

Maine Water News

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

May 2014, Number 175

Along with Spring... Comes Change

Jefferson Longfellow, 2014 President

Ah, Spring... when a young man's thoughts turn to construction season. The postings are off the roads, gravel pits have dried up, and the days are longer. In our industry, construction season is the opportunity to update and expand the infrastructure. The traditional underground utilities and many Maine communities have a newer addition, natural gas.

It's easy to respect the undertaking of building complete distribution systems into communities where there were none before. This is a strange new world for most of us, because the infrastructure is being built from scratch. This great undertaking also is taking place where there are other underground utilities, most notably water and sewerage distribution networks. Also taking place in currently gassed areas is the Public Utilities required upgrades to the gas networks where the traditional cast iron mains are being replaced with HDPE.

This new work is uncharted territory for the other underground utilities. Current rules require that there be a three foot horizontal separation between the edges of other utilities, mostly to protect the gas mains. The problem arises when the other, much deeper utilities, need to be excavated. The 21st century methods of excavation require the use of shoring and shielding to prevent injuries and death due to cave-ins, but how are they to be installed when other utilities are installed much less deep, at a minimal horizontal offset? A similar problem has been encountered with our friends that have aerial distribution networks on utility poles. There are instances where new distribution networks have been installed at a one foot offset from such poles. Safety requirements demand that if a new or a replacement pole is less than a foot and a half from another utility, it must be hand dug. Hand digging a utility pole in the middle of the night to restore power, telephone, internet, and cable is one of the last things I would want to do when it could be done with mechanical methods much faster and safer. Although these instances are rare, the problem is compounded because

the tracing wire for many gas distribution mains are not attached to the HDPE, it is simply laid in the trench with the main, or is pulled along with the main in directional drill situations.

Staff with a locale near my district have expressed frustration that there are no plans to have local inspection of the street openings, and that it will be up to the contractor to verify where the installations go in a manner permitted. They are concerned that the road surfaces will suffer. It seems as though the folks who have the power and ability to affect the location and installation quality of the new infrastructure are blinded by the promise of new tax revenue and the newly available fuel that will bring economic prosperity to us.

So what can be done? On the local level, demand that a meeting be held to update the status of utility upgrades and expansion. Share your plans with others, be willing to complete locates for design at no cost so that your infrastructure can be taken into account for design. On the state level, MWUA has been and is trying to get legislation that will increase the minimum horizontal offsets so that future excavation can be done safely and economically. Do we want special treatment? No, we only want to be able to access the underground systems in a safe manner and to have all utilities working together with the municipalities for a common goal.

As the MWUA undertakes projects such as this on behalf of the membership, the directors try to represent the membership as much as possible. It had been proposed by the Nominating Committee to allow up to one associate member to serve on the board. The associate members add much to the association, and their efforts are appreciated. That said, the board has agreed to bring to the membership a change in the bylaws to have up to one associate member serve on the board. This was brought up and then tabled at the April meeting, and will come up again at the December meeting. I am encouraging all to give this issue thought and debate until that time, some of us have strong feelings one way or the other on the issue. I am always available for discussion.

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Material of interest to the water supply
profession will be considered for publication.
Copy deadline is the 15th day of month
preceding publication.

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The April Meeting

The Program Committee followed through on their promise to ensure that the frost would be out of the ground – somewhere – on April 10th. Such was the case as we assembled in Mechanic Falls for the bimonthly meeting.

Town Manager John Hawley extended a warm welcome to his town; he was followed by Water Department Superintendent Steve French, who gave us a very interesting historical account of the creation and improvement of the water system.

Norm Lamie, of the Maine Drinking Water Program, provided the regulatory update. Executive Director McNelly then reviewed recent legislative activities, noting that things were coming down to the wire.

The technical session featured two very interesting topics. Mike Broadbent and Kevin Gagne discussed the inter-local agreement that Auburn and Lewiston have crafted to construct and operate a joint water treatment plant. They focused on their new ultraviolet disinfection process.

They were followed by a presentation on the development of a new water district in the Town of New Gloucester. District Chairman Steve Johnson, New Gloucester's Acting Town Manager Paul First, and Darrin Lary, from Wright-Pierce Engineers, reviewed all the pieces that had to fall into place in order to bring relief to a community that has been suffering the effects of groundwater contamination.

It was a long story but, fortunately, persistence paid off and the district will soon be providing a safe and dependable supply of water to those residents.

A great meal wrapped up the morning's activities and attendees embarked on the ride home.

June Meeting to Feature Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

The technical program for the June meeting, to be hosted by the Maine Water Company, Greenville Division, will focus on the work of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. Invasive Species Program Director, Roberta Hill, will report on the current state of citizen lake-monitoring in Maine, discuss the VLMP's current initiative to establish a locally-driven citizen lake-monitoring program in the Moosehead Lake region, and share *The Hunt for Aquatic Invaders*, a new 8-minute documentary shot on, in and around Moosehead Lake.

Through the VLMP's Invasive Plant Patrol program, Roberta has trained thousands of individuals, including volunteers, professionals, agency personnel, students, teachers and others, to screen Maine waterbodies for the presence of invasive aquatic plants. She is also the principal author of the Maine Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants. In the second half of the program, Ms. Hill will provide a quick primer on how to become an effective early detector.

Once again, the June Meeting will be held at the picturesque Birches Resort in Rockwood. If you are interested in reserving a cabin, please call The Birches at 207-534-7305 or online at www.birches.com for more information. For more info and to register for the meeting, please see the registration form included in this newsletter, or register online at www.mwua.org. We hope to see you there!

Last Days of Legislative Session a Sight to Behold

As the final few weeks of the Second Session approached it became obvious that the outcomes of a number of bills was anyone's guess.

A number of bills did not even make it to the floor of the House and Senate until the final days –even the final hours – of the session. Lawmakers adjourned on April 18th and when they returned on May Day they had several vetoes to deal with.

For the most part, the water profession fared quite well. It will be several weeks before the 2014 Journal is completed and mailed to members, but it will include a full accounting of legislative activity of interest to the association.



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Vote on Proposed By- Laws Amendments Tabled

The 2013 Nominating Committee recommended a change to the by-laws to allow for 1 (but not more than 1) board member to be an Associate member. In November of last year the Board of Directors acted on that recommendation and voted to bring an amendment

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Water System Audits | <input type="checkbox"/> Onsite Inventory Trailers | <input type="checkbox"/> Hot Tapping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manhole Rehabilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Fusion Machine Rental | <input type="checkbox"/> Distributor Managed Inventory |



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to the by-laws, which would make that change to the association's governance structure, to the membership for a vote.

The Association's by-laws may be amended or repealed or new by-laws may be adopted by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual or any regular or special meeting of the members of the corporation provided notice of the proposed change is given in the notice of such meeting of the members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

That notice was provided in the March issue of Maine Water News and the vote on the proposed by-laws amendments was scheduled for the April membership meeting in Mechanic Falls. After the motion and a second the membership discussed the proposed change. Ultimately, the proposal was tabled.

Concerns were expressed about changing the governance structure of the association, in that the Board would no longer consist solely of utility representatives. Others expressed the sentiment that Associate members contribute much to the association and that one representative on the Board should not result in a shift of focus for the association.

At the May meeting of the Directors it was decided to schedule a vote on the proposed amendments for the December 4th Bi-Monthly Meeting. The Directors also expressed great interest in having point/counterpoint articles on this matter in the newsletters between now

and the vote in December. Anyone who has a view or opinion on this proposed change in the governance structure is encouraged to submit a concise article to the editor. Articles need to be received by June 15th for the July issue, and August 15th for the September issue.

Retired, Honorary and Individual members are entitled to vote. It should be noted that an Individual member is a person who is employed by or is an officer or director of a water utility and who is designated as an Individual member by the Corporate (utility) member. The number of Individual members that can be designated by a Corporate member is a function of the Corporate member's dues step. If any person or any utility is uncertain as to voting eligibility, please contact the office.

Additionally, a quorum of twenty-five Individual members, representing not less than ten Corporate members, is required in order to transact this business.

Water Bond Becomes Law Without Governor's Signature


Before adjourning on April 18th the Maine Legislature enacted LD 1455 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Ensure Clean Water and Safe Communities. LD 1455 includes \$1.8 Million and \$2.4 Million in Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund match funds, respectively.

Governor LePage chose to let LD 1455 become Public Law Chapter 589 without his signature. This bond referendum will now go to the voters in November.

Assuming voter approval those funds, coupled with \$1.0 Million that is in the 2015 Supplemental Budget, will provide the Drinking Water and Clean Water requisite matches until the liquor contract revenues are sufficient to fully fund the annual match requirements.

The Governor actually vetoed the 2015 Supplemental Budget; however the Legislature

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overrode that veto.

Attainment of the matching funds was a collaborative effort of a broad based coalition, which included environmental, construction, business, water/wastewater, sportsmen's and other interests.

UV Discussion Breakfast Well Received

There are approximately a dozen water systems that are either using ultraviolet disinfection or who are contemplating adding it to their treatment arsenal. On April 30th many of the operators for those systems assembled in Augusta to discuss the various brands of UV reactors that are in use and, among other things, issues such as operational efficiency, reporting, validation and maintenance.

The attendees focused on a whole host of details that they have discovered and are addressing. Following the session, it was determined that they would continue the discussions via e-mail. They welcome the involvement of anyone who utilizes UV or is considering that possibility, but who could not be at the session.

If interested, contact the MWUA office, and we will make that connection. It is expected that there will be a follow up session later in the year.

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Maine Water to Consolidate Functions at Biddeford & Saco Division

Maine Water Company recently announced plans to consolidate its customer service operations and other corporate support functions in the state of Maine. Maine Water serves about 32,000 customers in the state. About half live in the Biddeford – Saco area and were customers of the Biddeford & Saco Water Company. Biddeford & Saco Water was legally merged into Maine Water earlier this year and the company is making changes to most effectively integrate the operations and maximize the service to customers.

The Company has had separate customer service operations in Biddeford and also in Rockport. Maine Water’s plans call for the company leadership team and the engineering, financial and technical personnel and customer service staff currently based in Rockport to relocate to the Biddeford area.

Pam Blackman, who has led the customer service team in Rockport, has been promoted to Customer Service Manager to lead the delivery of customer service across the company. Ms. Blackman commented, “We felt it was in the best interest of our customers to consolidate our customer service team in the area where we have the highest concentration of customers. This allows us to operate most efficiently, share staff and resources, and maximize the benefits of

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Verrill Dana^{LLP}
Attorneys at Law

Bocce Ball Tournament at August Clambake

Now that Spring has finally arrived, the August Golf Tournament and Clambake will be here before we know it. A feature at this year's Clambake will be a Bocce Ball Tournament. You may register a team of 4 or register individually, and be assigned to a team. There is no cost to play, and the winning team will receive trophies and prizes.

Look for registration info in the July newsletter. Join in the fun and show off your skill!



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The Rockport location also includes the Mirror Lake treatment facility, the field service and distribution system crew, and the certified laboratory. The local employees involved in these functions will continue to be based in that office.

Judy Wallingford, Maine Water's president noted, "The company will still maintain its commitments to the customers and communities throughout the 21 service towns, with local management contacts readily available and the management team only a phone call away."



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HOST: Woodie Bartley, Superintendent, Maine Water Company - Greenville

LOCATION: The Birches Resort, 281 Birches Road, Rockwood, ME 04478

DIRECTIONS: From South: I-95 N to Newport, Exit 157. Turn left at the end of the exit ramp and take Route 7 north from Newport to Dexter (14 miles). Take Route 23 north & west from Dexter to Guilford (11 miles). Look for signs to the Moosehead Lake Region. At the "5 Corners" in Guilford, take a hard right. Take Route 6/15 from Guilford to Greenville (26 miles). Make a left at the flashing light in Greenville and continue on Rte. 6/15 to Rockwood (22 miles). Follow directions from Rockwood to The Birches Resort.

From North: I-95 S to Howland, Exit 217. Take Route 6/155 from Howland to LaGrange (12 miles). Take Route 6/16 from LaGrange to Dover-Foxcroft (20 miles). Take Route 6/15 from Dover-Foxcroft to Rockwood (58 miles). Follow directions from Rockwood to The Birches Resort.

PROGRAM

- 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM **Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 AM – 8:40 AM **Introduction & Welcome to Greenville, Maine**
John Simko, Town Manager
- 8:40 AM – 9:00 AM **Overview of Maine Water Company, Greenville**
Woodie Bartley, Superintendent
- 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM **Business Meeting**
Regulatory Update, Norm Lamie, P.E., Maine Drinking Water Program
Legislative Update, Jeffrey McNelly, Executive Director
- 9:30AM – 9:45 AM **Break**

**Casual Attire
Requested**

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

- 9:45AM – 10:45 AM **Citizen Lake Monitoring in Maine**
Roberta Hill, Invasive Species Program Director, ME Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program
- 10:45AM – 11:45 AM **Friend or Foe? Will You Know an Aquatic Invader When You See It?**
Roberta Hill, Invasive Species Program Director, ME Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program
- 11:45AM – 12:00 PM **Q & A**
- 12:00 PM **Lunch**

Jefferson Longfellow
President

Mike Broadbent, Sid Hazelton
Program Coordinators

REGISTRATION FOR JUNE 19, 2014 BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Please return registrations by: June 12, 2014

2.0 Training Contact Hours

Name(s): _____

Affiliation _____

		Member	Non-Member	Late Registration (after 6/12/14)	
				Member	Non-Member
<i>Water Systems serving more than 4,000 Customers</i>	_____ @	\$35 _____	\$40 _____	\$45 _____	\$50 _____
<i>Vendors / Associate Members</i>	_____ @	\$35 _____	\$40 _____	\$45 _____	\$50 _____
<i>Water Systems serving less than 4,000 Customers</i>	_____ @	\$25 _____	\$30 _____	\$35 _____	\$40 _____

Total enclosed: _____

Register online at: www.mwua.org OR mail/fax registration to:
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