

# *Maine Water News*

*A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association*

November 2014, Number 178

## **A Time For Some Potential Changes**

*Jefferson Longfellow, 2014 President*

As I am starting the Bi-Monthly President's Message, it's a couple weeks out from the election. By the time this is published, we (hopefully) will know the results of the election and can make some educated guesses as to what the next couple of years will be like on a state and national level. We will know the results of the Question #6 Bond Issue, and the effect on the Drinking Water Program, and thus the SRF.

MWUA is in the process of some changes as well. Four individuals are on the ballot to join the Board of Directors. These folks are looking to fill four seats: three with three-year terms, and one seat with a two-year term. The ranked voting process will dictate who will fill the two-year term being designated to the one with the fewest votes. So if the newsletter gets to you before the ballots, please be sure to vote.

The other issue is a potential change in MWUA's bylaws. This would allow one Associate Member to be able to join the Board of Directors. This bylaw change had been discussed as early as 2009. It was brought to the membership at the April bi-monthly meeting, but then tabled because more discussion was needed. This issue of having the option to have a single Associate Member serve on the Board of Directors will be up for a floor vote again when we have the bi-monthly meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup> in Saco.

The bylaws will give a choice by the Nominating Committee, but also the general membership during the October bi-monthly meetings to propose one Associate Member to serve on the Board of Directors. If there is already one Associate Member on the Board serving his or her term, there will be no need to make a nomination.

Since the original bylaw change started prior to my own term on the Board, I have no strong feeling of being for or against the change. If the change is approved, it would open a pool of potential candidates of

people to be able to serve on the Board of Directors. It gives an opportunity for those who have done much work in the Maine Water Utilities Association, who happen to not work for a utility, to be able to carry such energy to the board level. If the bylaw change is not made, the status quo will continue to have only utility employees as candidates to serve on the Board of Directors.

Many have strong feelings either way. No matter the outcome, there will continue to be candidates to serve on the Board of Directors. The organization will endure.

## **The October Meeting**

It was not a large crowd, but those who made the trip to Southwest Harbor enjoyed some wonderful weather and an informative meeting.

Jack Russell, who is an MDI resident and a Director of the Friends of Acadia, provided a very interesting account of the Great Fire of 1947, which devastated a significant portion of the island. He was four years old at the time and was one of those who had to be rescued. He barely remembers some of the harrowing days' events, but his presentation of old photos, retold stories and reflections on the impact on his family and acquaintances certainly left an impression.

The Nominating Committee presented its report and offered their list of candidates for Directors for 2015, i.e. Richard Anair of Greater Augusta Utilities District, Michael Broadbent of Auburn Water and Sewer Districts, Alan Hitchcock of Caribou Utilities District, and James Wallace of Portland Water District. There were no nominations from the floor. Ballots were mailed out the end of October.

President Longfellow presented the revised dues schedule and the 2015 budget and Executive Director McNelly provided a short legislative update.

Mike Abbott, of the Drinking Water Program, gave us a regulatory update and then, as a lead-in to the

**Maine Water News**  
is published bi-monthly by

**Maine Water Utilities Association**  
**Jeffrey L. McNelly, Editor**  
150 Capitol Street, Suite 5  
Augusta, Maine 04330  
(207) 623-9511 TEL  
(207) 623-9522 FAX  
website: [www.mwua.org](http://www.mwua.org)

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

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

##### **President**

**Jefferson Longfellow**  
*Kennebec Water District*

##### **Vice President**

**Frank Kearney**  
*Old Town Water District*

##### **Steve Cox**

*Maine Water Company*

##### **Don Gobeil**

*Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District*

##### **Alan Hitchcock**

*Caribou Utilities District*

##### **Gordon Johnson**

*Portland Water District*

##### **Jon Ziegler**

*Boothbay Region Water District*

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

*Co-chair: Eric Gagnon*  
*Brunswick & Topsham Water District*  
*Co-Chair: Robbie Chadwick*  
*E.J. Prescott Co.*

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

*Chair: Dan Wells*  
*Winthrop Utilities District*

#### **Nominating Committee**

*Chair: Kathy Moriarty*  
*Bangor Water District*

#### **Technology Committee**

*Co-Chair: Matthew Zetterman*  
*Kennebec Water District*  
*Co-Chair: Woody Bailey*  
*Wright-Pierce*

#### **Program Committee**

*Co-chair: Chris Curtis*  
*Yarmouth Water District*  
*Co-chair: Rick Anair*  
*Greater Augusta Utility District*

#### **Public Awareness Committee**

*Co-chair: Kirsten Ness,*  
*Portland Water District*  
*Co-chair: Mary Jane Dillingham*  
*Auburn Water District/Lewiston Water Division*

#### **Water Resources Committee**

*Co-Chair: Jennifer Grant*  
*Maine CDC Drinking Water Program*  
*Co-chair: June Mooney*  
*Greater Augusta Utility District*

technical program, he provided a water quality perspective relative to storage tanks.

The technical program featured Chris Hodgson, of DN Tanks, and Daniel Flaig, P.E., of Wright-Pierce. Chris spoke about recent water storage tank replacement projects in Maine and Dan discussed the evaluation and management of storage facilities as strategies to improve water quality

Southwest Harbor is a beautiful place, as are many venues in Maine. The scenic ride home made it a little easier to leave.

### **December Meeting in Saco to Focus on Southern Maine Systems**

The vote on an amendment to the Association's by-laws, to be held at the April Bi-Monthly meeting, was not taken as the issue was subject to a tabling motion. Adoption of the by-laws amendment will, again, be considered at the December meeting, assuming a quorum for the transaction of business is present.

The proposed amendments, if adopted, will allow for one Associate Member to serve as a Director.

At the August, 2013 meeting of the Nominating Committee the committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Directors to allow for one (but not more than one) Associate member as Director. Following that recommendation from the Nominating Committee, the Board considered the issue at their November 2013, December 2013 and January 2014 meetings. Finally, at their March 2014 meeting the Board expressed their unanimous support, to bring the proposed changes to the membership.

The proposed changes are as follows:

Section 3.5 Associate Member. A person, firm, or corporation or other entity engaged in supplying materials, services or advice to the water utilities of Maine may apply for membership as an Associate Member. An Associate Member has no voting rights as a member and, except as otherwise provided in Section 4.6, is ineligible to hold office in the corporation, but may accept committee assignments.

Section 4.3. Nominations. Nominations for Directors shall be presented at the October meeting of the corporation by the Nominating Committee or from the floor by any member of the corporation. Only Individual Members, Retired Members, Honorary Members and (to the extent provided in Section 4.6) Associate Members in good standing may be nominated. The Nominating Committee shall notify the membership of the corporation, in writing, of their selections for the nomination of Directors at least 10 days prior to the October meeting. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the succeeding five past Presidents of the corporation who are members in good standing and who are not serving as Directors. The most recent Past President serving on the committee shall chair the committee.

Section 4.6. Associate Member as Director. An Associate Member, or, in the event that an Associate Member is an entity, an individual who shall have been designated by the Associate Member to represent the Associate Member for this purpose, may serve as a director or, if elected, as an officer of the corporation; provided, however, that no more than one Associate Member or individual designated by an Associate Member may serve as a director or officer of the corporation at any time.

The December meeting is also when annual committee reports are presented.

The technical program, *Regional Solutions for Tomorrow's Challenges*, will include a discussion of partnering, collaboration and other

Serving Maine Utilities for  
Over 65 Years



**WRIGHT-PIERCE**   
Engineering a Better Environment

Offices in Portland and Topsham | [www.wright-pierce.com](http://www.wright-pierce.com)

# DIRIGO

ENGINEERING



Professional Engineering for  
Maine's Water and Wastewater  
Industries

Responsive - Reliable - Practical

2 Dirigo Drive, Fairfield, Maine 04937 Ph: (207) 453-2401  
[www.dirigoengineering.com](http://www.dirigoengineering.com)

ongoing efforts amongst the water system in southern Maine. There will be a presentation on the evaluation, design and planned upgrading of the Biddeford – Saco treatment plant. In addition, regional planning agencies will provide an update of their activities.

Over the next several years, the water suppliers in southern Maine will be making major system upgrade decisions and implementing those improvements. Join us in Saco for an informative and enjoyable meeting.

### Technology Committee Surveying Members

Before this newsletter reaches the readership, a survey sent out by the Technology Committee will have reached your inboxes.

The Committee, which was created about a year and a half ago, has met several times. The discussions at their meetings are best characterized as an impressive sharing of ideas, tips and techniques and technological fixes that water professionals use on a daily basis to improve the effectiveness – and especially the efficiency - of their operations.

The reason for the survey is to poll the membership in order to ascertain the technology



If it looks half-empty, give us a call.

From local, state and federal regulations to easements, financing and environmental compliance, we can provide the legal counsel that fits your needs.

**Verrill Dana**<sup>LLP</sup>  
Attorneys at Law

Contact: Attorney Bill Harwood, Partner (207) 253-4702 • Jim Cohen, Partner (207) 253-4708  
Portland, ME • Boston, MA • Augusta, ME • Stamford, CT • Washington, DC  
[www.verrilldana.com](http://www.verrilldana.com)

Maine Municipal Bond Bank  
127 Community Drive, P.O. Box 2268  
Augusta, ME 04338-2268  
(207) 622-9386 Phone  
(207) 623-5359 Fax

*Making a Difference for Maine's communities.*



**SRF**  
State Revolving Loan Fund

Interim Loans • Below Market Interest Rates  
• Flexible Financing Schedule

Let Us Put Our AAA Credit Rating To Work For You

knowledge base of operators, and determine the technology needs in the workplace.

Technology, which is such an integral part of water operations, is constantly evolving. The committee wants to use the results of the survey to prioritize their activities, which will include timely and informative training sessions.

If you have not completed the survey, please take a few minutes to do that. Here's the link:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MWUA\\_Tech](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MWUA_Tech)

**Ready to transform  
your water system?**

Let us show you how.



**WOODARD  
& CURRAN**

Your Water Consultant.



800.426.4262 | woodardcurran.com

**PUC Inquiry Needs to Result in a Good Outcome**

*From the Editor's Desk*

On October 20<sup>th</sup> the Maine Public Utilities Commission, in Docket No. 2014-00315, issued an Inquiry into Underground Facilities Separation Requirements.

This followed an October 14 Bangor Daily News article in which it was reported that the Commission had proposed to fine Summit Natural Gas of Maine \$150,000 for drilling through 25 sewer lines in Augusta, Gardiner, Yarmouth and Cumberland. In addition to the monetary penalty, the article reported that the commission is requiring verification - on a pipeline-by-pipeline basis - that other sewer lines have not been damaged, before the gas lines are activated.

Almost from Day One of the natural gas expansion projects in Maine, the association's water utility members have expressed concern over the gold rush mentality which has driven the gas infrastructure build out. Water utilities have been negatively impacted in a significant way by the natural gas projects.

In some of the most impacted municipalities, location permits have increased almost 10 fold from previous years. Even the larger systems are reporting



**TATA & HOWARD**

Unsurpassed Solutions  
in the Water Environment

Providing innovative solutions for water, wastewater, stormwater, and hazardous waste for over 20 years

**Service. Efficiency. Teamwork.**



800-366-5760 | www.tataandhoward.com



that they simply can't keep up with current staffing.

On the Dig Safe front, the 3-day marking requirement is, in essence, an impossible task to meet. Early on at least, the Dig Safe process was used for design processes. That is not, and should not, be allowed. A common and striking scenario that has been mentioned by system operators is that the gas company states: "we are running our mains down this street - mark your structures so we can try to avoid them".

Issues such as these seem to be occurring on a less frequent basis.

Improved communication, which has often occurred as the result of initiatives taken by other utilities and/or municipalities, has resulted in the avoidance of many conflicts. However, improved communication is not the silver bullet that some believe it to be. We still hear of situations where coordination meetings appear to be successful and productive, yet natural gas utility subcontractors operate as though they are not aware of what was discussed in the coordination meetings.

Certain subcontractors are being paid by the foot or by the job. Their goal is to install mains or services as inexpensively as possible; this has created problems in some instances. As is evidenced by the PUC's proposal to issue a fine, existing infrastructure can be damaged



**TEAM  
EJP**  
Pipeline Specialists

1-800-EJP-24HR  
(357-2447)  
www.ejprescott.com

WATER, WASTEWATER & STORMWATER SOLUTIONS

**Maine Water Works Supply Corp.**



800-639-2209  
Oakland, ME

781-878-8098  
Rockland, MA

**John Hoadley and Sons, Inc.**



**A. E. Hodsdon**  
 Consulting Engineers  
 10 Common Street  
 Waterville, Maine 04901  
 Tel. (207) 873-5164  
 Fax: (207) 872-0645  
 e-mail: [info@aehodsdon.com](mailto:info@aehodsdon.com)  
[www.aehodsdon.com](http://www.aehodsdon.com)

Water Systems, Storage & Treatment	Rate Studies
Hydrology/Hydrogeology	Water Operations
Construction Administration	Corrosion Control
DEP/EPA Permitting & Wetlands	Hydraulic Analysis

**Civil-Environmental Consultants**

and the contractors may not be aware (perhaps not even care) they damaged anything.

Yet, at the same time, there are instances of effective working relationships between certain utilities. Comments filed in the docket by the Brunswick Sewer District indicate that their relationship with Maine Natural Gas has been a win - win situation. MNG plans are provided well in advance of construction. The district is given the opportunity to comment and propose changes. Prior to installation, MNG video inspects lines. BSD sums up their experience by saying: "Good communication with a local company is the key to success."

The inquiry asked for comments on a number of issues. The association has provided comments and a number of water and wastewater systems are commenting as well. The essence of our comments is presented below.

Engineering plans should be submitted to the Commission at least 30 days prior to the construction or installation of any new transmission or distribution pipeline facilities, as is spelled out in statute. That has not been happening.

The plans should be stamped by a professional engineer. The plans should include an attestation that (1) the design comply with separation and other construction standards, (2) any in the field deviations from the submitted design must be agreed to through consultation with the owners of other underground facilities or, if agreement is not possible, via a final determination rendered by the applicable licensing authority and (3) as built plans be filed with the commission within a reasonable time following completion of construction.

The inquiry asked if the Commission should recommend legislative action. We responded that comprehensive construction standards need to be in statute, for good reason. Municipalities are the licensing authority for those public ways under their authority. Unfortunately, the nature and extent of oversight being



**FORD**  
NEPTUNE TECHNOLOGY GROUP  
AVK AMERICAN AVK COMPANY  
ZURN WILKINS  
Cretex PRO-RING  
SCHONSTEDT INSTRUMENT COMPANY  
SCALETRON INDUSTRIES LTD  
STREAMLIGHT  
RED-B-GONE Rust Remover  
REED  
FERNCO  
LMI  
**Ti SALES**  
WATER and WASTEWATER SUPPLIES  
800-225-4616 207-215-4678  
[www.tisales.com](http://www.tisales.com)  
Serving Maine with Fast & Dependable Service

provided by municipalities varies greatly and in some situations it is virtually nonexistent.

At a recent MWUA Board meeting, the Directors made it very clear that the protections we need should be statewide and they should be in law.

We recommended a 6-foot minimum horizontal clearance and a 2-foot minimum vertical clearance be maintained between gas mains and other underground structures. We recommended that where gas mains must cross other facilities, the angle of crossing be as close to



**TDM**  
TRASK-DECROW MACHINERY  
THE POWER BEHIND YOUR PROCESS  
DOOSAN Portable Power  
Portable Equipment  
Sales • Service • Rentals  
1-207-799-1538 [www.tdmgo.com](http://www.tdmgo.com)

90 degrees as possible. Concerning tracer wire, we recommended that it be of an adequate gauge and that documentation be provided confirming that the tracer wire has been successfully post-installation tested for continuity.

The other recommendation we offered was that all owners of underground facilities be notified when current is applied to steel gas mains. That recommendation was the result of us learning that it is standard practice to apply voltage to steel gas transmission mains in order to provide corrosion protection for that pipe.

For months, the association has been attempting to bring about the enactment of more comprehensive gas line design and installation standards. During the last session of the Legislature we attempted to introduce a bill to do that. Unfortunately, legislative leadership blocked that effort.

Our initial concerns were based on the need for adequate separation of gas infrastructure from our buried facilities so that we can utilize trench boxes to access and repair facilities. The major issue was, essentially, one of cost. Frankly, the cost implications are of concern only to us. We have recently witnessed what can happen when even inadequate separation and construction standards are not complied with. The fact that the risks

## Multiply Your Resources Instantly

We provide the experienced, knowledgeable people, vast inventory, real-time record keeping, reports and high speed document processing for the supply and management of all of your water, sewer and storm supply needs.



**Maine Representative**  
207-210-4672



<input type="checkbox"/> Inventory Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Line Stopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Invoices by Email
<input type="checkbox"/> Job Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Control Valve Testing & Repair	<input type="checkbox"/> Signed Delivery Receipts
<input type="checkbox"/> Estimating Software	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineered Plant Products & Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Pay Online
<input type="checkbox"/> Online Material Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Take Offs	<input type="checkbox"/> Customized Databases
<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



Local Service, Nationwide™ [www.hdwaterworks.com](http://www.hdwaterworks.com)

are not being managed well is becoming increasingly obvious.

Hopefully, the time is right to effectuate change. The PUC inquiry is an opportunity to advocate for improvements and we will take advantage of that. It is likely that we will be submitting legislation during the soon-to-commence 127<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

Stay tuned. If anyone wants to pitch in, tell their story and send a message that could make a difference, give me a call.

## We've made your Water our Business

We know water, and we know the water business.  
Let Aquastore® be the only tank you'll ever need!



- Decades of experience
- Over 700 installations
- Applications from potable to leachate



Statewide Aquastore, Inc. • 6010 Drott Drive • East Syracuse, NY 13057  
Phone: 315.433.2782 • Fax: 315.433.5083 • [www.besttank.com](http://www.besttank.com)

Helping your employees  
save for their futures  
is one of the best moves  
you can make!



**Simple**



**Convenient**



**Reliable**



**Low-Cost**

## MAINE START

The tax-deferred savings plan from Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

[www.mainestart.org](http://www.mainestart.org) 1-800-451-9800

**HOST:** Richard Knowlton, Vice President, Maine Water Company, Biddeford-Saco Division

**LOCATION:** Ramada, 352 North Street, Saco, ME 04072

**DIRECTIONS:** From South: I-95 N to Lund Rd/Lund Industrial Rd exit. Continue onto Lund Rd/Lund Industrial Rd. Turn right, hotel is on right. From North: I-95 S to I-295 S. I-295 S becomes I-95 S. Take Exit 36 for I-195 E toward Saco/OOB. Continue onto I-195. Take Exit 1 for Industrial Park Rd (ME-112). Turn left onto Industrial Park Rd (ME-112). Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> right onto North St. Turn left at Lund Rd. Turn left, turn left, turn left, and hotel is on left.

**PROGRAM**

- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 – 8:40 a.m. Introduction / Welcome to Saco**  
*Don Pilon, Mayor of Saco*
- 8:40 – 8:50 a.m. Overview of Maine Water Company, Biddeford-Saco Division**  
*Tom Carr, Superintendent, Maine Water Company*
- 8:50 – 10:00 a.m. Business Meeting**  
**Regulatory Update, Normand Lamie, P.E., Assistant Director, Maine Drinking Water Program**  
**Legislative Update, Jeffrey McNelly, Executive Director, MWUA**  
**Annual Committee Reports**

**10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Break**

**TECHNICAL PROGRAM – REGIONAL SOLUTIONS FOR TOMORROW’S CHALLENGES**

- 10:15– 10:35 a.m. Collaboration and Partnering with the Neighbors**  
*Dave Parent, President, Southern Maine Regional Water Council*
- 10:35– 10:55 a.m. Future Treatment Plant Needs for the Biddeford – Saco Division**  
*Richard Knowlton, Vice President, Maine Water Company*
- 11:00 –12:00 p.m. Regional Issues & Sustainability Initiatives in Southern Maine**  
*Neal Allen & Paul Schumacher, Executive Directors of Greater Portland Council of Governments and Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission, respectively.*
- 12:00 – 12:15 p.m. General Discussion and Q & A**
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch**

**Jefferson Longfellow**  
*President*

**Chris Curtis, Joe Hersom, Justin Richardson**  
*Program Coordinators*

**REGISTRATION FOR DECEMBER 4, 2014 BI-MONTHLY MEETING**

Please return registrations by: November 26, 2014

**2.0 Training Contact Hours**

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

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

		Member	Non-Member	Late Registration (after 11/26/14)	
				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](http://www.mwua.org) OR mail/fax registration to:  
Maine Water Utilities Association, 150 Capitol Street, Suite 5, Augusta, ME 04330  
Ph: (207) 623-9511; Fax: (207) 623-9522

**MAINE WATER NEWS**  
**150 CAPITOL STREET, SUITE 5**  
**AUGUSTA, ME 04330**