

# Maine Water News

*A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association*

January 2017, Number 191

## *What a Difference a Year Makes*

*Frank Kearney, 2016 President*

Over the past year our organization has seen big change. Sometimes that isn't all good, but, in this case, Maine Water Utilities Association has come out in fine shape. It is often the case that a year of leadership transition becomes a year of little progress, but that was certainly not the case. We were able to maximize training efforts, maintain all organizational functions, adhere to traditional timelines, and stick to the planned budget. The Board of Directors certainly kept a steady hand. There were times of frustration, times when we had to huddle and carefully plan like never before. Every single member stayed engaged, enthused, and effective. I had some times of ...shall I kindly call it... concern? But all is well. We are in a good place thanks to all the individuals involved. We can all rest assured that our 92-year-old organization is as alive as ever and very healthy.

December 7th, is a day that lives in infamy because a bad thing happened at Pearl Harbor. But for us in the Maine water/wastewater profession, this past December 7th was also a day that marked an important milestone in a good way. While the ocean levels didn't subside or the sun didn't shine any brighter, that day a joint meeting was held between the Board of Directors of Maine Rural Water Association and Maine Water Utilities Association. It was a simple agenda, to meet and simply discuss commonalities. A meeting that, to my knowledge, had never occurred before. I had the good fortune to feel quite at home in that meeting, as I was privileged to have served on both boards in recent years.

I have often been asked by members of both organizations, which most of us are, if there is anything being planned that would allow the organizations to work together at some level. The questions always mention training efforts, legislative concerns, combined annual events, and other common interests.

The meeting was a necessary first step to answer those questions. No decisions were made. Almost everyone in the room thought the meeting was long overdue, and that each organization must maintain its own identity. It was agreed to investigate further, through a joint committee, what the future might hold in the way of

collaboration.

Other meetings of the boards will be held during 2017. I think it is important for us all to think about what this all means. Please ask questions. Please give your input. Please lend a hand with your time and interest. Wherever the idea goes, I feel certain it will take us all to a more efficient future. Both boards have pledged to keep us all informed along the way.

This will be my last President's message in the bi-monthly newsletter. It was a year of challenge for me personally, and I learned a lot along the way. I've enjoyed the time greatly and made many lasting friendships. I learned exactly, to the minute, how long it takes to drive from Mars Hill to Augusta and back, but it was worth it.

My most memorable of those trips went something like this: It was cold. I was tired. I was busy that week and didn't have room for a trip to Augusta. But there I was nearing Augusta, on time, and on came the orange dash light, low tire pressure. Indeed, it was totally flat and ruined by the time I got stopped. I started at it, after calling Jeff to tell him I would be quite late. I was fairly lucky and everything worked as it should. I had the thing changed in 20 minutes. My hands were frozen. Just as I was pulling out again, coming to rescue me was a Greater Augusta Utility truck. Sure, the work was done, but the thought really counted. Whoever you guys were, thank you very much, and a thank you to whoever diverted that crew from real work to a rescue mission. (Probably Rick Anair) I won't forget that.

For the past year, I hope all of you felt that the money you sent for dues and training was well spent. That you were served well, had questions answered and problems solved. That you valued the training we provided and learned new things. My mission was successful if you did.

Please find time to support your organizations next year with your participation at some level. There are some spots on committees available that need your expertise. Please find time in 2017 to further your professional career by helping others that way. If we all help a little, the load is lighter for all. And most of you are far closer to Augusta than I am, so that isn't an excuse.

I send a warm farewell to the MWUA Board and employees. Thank you all for everything. I'm looking forward to whatever is next. I'll see you around.

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will be considered for publication. Copy deadline is  
the 15<sup>th</sup> day of month preceding publication.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

##### **President**

**Frank Kearney**

*Presque Isle Utilities District*

##### **Vice President**

**Jim Wallace**

*Portland Water District*

**Scott Abbotoni**

*Great Salt Bay Sanitary District*

**Rick Anair**

*Greater Augusta Utility District*

**Mike Broadbent**

*Auburn Water & Sewerage Districts*

**John Leach**

*South Berwick Water District*

**Jefferson Longfellow**

*Kennebec Water District*

**Brian McGuire**

*Houlton Water Company*

#### **Education and Operations Committee**

*Co-Chair: Eric Gagnon*

*Yarmouth Water District*

*Co-Chair: John Leach*

*South Berwick Water District*

#### **Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee**

*Chair: Dan Wells*

*Winthrop Water District*

#### **Nominating Committee**

*Chair: Don Gobeil*

*Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District*

#### **Technology Committee**

*Co-Chair: Matt Zetterman*

*Kennebec Water District*

*Co-Chair: Thomas Schofield*

*Brunswick & Topsham Water District*

#### **Program Committee**

*Co-Chair: Chris Curtis*

*Auburn Water & Sewerage District*

*Co-Chair: Justin Richardson*

*Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District*

#### **Public Awareness Committee**

*Co-Chair: Kirsten Ness*

*Portland Water District*

*Co-Chair: Helen Pottle*

*Maine Water Company*

#### **Water Resources Committee**

*Chair: June Mooney*

*Greater Augusta Utility District*

## **December Bi-Monthly Meeting Well Attended**

The December meeting was held at the Harraseeket Inn in Freeport, Maine on the 1st with an excellent membership turnout. Peter Joseph the Town Manager of Freeport warmly welcomed all in attendance and ask all to make sure they did their holiday shopping before leaving.

Roger Crouse Director of the Maine Drinking Water Program (MDWP) gave us a quick update on regulatory issues that will impact water systems within Maine. He also updated us on the progress being made with the reorganization within the program and that the State has authorized the filling of several vacancies that had existed bringing the program back to full capacity.

After the update was completed we moved into the technical part of our scheduled program. The program proved to be most interesting. Chris Curtis, Program Committee Co-Chair, put together a program that offered both local and regional presentations. Eric Gagnon, Assistant Superintendent of the Yarmouth Water District along with Helen Pottle and Aric Odone of Maine Water Company, Freeport Division, collectively walked us through their interconnection project. The collaboration and planning that took place for the success of this project quickly became evident. It was a good example of how water utilities can accomplish meaningful projects to the mutual benefit of their systems through collaboration.

The secondary part of our technical session was moderated by Paul Cote of Tata and Howard. This program involved the update to the master plan for the Southern Maine Coalition of Water Systems. Tata and Howard was the firm selected to assist the Council with their update and Paul Cote served as project manager. Paul gave us an overview of the masterplan update. He explained how the plan's development was in part predicated on upgrading, or in some cases, developing individual hydraulic models. These upgraded models also aided, in some cases, the individual systems in the development of their own capital improvement plans. In turn, the individual hydraulic models also aided in upgrading a collective system hydraulic model. These models were also used as tool to help upgrade their master plan for the entire Council. After Paul's overview, each system gave a short report on how each of their systems benefitted by the update. Each system received meaningful benefits to their planning efforts with both their short- and long-term plans.

After our technical presentations the meeting was concluded with a delicious meal and a time to reconnect over lunch.

## **Program Committee Busy Preparing for the February Meeting & Trade Show**

MWUA's 91st Annual February Meeting and Trade Show will once again cover three days beginning on Monday, February 6th and running through Wednesday, February 8th, 2017 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, in Portland, Maine. The conference will again be cosponsored by NEWWA and Maine Water Environment Association (MEWEA).

This year, the Awards and Business Luncheon will be held on Monday from 12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. The Trade Show Meet and Greet with chowder and beverages will be held on Monday, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 p.m. There will be a variety of sessions available on all three days that include classroom sessions and new product technologies at exhibitor booths on the Trade Show Floor.

The conference brochure and online registration is available at [www.mwua.org](http://www.mwua.org), and the registration form is included as an insert in this newsletter. Please register by January 27th to take advantage of the early registration discounts! Alternatives to registering online include faxing, emailing or mailing the registration form. We hope to see you in Portland in February!

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## The Staff Report

I don't know about you, but the end of the year is always bittersweet to me. I'm excited to start a new year but always saddened by the loss of some of our colleagues and the fact that we didn't accomplish everything we intended to. But whatever your view it's usually a time to reflect.

As we reflect on last year, what did the Association accomplish for you, our members?

Within this column over the last few months we have commented on efforts to collaborate with several other trade groups within our State. Our largest efforts have been focused fostering common goals with both Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) and Maine Water Environment Association (MeWEA). Those efforts

## Maine Water Utilities Association

Invites all to a

### "New Professionals" Reception

Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

At Our 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference

5:00-6:00 PM

Port of Call Restaurant

Light Appetizers, Wine, Beer and Soft Drinks will be provided at no charge.

This is an opportunity to welcome new professionals to our Association.

Take a minute to express why MWUA is a great place to become engaged and involved with others that serve the public with commitment and pride.

# TH

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continue.

Kirsten Hebert, Executive Director of MRWA, Matt Timberlake, President of MeWEA and myself have spent a lot of time developing short- and long-term goals. Here are but a few that we have implemented:

- ◆ Agreed and published a joint position/comments to DEP on hydrant flushing within MS4 communities.
- ◆ Applied for a grant from MDWP to fund the development of a hydrant flushing procedure/protocol/training for system that operate within the current MS4 communities.
- ◆ Developed a joint legislative/regulatory committee (see more explanation below).
- ◆ Agreed to collaborate on and support the June 17 clean water bond to fund additional wastewater needs.
- ◆ Creating board positions from MRWA and MeWEA at our annual conference in February 2017. (See announcement of proposed by-law changes in this newsletter.)
- ◆ MRWA has already changed their by-laws to accommodate a board position for MWUA at their annual conference in Bangor, December 2016.
- ◆ Agreed to form an Ad-Hoc committee to develop a workshop with a professional facilitator to develop a plan for additional/future collaborative goals.
- ◆ Have joint board meetings a minimum of once a year with a goal of potentially two such meetings.(MRWA/MWUA)

We are very excited to announce that the three trade groups have formed and scheduled our first meeting for a collaborative Legislative/Regulatory Committee. We were able to recruit and confirm 12 people that have agreed to serve on this joint committee. They are as follows:

Mike Broadbent, Auburn Water/Sewer Districts  
Tim Haskell, York Sewer District/MeWEA  
Dan Wells, Winthrop Utilities District  
Craig Douglas, Brunswick & Topsham Water Dist.  
Kirsten Hebert, MRWA  
Alex Wong, MRWA  
Steve Cox, Maine Water Company  
Boyd Snowden, Oakland Sewer Department  
David Parent, Sanford Water District  
Mike Gaudette, North Berwick Water District  
Jeff Day, Lincoln Water District  
Bruce Berger, MWUA  
Shirley Churchill, Committee Liaison



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The criteria we used was a representation of the following: small and large systems; water, wastewater, or both; MS4 systems; proximity to Augusta.

We should all be proud and reflect upon the significance of this committee taking shape. Our efforts to collaborate and to set attainable goals for the collective good of our memberships will now be very measurable. Our membership will now have a large and collectively strong voice with issues that impact our professions. None on the committee are so naïve as to believe that there will not be occasions where there may be a difference of opinion. The difference now is as a group/committee we will work through those differences for the collective good of our memberships.

While the future is always unsure, the steps we have taken and hopefully the plans we will continue to develop will become an essential component to the overall survival of our associations and serving our memberships in the very best way. I hope as we all reflect on 2016, we will all have a feeling of accomplishment.

I need to take a moment to thank a few people for helping me through the last six months. First, thanks to my Board of Directors. I will sorely miss Frank Kearney and Alan Hitchcock. They were outstanding members of the Board. I only had six months to work with these two fine gentlemen but will always be thankful for the faith they placed in me by hiring me. It will always be my aim to prove to them and our

members that that faith was not misplaced. I appreciate the Board for your willingness to implement ideas and change. A life lesson for me has been that change is not always embraced even when it is necessary. I also look forward to working with our new board members John Leach and Brian McGuire. Their collective experience and knowledge will be very important to our Association for the next several years. I'd like to thank all the committees and their chairs for their hard work and commitment. Finally, I'd like to thank Jeff McNelly and Barb Farrell. There is no way I could have survived the last six months without your guidance, counsel, and advice.

As always please feel free to contact me with criticism, suggestions, advice, and ideas. This is your association and we need every single member both engaged and involved. Here's to a great 2017!

### Proposed By-Law Change

As part of the Awards and Business Luncheon at the 91st Annual February Meeting & Trade Show at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Frank Kearney, President of the Maine Water Utilities Association and the Board of Directors will propose a by-law change that would allow for two non-voting seats on the board for a Maine Rural Water Association member and a Maine Water Environment Association member.

Currently our by-laws read under Article IV

### Maine Water Works Supply Corp.

### John Hoadley and Sons, Inc.



### Management Candidate School Students of 2016-17

**Front Row:** Bob Shaw, Greater Augusta Utility District; Travis Day, Orono WPCF; Josh McKay, Old Town WPCF; Mike Williams, Lewiston Water & Sewer. **Second Row:** Jason Souzer, Greater Augusta Utility District; MJ Dillingham, Auburn Water District; Ryan Tweedie, Hampden Water District; Shelli Gushue, Hampden Water District. **Third Row:** Tom Freitas, Lewiston Water & Sewer; Rob Weymouth, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Wells Water District; Jon Helstrom, Fort Fairfield Utility District, Bret Marshall, Dover-Foxcroft Wastewater. **Back Row:** Troy Hornyak, Bangor Water District; Kathleen Chapin, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Wells Water District; Andy Cote, Old Town Water District; Jacob Spinney, Bangor Water District; Amanda Smith, Bangor WWTP; Holly Sadler, Kennebec Water District.

**Not Pictured:** George Johns, City of Portland.

“Directors” section 4.2 Number,

“The number of directors shall be seven (7), except when the Past President provision of Section 4.5.1 is in effect, in which case the number of directors shall be eight (8).”

The by-law change as proposed reads:

“The number of directors shall be seven (7), except when the Past President provision of section 4.5.1 is in effect, in which case the number of directors shall be eight (8). ***In addition to the seven (7) or eight (8) representatives of Maine Water Utilities Association, Maine Rural Water Association and Maine Water Environmental Association will be granted one (1) non-voting seat on the Board of Directors.***”

An additional change to our current by-laws is being proposed by Mr. Kearney, President of the Maine Water Utilities Association and its’ Board of Directors. The proposed change involves Article VI “Officers and Agents”. The following provision would be added to an existing language within section 6.2.

Under Section 6.2 Other Officers and Agents. “The Directors may appoint from time to time such other officers and agents including Assistant Secretaries and Assistant Treasurers, as they shall deem necessary, who shall hold their offices and for such terms and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as shall be determined by the Directors.”

The proposed by-law change would read:

The Directors may appoint from time to time such other officers and agents including Assistant Secretaries and Assistant Treasurers, as they shall deem necessary, who shall hold their offices and for such terms and shall

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exercise such powers and perform such duties as shall be determined by the Directors. ***At no time would non-voting members of MRWA or MeWEA be eligible for any officers or agent positions on the Board of Directors for Maine Water Utilities Association.***

For your reference please review the following by-law requirement of members eligible to vote:

Section 3.11. Quorum. Twenty-five Individual Members, representing not less than ten Corporate Members, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 3.12. Vote Required. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members present shall be the act of the corporation unless a greater number of votes is required by the Articles of Incorporation, the By-laws, or by Statute.

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### 2017 Board Positions

At the MWUA Board Meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the following officers were elected for 2017:

**President:**

Jim Wallace,  
Portland Water District

**1st Vice President:**

Mike Broadbent  
Auburn Water and Sewer Districts

**2nd Vice President/Clerk:**

Scott Abbotoni  
Great Salt Bay Sanitary District

**Treasurer:**

Rick Anair  
Greater Augusta Utility District

Please join me in congratulating them. We look forward to working with them in 2017.



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## MWUA Goes To Washington

American Water Works Association, New England Water Works Association, and Maine Water Utilities Association will be representing their organizations collaboratively March 22-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 for the AWWA Annual Fly-In. Mike Broadbent, 1st Vice President and Scott Abbotoni, 2nd Vice President of our Board of Directors have agreed to be involved and represent Maine Water Utilities Association. During their visit they are scheduled to meet with Senators Collins and King along with Representatives Poliquin and Pingree.

Our goal and mission is to educate our representatives as to what we do and the cost associated with those efforts. It appears as though Congress has a better understanding of the continued need for infrastructure and water quality investment. We hope Mike and Scott bring home the money!

## Annual Conference Vendor Meeting February 8<sup>th</sup>

We would like to invite all Vendors that are displaying at our annual conference the opportunity to meet with Chris Curtis Co-Chair of the Program Committee, Rick Anair, Board Director, and Bruce Berger, Executive Director. We have instituted a few changes to this year's trade show and would like to see what you think. We are very open to additional thoughts and ideas on improving our trade event.

We will hold the meeting at 7:30 AM within the Casco Bay Exhibit Hall on Wednesday 2/8/17.

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