

Maine Water News

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

November 2015, Number 184

Season's Greetings

Alan Hitchcock, 2015 President

Last newsletter I mentioned some of Maine's extra seasons, such as mud season and construction season. As I write this article many of us are enjoying hunting season and looking forward to the Holiday Season. We will soon be entering the Winter Season, fun for some and humdrum for others. We are very fortunate in Maine to have so many seasons as it keeps things interesting.

The next Legislative Session will hopefully be relatively quiet as the legislators deal primarily with holdover items and some emergency issues. Our Association as always will be keeping a close eye on these issues and informing the membership as necessary.

A Strategic Planning Session was held October 7, 2015 with several participants on the telephone.

We utilized Go-To-Meeting for this session and it seemed to work quite well. These types of meetings seem to work well for those of us who are some distance away from the meeting location. Discussions centered on various items of interest including how the Association advocates for its members, what areas we do best, and how we can work with other organizations with mutual interests. EPA delegation to DEP was also discussed and will be the topic of a future meeting.

Various committees are working feverishly in planning for the expanded February Meeting and Trade Show in Portland. Several changes have been made which will make this popular event even better. You and your employees are encouraged to attend. There is a wide variety of subjects covered and something for everyone. It is nice time to visit and network and to break up the winter doldrums.

Enjoy the Holidays with your families. It really is a great time of year. As winter approaches, I am getting my skis ready for my daily trips around the farm. As long as the ground is white, we might as well enjoy it. Soon though, I will be spending some time in the southern climate.

The October Meeting

Hampden Town Manager Angus Jennings welcomed us to town for Conference No. 541 and we were off and

running.

In his overview of the Hampden Water District, Superintendent Jamie Holyoke provided a very interesting historical account and then summarized the many projects the district has undertaken over the past 15 years. The trustees and employees can certainly be satisfied with all that has been accomplished.

Chip Reeves, President of the Municipal Review Committee, Inc., reviewed the operation of that organization. MRC, which consists of 187 member communities that cooperate on their solid waste management needs, was originally created to oversee the operation of the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC). With the price of purchased power from the PERC plant expected to drop from \$0.12 per KW to \$0.04 per KW in 2018, MRC has been evaluating new technologies to recover energy from member community waste streams. In his regular day job Chip is the Public Works

Director in Bar Harbor. As President of MRC, he has somehow found the time to guide the committee in a due diligence effort to evaluate and select a sustainable waste management plan for the future. His presentation was interesting, informative and eye opening.



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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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Greater Augusta Utility District

Executive Director McNelly presented the 2016 budget of \$392,935. He noted that this budget is slightly less than the 2015 budget of \$ 395,993, primarily due to the fact that there should be less in the way of legislative expense during the upcoming short session.

Nominating Committee Chair Don Gobeil presented the nominations for 2016 Directors, Jefferson Longfellow of Kennebec Water District and Scott Abbotoni of Great Salt Bay Sanitary District. There were no nominations from the floor.

Following the Regulatory Update by DWP Director Roger Crouse and a break to refill coffee cups, Bob Moody, Safety & Training Manager with EJ Prescott, delivered a very interesting presentation on work zone safety. It included trenching and excavation, the competent person role and roadway zone safety. It was all very practical information that was well received and appreciated.

And last, but not least, the caterers outdid themselves and served a very fine meal. All said, it was a very good meeting, well worth the ride to Hampden.

December to Feature Source of Supply Presentations

The York Water District will host the December bi-monthly membership meeting to be held on Thursday, December 3rd. In addition to the welcome, system overview and updates presented during the business meeting, annual committee reports will be presented and there will be a vote on 2016 Directors.

The technical program, Watershed Protection and In-Lake Aeration and Circulation Systems, will address specific strategies the district has implemented in order to manage their source of supply. Specifically, they have adopted policies and procedures to manage the impact of recreational activities on their watershed. Additionally, they have recently studied the limnologic dynamics of Chases Pond and have designed and implemented an in lake aeration and circulation system to enable them to optimize source water quality.

These proactive steps will provide long term benefits in an area of the state where population pressures present significant source of supply challenges.

Following the meeting and lunch, York Water District will host a Bring-Your-Own ATV Tour of the watershed. Plan to drop your ATVs off at the treatment plant (273 Chases Pond Road) prior to the bi-monthly meeting. This will save space for parking at the meeting and save time as we leave to go on the tour of the watershed. ATV's must be registered for the Maine 2015/2016 ATV season and helmets must be worn. Wear appropriate clothing.

Wright-Pierce Expands Instrumentation and Control Services

John W. Braccio, President and Chief Executive Officer of Wright-Pierce, recently announced the expansion of the company's Instrumentation and Controls (I&C) services with the formation of a new Instrumentation Integration and Field Services Division.

Wright-Pierce's Instrumentation and Control Division has traditionally provided engineering services for the evaluation and design of I&C systems. The new Instrumentation Integration and Field Services Division expands these services to include: troubleshooting, optimization and upgrading of existing I&C, SCADA and telemetry systems; development and integration of customized software monitoring, control and reporting systems; and fabrication, installation and start-up of new control and telemetry panels.

This new division will be directed by Andrew Ian, MSEE,

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CCST. Mr. Ian is a recognized industrial instrumentation expert with over 40 years of experience, including more than 20 years as a systems integrator for the water and wastewater industry. Mr. Ian will oversee Wright-Pierce's newest office located in Hampstead, NH, where integration, field services and panel fabrication will be based.

Nominees Sought for Annual Recognition Awards

The association is seeking nominees for its annual awards of recognition, which are typically presented at the February meeting.

The Excellence in Operations Award recognizes outstanding performance of a public water system where a team effort has contributed to excellence in the following areas: consistent compliance with public health and environmental standards and regulations; mindfulness to system maintenance, infrastructure, and equipment; continuous improvements to the system's water quality; special efforts in the training and education of the utility's employees; significant efforts to educate the public about drinking water issues and their public water system; and participation in new research to improve the quality of drinking water.

The Jeff Nixon Distinguished Service Award recognizes a member of the MWUA who has demonstrated 2 or more of the following: a career of service to a Maine Water Utility; dedication and

commitment to the MWUA over a period of ten years or more; and/or outstanding contributions to the water works profession in Maine.

The Jim Doherty Excellence in Volunteerism Award recognizes a past or present employee of an Associate Member of the MWUA who has demonstrated the following: While volunteering time, materials, labor, equipment or expertise, this person provided an outstanding service, contribution or assistance to a Maine water utility, the utility's employees or staff or to the water works profession, going above and beyond their normal job requirements to simply provide a helping hand.

The President's Award recognizes an individual or organization that has demonstrated an extraordinary dedication and commitment to the water works profession and to the MWUA over the past year.

The Sid Anthony Award of Merit recognizes an eligible member of the MWUA who has demonstrated one or more of the following: outstanding service to a Maine Water Utility; outstanding contribution or assistance to other water utility personnel; and/or outstanding contribution to the water works practice.

To nominate an individual, go to www.mwua.org and click on [Annual Awards](#) under the General Info tab. For more information, please contact our office at 207-623-9511, email us at info@mwua.org.

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Boothbay Watershed Video Worth the Viewing

The Boothbay Region Water District recently created a water conservation video and it's a cocker. Ryan Leighton and Jonne Trees, the talented videographers at Boothbay Region Community TV, have captured the beauty of Adams Pond and Knickerbocker Lake watersheds and Tamara Lilly's elegant narration beautifully conveys their simple message.

The video can be watched here: <https://youtu.be/reFtoVvD6QA>. It can also be found on district's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BoothbayRegionWaterDistrict>.

If you access this via the district's Facebook page check out "The Water Meter Song". You will be glad you did!

Hall of Flags Display to Feature Source to Estuary Theme

On January 12th MWUA and the Maine Water Environment Association will set up displays in the Hall of Flags area of the State House. These displays will depict the various responsibilities and functions inherent in operating water and wastewater systems.

It will be an excellent opportunity to explain to legislators all that is involved in providing water service to the public and attenuating the resultant wastewater streams.

The theme - Source to Estuary - will focus on protecting sources of supply, treating and distributing drinking water and then collecting and treating wastewater prior to discharge to receiving waters or the land, as the case may be. Only an informed public can understand and appreciate the resources required to provide these essential services. This day will be a chance to educate decision makers.

MWUA's Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee and MEWEA's Government Affairs Committee are taking the lead on this endeavor. Others who want to show up and network with their legislators should free to do so. The times are from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



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Strategic Planning Effort Wrapping Up

It's been almost a year since we started but the end is in sight for the strategic planning process. The next meeting of the group will be held at the Portland Water District's Nixon Center on December 15 at 1 PM.

Considerable time has been spent discussing organizational aspects and defining key areas that will direct the association's future efforts. Objectives are being defined; key strategies will be formulated and short and long term plans will be developed and put into play.

It's no secret that everyone is very busy with projects as well as their regular daily tasks. That has made it challenging for people to not only attend the planning sessions but to also process information in order to arrive at conclusions that will provide the framework for future actions.

The group has done well and is at the point of finalizing this plan. Look for the details in future communications.

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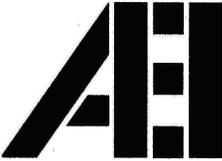
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February Meeting to Feature Variety of Training & Networking Opportunities

The reformatting of the February Meeting and Trade Show has resulted in numerous training offerings to meet the needs of water and wastewater professionals. There are slightly different focuses each day of the conference. Monday will offer management and operations sessions, and Tuesday will feature water, wastewater, office, administration and operations topics, plus the luncheon. The addition of Wednesday will accommodate an emphasis on damage prevention and safety; in addition there will be wastewater training that morning and water and wastewater plant tours in the afternoon.

It is anticipated that the addition of the New Product Technology sessions on the trade show floor will not only provide a focus on recent technological advances but will also increase traffic and related networking on the trade show floor. The MWUA Program Committee and the Directors recognize the value that the Associate members bring to the profession, hence the decision to add Wednesday and increase the time the trade show is open to 2 full days was a logical one.

The finishing touches are being applied to the conference brochure and it is expected that mailings will go out sometime in December.



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Timely Relevant Issues Included in February Mix

A few of the February meeting sessions will consider issues that, until recently, rarely or ever impacted system operations.

Across the country, there is a spotlight on non-revenue water. In some regions attention to this matter has resulted in a regulatory framework that is, at the least, attention getting. While that is not the case in Maine, it is recognized that there is an economic cost to that unbilled resource. Increasingly system managers will be expected to quantify and minimize unaccounted for water. The session on Monday will be a good start to undertaking this challenge.

What happens today is on Facebook tomorrow and that dialogue could significantly impact how a manager or his/her trustees react to situations. Facebook could be good for you or it could get you (maybe do both on the same day!). The session on Tuesday may be alarming, or enlightening, or all of the above and more.

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and other impediments to supplying safe potable water, we would be vulnerable to a flank attack for operational practices that have been occurring for decades? The session on Wednesday which considers what it takes to protect public health, while managing the impact of necessary practices on receiving waters, will be interesting, to say the least.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

HOST: Don Neumann, Superintendent, York Water District

LOCATION: York Golf and Tennis Club, 62 Organug Road, York, Maine

DIRECTIONS: From the North or South: Take Exit 7, The Yorks/Ogunquit on I95 to Route 1 South. Go South 1/4 of a mile to the traffic light. Turn left on Route 1A toward York Village. Go about 1/4 of a mile and turn right onto Organug Road at the white York Baptist Church. Take Organug Road almost to the York River, about 1.5 miles.

PROGRAM

- 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM **Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 AM – 8:40 AM **Introduction & Welcome to York**
Stephen H. Burns, Town Manager
- 8:40 AM – 8:50 AM **Overview of York Water District**
Don Neumann, Superintendent, York Water District
- 8:50 AM – 10:00 AM **Business Meeting**
Election of 2016 Directors
Regulatory Update, Norm Lamie, Maine Drinking Water Program
Legislative Update, Jeffrey McNelly, Executive Director
Annual Committee Reports
- 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM **Break**

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Watershed Protection and In-Lake Aeration and Circulation Systems

- 10:15AM – 11:00 AM **Benefits and Differences of Aeration and Circulation Systems**
Ken Wagner Ph.D. – Certified Lake Manager
- 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM **Overview of the York Water District Aeration Project**
Ryan Lynch – Treatment Plant Manager, York Water District
- 11:30AM – 12:00PM **Balancing Recreational Access and Drinking Water Protection**
Gary Stevens – Resource Protection Manager, YWD
Robin Kerr, Conservation Coordinator, Mt Agamenticus
- 12:00PM – 12:15PM **Q & A**
- 12:15PM **Lunch**

Alan Hitchcock
President

Justin D. Richardson
Program Coordinator

REGISTRATION FOR DECEMBER 3, 2015 BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Please return registrations by: November 25, 2015

2.0 Training Contact Hours

Name(s): _____

Affiliation _____

		Member	Non-Member	Late Registration (after 11/25/15)	
				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>	_____ @	\$30 _____	\$35 _____	\$40 _____	\$45 _____

Total enclosed: _____

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