies, nightmarish First-century Roman surgical tools and other super-old and fascinating artifacts. Among them were an ancient sewer drain screen, water pump, and lead water pipes. The British Museum actually allows people to take photographs of the displays—a very nice and much-appreciated feature of the museum.

At this point you may justifiably assume that I took a tour of the London sewers during my visit. I looked into it, but when I saw that the cover of the "Sewer Tour" brochure featured a man in hip waders in the sewer, three thoughts came to mind: 1. "Why is this tourist wearing hip waders?" 2. "The sewage is above *his* knees and he's taller than me," and, 3. "Would Bob let me into our hotel room if my hip waders filled up with sewage?" After mulling over these things, I declined the opportunity to tour the sewers of London. Besides, I've been inside sewers before: London's may be bigger, but they're not necessarily better than ours!

If you ever get the chance to visit London, be sure to give yourself plenty of time to relax, walk around and enjoy the sights. Unlike me, you may even be brave enough (and tall enough) to don a pair of hip waders and bring back stories of Lon-



#### **Government Affairs Update**

By Tim Haskell, Chair, Government Affairs

It was a very long year leading up to the second session of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature, But MEWEA had significant success defeating bils harmful to our members and finally getting ga reasonable utility location "gas line safety" bill passed. The final bill establishes DOT'S Utility Accommodation Rule as the guideline to be followed for separation of utilities in the right of way when a community does not have an existing approved utility location permit process. This was very big since it overrides Federal gas line location rules. We were also able to meet with the Governor on this bill and gain his support, a major win for both MEWEA and MWUA member communities.

After this fight, and reviewing hundreds bills that could impact our members, we were ready for a break this session, not expecting much new to come up or to be carried over. Think again. We are still tracking, testifying, and lobbying, on several bills this session. Bills of interest:

LD 427 Mitigate the Impacts of Marine Debris, is a draft/concept bill with few or no specifics. In general, we support the idea of minimizing or eliminating marine debris and this bill would target micro beads etc. so we testified in favor of the bill. The bill is still being worked at this time with no new work sessions scheduled: we'll need to keep watch.

LD 493 Establishing an Ocean Acidification Council, has been voted Ought Not to Pass but still has some support at least to keep the ad hoc council in place. This was another major bill/ issue for us to stay on top of, as many individuals associated with this bill felt treatment facilities are a major source of the problem (or maybe just an easier source to target). Through the hard work of Aubrey Strause, Scott Firmin, and Tom Connolly (and many others behind the scenes) we have had a reasonable amount of success redirecting and softening those feelings and I believe we are now being looked at as more of a resource . Had the bill moved forward, we would have had a seat on the Commission saved for MeWEA.

<u>LD 998 is a bond bill to Collect Data and Monitor Ocean</u> <u>Acidification</u>. We will need to keep an eye on this bill to assure that sound science is is the primary effort, but given the bill requires funding of \$3M, I think it is unlikely to keep moving forward. No work session has been scheduled as yet.

LD 1494 Would Revise the Oil Spill Reporting Standards. We have been to affect a language change that would still protect our members but also give DEP the relief of being over burdened with "minor" (less than 10 gallons) oil spill reporting and response. Scott Firmin has provided testimony to the ENR Committee on our behalf but this is one of those bills we feel best not to take a specific position on, but rather try to be a party to the discussions and contribute to the discussion when necessary. We came late to the table on this bill and missed the public hearing so being able to be part of the discussion is another significant step for us. Fred Dillon and Zach Henderson scrambled to gather information and contribute to Scott's letter to the ENR Committee. Language has been revised a couple of times now and we are waiting for more.

LD 1578 Update Maine's Solid Waste Management Laws is a huge bill with many moving parts and no specific defined

direction yet. These types of bills are important to watch as they always have the possibility of morphing into something completely different then what they started as. Fortunately we have Jeff McBurnie keeping tabs on this one. We'll be attending the public hearing set for Feb. 17.

Finally, we have <u>Remote Participation in Public Meetings</u>, being brought forward by the Right to Know Committee which will, at some point, go before the Judiciary Committee once a bill is written. Indications are that all remote participation by elected officials, will be prohibited. This issue has been discussed for years now and this outcome is not what was being sought. A simple solution would be to use a process similar to what the State wants to use – to allow remote participation for some specific Agencies (under the guise of "increasing government efficiency"). So why would this not hold true for everyone??

Anyone with questions about legislative matters, pending bills, etc. can contact me directly at <a href="mailto:theshell@yorksewerdistrict.org">theshell@yorksewerdistrict.org</a>

## MEWEA E-Mail Database

All current members of MEWEA should receive periodic e-mails, which may include the most recent newsletter, conference and training announcements, or regulatory updates. If you haven't received any e-mails from the organization recently, you may wish to update your information in the distribution list by sending your current e-mail address to Joan Kiszely at <u>jkiszely@</u> memun.org. Don't miss out on the exciting networking and educational opportunities MEWEA provides!



# 9th Annual MeWEA/NHWPCA SKI DAY – March 25, 2016

The Maine Water Environment Association & New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association is proud to Announce the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Ski Day for Members and Sponsors! Join us for a day of skiing, networking, and a day of funl

Arrival Time: 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

FEE: \$50.00 per person/lift ticket required \$15.00 per person/no lift ticket required

> \* \$40.00 ski lift tickets/day will be offered for Saturday, March 26th & Sunday, March 27th if you attend Ski Day!

**INCLUDES:** Lunch buffet, 1 apres ski beverage ticket and after skiing hors d'oeuvres.

**REGISTRATION & PAYMENT INFORMATION:** Send in registration form with payment to MEWEA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330 or register and pay online at http://www. mewea.org/events/ski-day/. Fee must be pre-paid by March 17, 2016. Unfortunately, no door registrations will be allowed.

**REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION:** Registration confirmation and Skiday agenda will be sent out to all registrants on March 21<sup>st</sup>.



**OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS ARE ON YOUR OWN!:** If you wish to make reservations at a discounted rate, contact Sunday River Resort directly at 1-800-207-2365 and reference "MEWEA Ski Day". Discounted rates apply at both the Grand Summit and Snow Cap Inn for March 24th thru March 26th. Reservation and deposit must be received by February 23, 2016.

Apres Ski: After a great day of skiing, join us for some apres ski beverages, hors d'oeuvres and networking.

	Please register the following person from	(Employer/Municipality)	for the 2016 Ski Day.
5	FULL NAME :		FEE: \$
2	EMAIL :		
	BILLING ADDRESS :		AMOUNT: \$
	Please check one (I will be skiing on the following day/days):		
	□ Friday only - \$50.00 □ Friday & Saturday - \$90.00	) 🗇 Friday & Sunday - \$90.00	Friday, Saturday & Sunday - \$130.00
	Mail Registration Forms to: M⊧WEA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330 or fax (207) 624-0128 or register online at <u>http://www.mew</u> <u>org/events/ski-day/</u> .		
	In order to ensure your complete participation, we would appreciate any special requirements you may have due to a disability.	your informing us of CHECKS MUST	BE MADE PAYABLE TO MEWEA

## Get Ready for the Maine Clean Water Week Poster

Competition

#### By Matt Timberlake, Ted Berry Company

In 1983 the Maine Legislature made provisions to designate the first full week of June as Maine Clean Water Week. Maine Clean Water Week was created to increase the public's awareness of the improvements made in the quality of Maine's waterways. One of the primary reasons our waterways have so greatly improved is due to the hard work of Maine's collection system and wastewater treatment plant personnel.

In celebration of MEWEA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and of 2016 Maine Clean Water Week the Maine Water Environment Association is again sponsoring a poster competition for Maine students. Recent years have been a tremendous success and we have received over 500 posters which are judged for creativity, delivering a strong message, and connecting with the association's mission.

The theme of the competition is "WHY WATER'S WORTH IT TO ME!" ME meaning YOU and Maine

A \$100 cash prize will be awarded for the top poster for each age group, and the top three posters in each age group will receive recognition.

Grades 1-3 Grades 4-6 Grades 7-8 Grades 9-12

In addition, the winning students' schools will receive recognition. The winners will be honored at the Maine Water Environment As-

sociation 2016 Fall Convention, at the Maine State House, or at a school assembly. When is your poster due? All posters must be received by MEWEA by April 8, 2016

#### Where do I send my poster?

Send or deliver posters to: c/o MEWEA Clean Water Week Contest 2016 Maine Municipal Association 60 Community Drive

Augusta, ME 04330

Questions? Visit <u>www.mewea.org</u> or call Matt Timberlake at 207-897-3348

MAKE YOUR POSTER NO LARGER THAN 22' BY 28' AND PUT YOUR <u>NAME, HOME MAILING ADDRESS</u>, <u>Home Phone Num-</u> <u>Ber, Grade, Teachers Names, and School</u> on the Back. All posters submitted become property of Mewea and The decision of the selection committee is final.

Thank you,

1M - multh

Matt Timberlake Maine Water Environment Association Vice President

Mark Y	our Calendars! 2016 Events
March 3	Legislative Breakfast–Senator Inn, Augusta
March 25	Ski Day–Sunday River, Newry
April 15	MEWEA Spring Conference–Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor
June 6-10	Maine Clean Water Week

Maine Water Environment NEWS

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER 60 COMMUNITY DR AUGUSTA ME 04330



# Winter 2016 ISSUE

please circulate and share with your colleagues



www.mewea.org