

# Maine Water News

*A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association*

March 2017, Number 192

## ***Got Snow?***

*Jim Wallace, 2017 President*

Did we get enough snow for you? Friends in the office frequently ask me this after storms. I enjoy the change in seasons and playing in the snow. If you do not have interests that keep you active, winter can be a long season. My preference is to receive the high-end of the meteorologist's estimate. Anything less than the average and I feel disappointed. For some reason, most of my friends do not agree. For them, snow means plowing, shoveling, and repairing hydrants damaged by vehicles. It is unfortunate that snow gets a bad rap for being associated with those activities.

Maine is usually a water rich state, although the last ten-month's precipitation was not enough to maintain normal water levels. After various media outlets mentioned the drought, I started following the U.S. Drought Monitor website. What started as a casual look became a fascinating weekly ritual.

In August, the Maine Drought Task Force met for the first time since 2002. By late October, the entire state was abnormally dry, with seventy-percent experiencing drought conditions. The area South of Route 2, from Gilead to Bangor to Mount Desert was experiencing severe or extreme drought. Other drought facts started appearing that I had not seen before. 211 Maine was reporting out the number of calls it received regarding dry wells. Through December 8, they had received 426 calls, with a maximum of 249 calls during the last week of October. While the vast majority of these were dug wells (87%), it further peaked my interest. I encourage you to go to the U.S. Drought Center website to check on the current drought conditions in the state.

While I was less concerned about Sebago Lake, our utility does operate a small system supplied by a well in a shallow aquifer. I started asking questions; remind me how often we check the drawdown? Are we seeing an impact from the drought? When would we take action, and what actions could that be? These are all uncomfortable questions for a system that has not experienced a problem in the past. I wanted to know

what we are going to do, before we had a problem.

How closely do you monitor your supply? Do you have an action level, and what actions might you take? Some of our members manage these concerns annually. If you do not have some thoughts on these, last year should be a reminder to have a plan. Talk with your neighboring utilities, as there is no need to start from scratch. Someone has done this before, and done it very well.

In early March, the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University, in partnership with NOAA and the National Integrated Drought Information System, are meeting in Westborough, MA to assess the Northeast Drought. The focus is on building capacity for a Drought Early Warning System for the region. I know a few who are planning to attend, and I am certain they will bring ideas back to Maine. If you have questions, contact a member of the Water Resources Committee or give Bruce a call.

So, did I get enough snow? Yes, this was a good winter. I enjoyed the snowshoeing and we needed to recharge the aquifers. Now, if the temperature would just drop back below freezing, maybe we could keep this snowpack a little longer. I am certain you would agree with me.

## **91<sup>st</sup> Annual February Meeting & Trade Show**

All told, about 700 people registered for the annual February Meeting and Trade Show. It was a busy place throughout the conference with a total of 30 technical and professional sessions plus 11 presentations highlighting new product technologies. Many reviews received were very positive and quite complementary of the sessions offered. The board of directors decided to invite all our committees to play an active role in developing and planning at least one technical session. This decision helped to improve the quality of our offerings and greatly impacted the positive reviews we received. We extend our thanks to the New England Water Works Association and the Maine Water Environment Association for partnering with us and delivering quality training.

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Material of interest to the water supply profession  
will be considered for publication. Copy deadline is  
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We took a page from the past and reintroduced our new product technology sessions to each participating representative booth on the tradeshow floor. Logistically, the Program Committee thought this was better than a dedicated classroom space on the tradeshow floor. The committee also implemented several other adjustments hoping to provide greater attendee engagement with our vendors and their displays. We planned dessert from the banquet on the tradeshow floor. We also scheduled staggered breaks for all MWUA classes throughout the morning and afternoon sessions. Additionally a more comprehensive breakfast was offered on Wednesday morning in hopes of generating more foot traffic. It achieved mixed results. Parking continues to present a challenge that we will continue to improve; unfortunately our options are fairly limited.

The social and other activities were well received. We introduced a reception for our young and new professions that was fairly well attended. Approximately 30 people were in attendance. A special thank you goes out to Nicki Pellenz and Machias Saving Bank for sponsoring the reception. Additionally, we would be remiss if we didn't mention our list of generous sponsors. Please understand that the chowder and beer, breakfasts, breaks and other social activities would not be offered to the degree they currently are without the incredible generosity of these sponsors. The sponsors were *CDM Smith, E.J. Prescott Co., F.W. Webb, Ferguson Waterworks, GAC Chemical, G.L. Lyons Associates, Hazen and Sawyer, HD Supply Waterworks, Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Machias Savings Bank, Maine Municipal Bond Bank, Maine Water Works Supply Corp., Pennichuck Water Service Corp., Poland Spring, Specified Fittings, Ted Berry Company, Tighe & Bond, Underwood Engineers, Woodard & Curran, Inc., Weston & Sampson Engineers, and Wright-Pierce Engineers.*

We also want to recognize the diligent efforts of everyone who were active participants in our conference. This includes NEWWA staff, MEWEA volunteers and, all MWUA committees. The undertaking, and planning of this event would prove impossible without your collective efforts. A special thank you is extended to the Program Committee and its members. Their planning for this event starts in August and ends in March. You are an amazing group of volunteers.

### **April Bi-Monthly Meeting To Examine Phosphates for Corrosion Control and Sequestration**

Our April Bi-Monthly meeting will be held at the Waldo County Shrine Club in Belfast on April 13th. The technical session will focus on phosphates for corrosion control and sequestration.

Phosphates applied to municipal water systems are typically used for three purposes: corrosion control, sequestering, and microbiological or biofilm control. The use of phosphates in the United States has been around for decades with a tremendous increase in use since the early 1990's. The Lead and Copper Rule was the driving force promoting the use of phosphates for corrosion control in municipal water systems.

The use of phosphates in water systems can greatly improve the quality of the water, in addition to protecting the system from costly corrosion. Phosphates may be a viable option for small or medium size drinking water systems for iron and manganese sequestration and corrosion control.

The registration form is included in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you in Belfast on the 13th!

## Scholarship Fund Now a 501(c)3

Maine Water Utilities Association is very excited to announce that we now have a 501(c)3 nonprofit designation for our scholarship fund.

Bangor Water District a number of years ago started the Peter Lancaster Scholarship. They applied for and received a 501(c)3 designation for that scholarship. The District approached MWUA about taking over management of this scholarship. The Association made the decision to assume management of the fund and roll it into our existing scholarships. The Association hired the law firm of Verrill Dana to help us with the transfer. Mary McQuillen, Esquire, was assigned to assist with the transfer of the scholarship. She suggested that we look into also transferring the 501(c)3 designation from the Bangor Water District to Maine Water Utilities Association. The transfer was successful! This saved the Association several thousands of dollars in pursuing our own independent 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation.

So what does this mean for those that contribute to the scholarship fund? Your contributions are now completely tax deductible.

The legal requirements for this newly formed nonprofit are as follows:

- Formation of a Board of Directors. The board will consist of the following positions: a current member of MWUA Board of Directors, 3 members of general membership, 2 members of the Public Awareness Committee, and the Executive Director of Maine Water Utilities Association.

- Development and adoption of by-laws
- Adoption of Restated Articles of Incorporation
- Transfer of existing Lancaster Scholarship funds from Bangor Water District to Maine Water Utilities Association
- Election of Officers

All of these tasks were accomplished at our first Board of Directors meeting on March 10, 2017 held at the Maine Water Utilities Association office in Augusta. This week, we will file all the completed paperwork with the State of Maine completed the full transfer.

The Board of Directors for The Maine Water Utilities Scholarship Fund is as follows: President- **Helen Pottle**, Maine Water Company (Member, Public Awareness Committee); Treasurer- **Bruce Berger**, MWUA (E.D., MWUA); Secretary- **Kathy Moriarty**, Bangor Water District (General Member, MWUA); Clerk- **Barb Farrell**, MWUA; **Mary Jane Dillingham**, Auburn Water and Sewer Districts (General Member, MWUA); **Richard Knowlton**, Maine Water Company (General Member, MWUA); **Kirsten Ness**, Portland Water District (Member, Public Awareness Committee); **Jefferson Longfellow**, Kennebec Water District (MWUA BOD).

We're have some very exciting news that we will be sharing with you soon, so please stay tuned.

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## January-March 2017 Legislative Update

January 2017 kicked off the start of the 128<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislative Session. This session started quickly with over a thousand bills being introduced on a whole host of issues.

To help us to develop the best way to address legislation being introduced during the 128<sup>th</sup> we formed a new Legislative/Regulatory Action Committee. This committee was formed in collaboration with Maine Rural Water Association. Kirsten Hebert, Executive Director of Maine Rural Water is our chair. Kirsten's background includes formerly being a lobbyist for Maine Municipal Association and a lawyer. Her experience and ability to navigate our committee through the legislative process has proven to be invaluable.

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As a committee, we meet to review bills that have been published and discuss potential impact on our members, their utilities, and on our industry and profession. Each bill is reviewed, discussed, and voted on collectively to support, oppose, neither support nor oppose, and finally whether just to monitor. This process is very dynamic and sometimes our committee has to respond quickly. Hearings and work sessions are often scheduled, delayed and re-scheduled with little notice and our committee has to adjust literally on the fly. To streamline approval from the collective boards of directors, the Vice-Presidents of both boards are active participants of this committee - Mike Broadbent of Maine Water Utilities and Jeff Day of Maine Rural Water Association. This helps us to be very efficient and expedites our potential actions. Both boards are always copied on all correspondence and actions.

What kind of bills are we actively engaged with?

**LD-40** an Act to Strengthen Requirements for Water Testing for Schools. We are currently monitoring this bill.

**LD-55** an Act to Provide Funding for the Restoration of China Lake. This was a bill would impose a fee or tax all ratepayers of the Kennebec Water District. The collected fee would then be used to improve water quality for China Lake. We strongly opposed this bill. Several member utilities wrote testimony in opposition. The Energy, Utility and Technology Committee within the 128<sup>th</sup> was assigned this bill. After the testimony heard at the public hearing the committee voted in their work session ought not to pass.

**LD-90** an Act to Amend the Charter of the Rumford Water District. Within the summary of the bill it read in part that the bill require that all proposed commercial contracts for water extraction or water resale be subject to a vote by the voters of the district. Because of the language and intent, this bill became very contentious locally and then spilled over into the 128<sup>th</sup> Session. The Energy, Utility and Technology Committee (EUT) was assigned this bill. To offer a historical perspective, Rumford, in the 127<sup>th</sup> Session, filed for a charter change involving an update to their charter, mostly for language. This charter change was approved. After approval, citizens of Rumford learned of a commercial contract being negotiated between the District and Poland Springs. Misinformation about these negotiations began to circulate within town. Accusations were leveled at the District and



its Trustees that the reason they put in for a charter change was so they could enter into commercial contracts without ratepayer input or approval. This group that were authors and creators of the charges partitioned the town council to have the charter amended. The council voted not to involve themselves in District business. The group then went to Senator Kiam, who represents their District, and convinced her to draft an emergency bill to amend the charter. Both associations and many member utilities all testified against this bill in the public hearing. Many of the citizens that testified in support of the bill repeatedly commented that their vote and voice in the process had been taken away. They felt that the appointed Trustees were making decisions without allowing public involvement. It was interesting that during the public hearing, Representative Berry, Co-chair of EUT, continually repeated one question of the utilities testifying "are your trustees elected or appointed?". At the work session, it became evident why he asked the question. Motion was made, seconded and passed 6-3 ought not to pass. Immediately after the vote, a call for a 15-minute recess was called by Rep. Berry. When the committee reconvened, Rep. Berry asked that they be allowed to reopen discussion. Discussion was approved. A motion was then made to amend their vote. The ensuing discussion of the committee completely ignored the original intent of the bill. The original bill required a moratorium on the large scale extraction of water. The bill, as amended by the Utilities Committee, dropped the moratorium issue, and instead changed the charter to



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require the three trustees be elected rather than appointed. The District did not ask for this change. While this may seem like a relatively benign change, *think about this for just a moment*: The Legislature has just empowered a group of citizens to unseat an existing board of trustees that have been appointed ever since the inception of the District in 1911. On March 14<sup>th</sup> the EUT Committee has scheduled a **LANGUAGE REVIEW**-An Act to Amend the Charter of the Rumford Water District. **This is BAD precedent. We are asking our collective members to make contact with your local Senators and House members to convey your concerns.**

**LD-155** an Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide Jobs, Improve Road Infrastructure and Protect Water Resources. We are supporting this bill for obvious reasons.

**LD-422** an Act to Facilitate the Creation of the Maine Trust and Protect Maine’s Water Supply and to ensure the Quantity and Quality of Maine’s Drinking Water. This is a dangerous bill. It is being sponsored **and presented by Representative SYLVESTER of Portland, co-sponsored by Senator CARSON of Cumberland and Representatives ACKLEY of Monmouth, HANDY of Lewiston, HARLOW of Portland, HICKMAN of Winthrop, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, SPEAR of South Thomaston, Senators: CHIPMAN of Cumberland, JACKSON of Aroostook.** The summary of the bill reads as follows:

“This bill imposes a 2-year moratorium, beginning November 1, 2017, on new contracts or agreements by a consumer-owned water utility, municipality, state agency or other governmental entity involving the extraction of more than 75,000 gallons of groundwater during any week or more than 50,000 gallons of groundwater on any day. The bill also directs the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to convene a working group to develop the statutory and regulatory framework for the establishment of the Maine Water Trust, which must be designed to ensure a safe and plentiful drinking water supply to all residents of the State by regulating the use of groundwater for commercial purposes under laws that establish the absolute control and dominion of the State over all groundwater supplies in the State. The commissioner must, on or before January 15, 2019, report the recommendations of the working group to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction

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over environment and natural resources matters, which may report out a bill to implement those recommendations to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.”

This bill is assigned to the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. The committee has decided to engage Verrill Dana’s Jim Cohen to be the point person in handling this bill. When you review the sponsor and co-sponsors of this bill, please consider reaching out to them, especially if they represent your district. You would be surprised how much influence you have with them. In addition to the sponsors or co-sponsors of the bill, you can also play an important role by contacting members of the committee if they represent you. The EUT committee seated members are as follows:

Senator David Woodsome (R-York), Chair; Senator Andre E. Cushing III (R-Penobscot); Senator Mark N. Dion (D-Cumberland); Representative Seth A. Berry (D-Bowdoinham), Chair; Representative Deane Rykerson (D-Kittery); Representative Jennifer L. DeChant (D-Bath); Representative Janice E. Cooper (D-Yarmouth); Representative Christina Riley (D-Jay); Representative Heather B. Sanborn (D-Portland); Representative Nathan J. Wadsworth (R-Hiram); Representative Lance Evans Harvell (R-Farmington); Representative Beth A. O’Connor (R-Berwick); Representative Jeffery P. Hanley (R-Pittston).

In the interest of space we’ll summarize by saying these are the bills the committee is most concerned with. We’ll be discussing these at the bi-monthly meeting in Belfast in greater detail and entertain any questions or concerns you may have.

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## Maine Water Utilities Committees

Our mission for our organization is as follows: "Maine Water Utilities Association was formed to represent the water works professional membership in advocating safe drinking water through education, legislation, policy and networking".

Consistent with our mission is the *Vision of the Association*. Our vision is to be the organization of choice for informing members and influencing policy makers, regulators and the media on issues regarding public water supply and water resources.

Our association is driven by our committees and their active participation within our profession. We currently have eight committees. Let me review those committees and their functions:

**Education & Operations Committee-** The Education and Operations committee focuses a majority of their attention on developing and facilitating training. That training involves a focus on the needs of operators, for both water treatment and distribution operators. Recently they have developed classes for those within the utilities' operation that are engaged in customer service and office procedures. They are exploring the development of a management class that will serve as a refresher for certain aspects of a current manager's responsibilities that are not used every day or need updating. They also are aware of the needs for training of our lab personnel. They continue to plan classes that will help them to stay abreast of all new and advancing lab techniques.

**Legislative & Regulatory Action Committee-** We recently formed a collaborative committee with Maine

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Rural Water Association. The 128<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislative Session has already proven to be most challenging. (For an update on what the committee is working on and how it may impact your utility, please see the Legislative Update within this newsletter.) The focus of this committee is to monitor any and all pending legislative and communicate the status of relevant legislation to our memberships. The committee meets on a regular basis to review pending legislation. Upon review, the committee collectively decides a position that will represent a majority of our membership's best interests. These positions are presented to our collective boards for approval.

**Program Committee-** This committee develops topics for our membership meetings held bi-monthly. The committee also plays a very active role in planning and organizing the annual conference, golf tournament and clambake.

**Public Awareness Committee-(PAC)** The committee is engaged in developing communications with the general public on issues important to our profession. Much of public opinion is often based on misinformation. Educating the public on facts and accurate information has become a very important function of this committee. They are currently working on making our website more user friendly for the general public. We hope this will go a long way in helping us meet our mission.

Another function of the PAC is raising funds for the MWUA scholarships. (Please see article within this newsletter on the exciting news about MWUA scholarships.)

**Technology Committee-** The Technology Committee was formed to help our members to develop and improve their operational efficiency through the use of the most up-to-date technology. They accomplish this objective through quality training and serving as a resource on technology-related needs. This year they produced their first insert within our newsletter dealing with advances of tools and equipment in the field to make distribution operators more efficient.

**Water Resource Committee-(WRC)** The focus of the WRC is to represent and advocate for both surface and ground water supply interests. Especially with regard to its protection and public health issues associated with drinking water. They plan and sponsor an annual seminar in the fall on the best practices of managing water



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## Retirement and Hiring Announcements

The saying many of us have heard too many times is “Time marches on”. These individuals collectively impacted our profession and industry in profound ways.

**Judy Wallingford**, President of Maine Water Company, is retiring on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Judy has served Maine Water Company and Maine Water Utilities Association with true professionalism, style and grace. She often was available to all who sought her advice or counsel on any matter that related to water. Her keen awareness and sense of issues that truly mattered or potentially could impact our profession in a negative or positive way was uncanny. Judy served the Association on several committees over the years and on our Board of Directors. Her service to the Association culminated in her serving as President in 2005. Thank you for service and all you did for us. We wish you nothing but happiness and success in the next great adventure of your Life.

**Richard Knowlton** will be promoted to the position of President of the Maine Water Company on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Please join the Association in congratulating Rick on his promotion. Like Judy, Rick has been a very active member of Maine Water Utilities Association. He currently serves on our Legislative and Regulatory Action Committee. He has also served on the Maine Water Utilities Board of Directors and as President in 2000. We wish you continued success.


**Ronald Miller**, General Manger of the Portland Water District, retired on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. Ron was a long-standing member of our Legislative and Regulatory Committee. Ron understood the legislative process as well

resources.

**New This Year-Utility Finance Officers Committee-** (UFO) This group was formed several years ago to better serve specific needs of the utilities finance personnel. Staying on top of the every changing financial regulations is always a challenge. This committee for years was referred to as a group. Recently they requested MWUA Board to be recognized as a standing committee. The board granted them committee status. We look forward to their involvement in our association and the expertise they will offer with the financial side of our profession. More on this group will follow soon.

**New This Year-Young/New Professionals Committee-** This group similarly to the UFO group was recently granted committee status by the MWUA BOD’s. They will be developing a mission statement for the committee, electing a chair/s and developing a schedule for regular meetings. The board will also be jointly developing plans for direction and substance with the committee and its members.

There are currently openings within several committees. We have recently had members join our Public Awareness, Legislative, Water Resource and Technology Committees. We need members that have an interest in joining and actively supporting our Program Committee and a few more members to support our Water Resource Committee. This is a great way to meet and form long lasting relationships within our profession. Please consider becoming involved and supporting your association. Call or drop us an email here at the office and we’ll help you get involved.



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as any member within our association. If there was a question or course of action on policy, procedure or process that the committee needed clarification on, he was our best resource. Thank you for your steady hand, guidance and advice. There is little doubt you helped form legislation that will continue to benefit our profession for years to come. Enjoy your retirement. You've certainly earned it.

**Carrie Lewis**, formerly of Milwaukee Water Works, was selected to succeed Ronald Miller as General Manager of the Portland Water District. Her start date was March 6, 2017. We would like to congratulate Ms. Lewis on her appointment. She is a well-known and nationally-respected leader in the water sector. She began her career at Milwaukee Water Works in 1995 as its first water quality manager. She was appointed to lead Milwaukee Water Works in 1997. She served as the first woman superintendent in the utility's 144-year history. As superintendent, Ms. Lewis oversaw all operations and over 300 water professionals as the utility gained national recognition as a leader in providing high quality water, water quality monitoring, environmental stewardship, public outreach, and efficient operations. Welcome, Carrie - we look forward to your active involvement in Maine Water Utilities Association.

**John Clark**, General Manager of the Houlton Water Company, retired on February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017. John became and was recognized as an expert on testifying before the Maine Public Utilities Commission, mostly for electric issues. Houlton Water Company is truly a unique municipal entity because it is fully engaged and oversees not only water but also sewer and electric. The Houlton Water Company has one stock holder, the Town of Houlton. John was a strong supporter of Maine Water Utilities Association, often authorizing upwards of 20+ employees to attend training offered by the Association at any given time. John decided that the time had come to enjoy some of his hobbies and his grandchildren. We hope you have a ball.

**Greg Sherman**, former Assistant General Manager of the Houlton Water Company, was selected by the trustees to fill the vacancy created by John Clark's retirement. Greg was able to work under John's tutelage for several years and is very capable of leading the Water Company with his strong financial and regulatory background for years to come. Congratulations Greg, we look forward to your active involvement in Maine Water Utilities Association.

**Carla Robinson**, Finance Director of the York Water District, has announced her retirement. Her last day at the District will be April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Carla was a very active participant in the Utilities Finance Organization (UFO). She was always available to those that had finance, billing, and PUC Chapter 35 questions. If she didn't pick the phone up immediately, she always returned your calls or emails. Thanks for helping all your contemporaries and explaining complicated issues in ways we could all understand. We all wish you and Bill continued happiness.

**Patrick Desrosiers** was selected to succeed Carla Robinson as Finance Director of the York Water District. Patrick comes to the York from the Portland

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Water District. Please join us in welcoming and congratulating Patrick on his new position. We look forward to your continued involvement in our association.

### Passing of MWUA Members

As many of you already know we recently lost two valued members of the Maine Water Utilities Association family. Both gentlemen impacted many of us in very positive ways. For many they were mentors, or supervisors but to all they became our friends. Our condolences go out to those whose lives were touched by this gentlemen, but especially their families. Their passing leaves a void that cannot be expressed.

**David Sweet** passed away February 23, 2017 at Maine Medical Center. His career began in Lewiston, where at 26, he became the youngest Water Superintendent in the State of Maine. His family moved to Kennebunk in 1971 where he began a 31-year career at the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District, retiring as the district's Superintendent in 2002. He served for many years in the Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA) and was President in 1982. Dave was the Maine State Director for the New England Water Works Association from 1987 to 1993 and chair of the MWUA Legislative Committee from 1994 to 1999. As a result of his work ethic and the respect he earned in his field, he received the MWUA Presidential Award in 1982. Thank you, David, for your friendship and support.

**Fred Ricker** passed away on February 23, 2017.






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Water Systems, Storage & Treatment	Rate Studies
Hydrology/Hydrogeology	Water Operations
Construction Administration	Corrosion Control
DEP/EPA Permitting & Wetlands	Hydraulic Analysis
<b>Civil-Environmental Consultants</b>	

Fred served as a Trustee of York Water District for many years and was an active member of Maine Water Utilities Association. He was a fixture at our annual conference and always had a smile that was infectious. He will be missed.

### 2017 Legislative Breakfast

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, we attended a legislative breakfast held at the Senator Inn in Augusta that was co-sponsored Maine Audubon, Maine Chapter of American Public Works Association, Maine Rural Water Association, Maine Water Environment Association, Maine Water Utilities Association, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, New England Water Environmental Association, The Associated General Contractor, and The Nature Conservancy. It was a very good representation of the continued efforts to collaborate with other organizations that have similar goals and objectives.

We had a good turnout with several state representatives and senators in attendance.

Matt Timberlake President on Maine Water Environment Association open the session by welcoming everyone and offering a few comments on the need to continue to fund efforts for clean water.

Maine Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Paul Mercer spoke on the Governor's sponsored bond \$50, 000, 00. This bond is primarily dedicated to wastewater infrastructure projects. Representative Fredette, House Republican Leader and Representative of District 25 then addressed how this bond will also provide economic, local, and recreational benefits to communities receiving monies from this bond.

The breakfast finished up with a question and answer session.

With the incredible amount of bills being introduced during the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session sponsoring this breakfast was very important. Introducing ourselves to members of the legislative body as to who we are and why we need their support will go a long way in accomplishing our objectives.

Thanks to all who attended and supported this effort.

### A Few Pics from our 91st Annual February Meeting & Trade Show



Passing of the gavel from 2016 President Frank Kearney to 2017 President Jim Wallace



Monday Awards and Business Luncheon



Trade Show Floor

# Mud Season Solutions

## Situation

The Town of Marlborough, New Hampshire maintains a significant number of gravel roads. During the spring months regular and costly maintenance is required. Repeated addition of aggregate and grading in problem areas is not uncommon.

Seeking a more permanent solution for a particularly muddy area, the Town of Marlborough contacted SVE Associates of Keene to oversee the project. SVE reached out to Team EJP representative Mike Everhart and together they developed a test solution for a particularly troublesome area. The town installed Tensar's TX-5 Geogrid, and then covered the Geogrid with 12 inches of crushed gravel.



### Challenges

- Low elevation in comparison to the remainder of the road.
- Near wetland.
- Unpredictable freeze and thaw cycles.
- Area prone to frost heaves and deep rutting.

### Solutions and Applications

- 12' Wide x 100' Long section of Tensar TX-5 Geogrid was applied, and backfilled with 10-12" of crushed gravel.

## Results

The Geogrid and aggregate installation took place in May of 2012. A site visit on March 4, 2013 revealed frost heaves on both sides of the test area, both in paved and unpaved sections, but none to speak of in the Geogrid test area. Ten days later, a second site visit noted deep ruts and pot holes in the untreated gravel sections, while the Geogrid area displayed minimal rutting. A third site visit at the end of March showed grader tracks where gravel had been spread over the untreated section, while the Geogrid treated area did not require any additional gravel.

In her assessment of the test section results, SVE Consultant Liza Sargent noted, "it is worth noting that prior to the installation of the Tri-Ax Geogrid in 2012, this section of the road had been the worst section in terms of ruts. It is at the lowest elevation and next to a wetland. One year later the test section seems to be holding up significantly better than the balance of the road."

In the end, benefits to the Town of Marlborough included significantly improved roadway performance, reduced aggregate consumption, reduced maintenance costs, and a lasting solution.



**HOST:** Keith Pooler, Superintendent, Belfast Water District  
**LOCATION:** Waldo County Shrine Club, 20 Northport Avenue, Belfast, ME 04915  
**DIRECTIONS:** <http://www.belfastmaine.org/events/location/32-waldo-county-shrine-club.html>

**PROGRAM**

8:30AM – 9:00AM Registration & Continental Breakfast  
 9:00AM – 9:10AM Introduction & Welcome to Belfast  
*Joseph Slocomb, Belfast Town Manager*  
 9:10AM – 9:30 AM Overview of Belfast Water District  
*Keith Pooler, Superintendent, Belfast Water District*  
 9:30AM – 10:00AM Business Meeting  
 Regulatory Update, Roger Crouse, Maine Drinking Water Program  
 Legislative Update, Bruce Berger, Executive Director  
 10:00AM – 10:15AM Break

**TECHNICAL PROGRAM**

10:15AM – 11:45AM The Use of Phosphates in Water Treatment for Corrosion Control and Sequestration  
*Luis Hernandez, Carus Corporation*  
 11:45AM – 12:00PM Q & A  
 12:15PM Lunch

Jim Wallace  
*President*

Josh Cobb, Joe Hersom  
*Program Coordinators*

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**REGISTRATION FOR APRIL 13, 2017 BI-MONTHLY MEETING**

**Please return registrations by April 6, 2017**

**2.0 Training Contact Hours**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation** \_\_\_\_\_

		Member	Non-Member	Late Registration (after 4/6/17)	
				Member	Non-Member
<i>Water Systems serving more than 4,000 Customers</i>	_____ @	\$40_____	\$45_____	\$45_____	\$50_____
<i>Vendors / Associate Members</i>	_____ @	\$40_____	\$45_____	\$45_____	\$50_____
<i>Water Systems serving less than 4,000 Customers</i>	_____ @	\$30_____	\$35_____	\$35_____	\$40_____

**Total enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Register online at: [www.mwua.org](http://www.mwua.org) OR mail/fax registration to:  
 Maine Water Utilities Association, 150 Capitol Street, Suite 5, Augusta, ME 04330  
 Tel: (207) 623-9511; Fax: (207) 623-9522

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