

Maine Water News

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

September 2017, Number 195

Is Change Inevitable?

Jim Wallace, 2017 President

It is said that the only constant in the world is change. During my time on the Board, the most interesting change has been the increase in collaboration with both the Maine Rural Water Association and Maine Water Environment Association. Collaboration that used to occur three or four times a year is now happening monthly and sometimes every week.

For example, MRWA is hosting sessions to train operators on Best Management Practices (BMP) for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) and Non-MS4 Communities. While this is an important class, you may not be aware that collaboration between the MWUA, MEWEA, MRWA, and Maine Municipal Association, was the initial source of this idea.

Many of our municipalities are working diligently to improve impaired watersheds. When the Maine MS4 permit was updated in 2013, the creation of BMP's for hydrant flushing was recommended. Water Utilities were unsure of what this meant for our practices and concerned about the change. At a work session with members of all the associations, MEWEA was very helpful in identifying common objectives and created the first draft of comments to DEP. All of the associations provided input and agreed to submit our comments as a united group. This collaboration led to a grant from the Drinking Water Program to develop statewide BMP's and training for operators.

Our associations have worked together on a number of common interests, including the legislative breakfast, Hall of Flags event, and bond issues. Over the past few years, each group provided training sessions at each other's conferences. Most recently, our advocacy during the State's legislative session has become more of a cooperative effort; including the tracking of bills, discussion of impacts, and the coordination of testimony. Associations have also changed by-laws to include board members from each other's associations.

I recently attended a joint meeting with board members from MWUA and MRWA. This is the third time within the past twelve months that some or all of the board members have met to discuss our common interests. Our

organizations face the same challenge of doing more with less. Both organizations provide advocacy, training, and sharing of knowledge and experience. While there are some differences in how these objectives are achieved, there are also many opportunities for our organizations to complement and support each other. It is encouraging to see our executive directors working closely together and sharing ideas.

While there are differences to respect, I believe we will continue to do more together. To my knowledge, there is not a master plan. Collaboration that works, will continue. Understanding of each other's needs will produce better outcomes. Better coordination can reduce redundancy. I suspect our associate members will benefit from these efforts as well. Efficiencies of cost and, better yet the time we spend on common issues, might be reduced. I attend many meetings, and find many of the same people working to address the needs.

Some of Maine is seeing signs of a drought, and Harvey delivered 50" of rain to areas of Texas. I cannot wrap my head around that. If you would like to donate, there are many reputable organizations there doing good things. While you may not be reading this until September, I think they could still use your help.

The Annual Golf Tournament and Clambake

The weather was spectacular for both the Golf Tournament and Clambake this year.

A big shout of thanks to all our volunteers that played such an important role in making both of these events a success. We would like to especially thank Steve Sloan, Chris Curtis, Justin Richardson, Kirsten Ness, Helen Pottle, Ian Farrell, Adam Farrell, and David Mejia.

We would also like to thank all of our very generous golf sponsors. The cost of this event would be much higher without their continued financial support.

We had 22 teams registered for the 32nd Annual Clambake Golf Tournament. After not placing in 2016, the E.J. Prescott team of Mike Pelkey, Brian McGuire, Josh McGuire and Porter Gervais reestablished themselves by claiming first place.

Brian McGuire was given the honor of receiving the coveted "Master Scrambler" Jacket by last year's

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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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*Chair: June Mooney
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recipient, Steve Sloan.

2017 Golf Tournament Results

<i>1st Place Team</i>	<i>2nd Place Team</i>	<i>3rd Place Team</i>
Mike Pelkey	Peter Goodwin	Tom Carr
Porter Gervais	Keith Levasseur	Dan Burdin
Brian McGuire	Greg Leighton	Brandon Mitchell
Josh McGuire	Steve Cox	Mike Ganem
<i>Closest to Pin #3</i>	<i>Closest to Pin #8</i>	<i>Closest to Pin #11</i>
Steve Clements	Brandon Mitchell	Josh McGuire
<i>Women's Longest Drive</i>		<i>Men's Longest Drive</i>
Nicki Pellenz		Porter Gervais



1st Place Golf: B. McGuire, M. Pelkey, J. McGuire, P. Gervais

This year at the Clambake, we reintroduced the Pipe Tapping Contest. We had four teams enter the event and all were vying for the opportunity to take home the coveted "Tapping Trophy". The teams that entered were The Watershed Tappers of Boothbay, The Dirty Tappers of Lewiston, KWD Aquaholics of Kennebec, and GAUD Willing of Augusta. The winner, with a time of 2:37, was the Lewiston Dirty Tappers.



1st Place Tapping Team: Lewiston Dirty Tappers

The Bocce Ball Tournament did not have the intense competition that has been so evident over the last few years. That might be because Lincoln Water District was unable to attend and defend their title. The team from Great Salt Bay Sanitary District (a last minute entry) ran away with the gold medals. Auburn Water and Sewer District came in second and was awarded the silver medals.

Between both events, the Public Awareness Committee was able to raise nearly \$1,200 for the scholarship fund.

We also want to thank our members for their incredible support for events like these. We fully understand that supporting and attending these events are not always convenient but you all continue to be active participants in our association.

Finally thanks to Barb Farrell and her boys who jumped in when we were a little short on help and contributed to making our events a success.

October Meeting to be held in Rangeley

The October Bi-Monthly meeting will be held at the Country Club Inn on October 12th, 2017. The business meeting will feature a presentation of the 2018 budget and the report of the Nominating Committee. Depending on whether there is a quorum present, there may be a vote on the candidates.

The technical presentations being offered will focus on groundwater.

The first presentation by Jeff Musich of Wright-Pierce deals with The Greater Augusta Utility District (GAUD) and development of a new water supply in 2015. This presentation will discuss the challenges of developing a new well supply in Maine, permitting and public relation issues, water quality, and a retracing of how the new wells were developed step-by-step. The project economics will also be discussed.

In the second part of our technical session, Greg Smith of Wright-Pierce will discuss how to maintain your groundwater supply. Understanding where our groundwater comes from and keeping it flowing is essential to maintaining a sustainable well source. Proper well design, record keeping, and proper well maintenance can extend the life of a well and result in significant cost savings.

The registration form is included in this newsletter or you can go to <http://mwua.org/events> to register online. We hope to see you there!

Nominating Committee Offers Slate for 2018

The Nominating Committee has selected two nominees for Directors for three-year terms, starting in 2018.

The terms of **Mike Broadbent** of Auburn Water District and **Jim Wallace** of Portland Water District expire at the end of the calendar year. Broadbent and Wallace both became Directors in January of 2015 and both have been nominated for another term.

Nominations for Directors are presented at the October Meeting by the Nominating Committee or from the floor by any member. The by-laws require that the membership be notified, in writing, of the committee's selections for the nomination of Directors at least ten days prior to the October meeting. Eligible candidates who can be nominated from the floor include Associate, Individual, Retired and Honorary Members of the Association who are members in good standing.

Current Directors whose terms expire at the end of 2018 are Scott Abbotoni of Great Salt Bay Sanitary District and Jefferson Longfellow of Kennebec Water District.

Current Directors whose terms expire at the end of 2019 include Rick Anair of Greater August Utility District, John Leach of South Berwick Water District and Brian McGuire of Houlton Water Company.

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September Staff Report

“Your Association Needs You, Do You Need Them?”

What value does any trade association have with your utility? What about you, as a water professional? Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA) has been in existence since 1925. That's 92 years. Why was MWUA formed? *“At that time, a core group of water superintendents recognized the need to meet on a regular basis, share information and ideas and lend mutual support. That group met regularly and became increasingly involved in matters affecting water utilities.”*

Has the purpose of the Association's existence changed? Is there still a need for public water systems to get together? There currently exists countless opportunities to search the internet for an answer you seek to any problem you encounter. It's all there. So why do you, your

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company, or your utility need Maine Water Utilities Association? Or do you?

I have been reviewing information the former executive director, Jeff McNelly, left here at the office. Older issues of the Journal along with copies of our newsletter. I have literally looked at thousands of pictures. It has been a walk down memory lane for me. Among those pictures and periodicals, I have been able to review photos of many member utilities, consultants, and vendors who played active roles within the association. What was the value they saw in being active members in MWUA? Why did they devote countless hours in participating in bi-monthly meetings, committees, training classes, and the annual conference? Was their mission and objective different from ours? Why did they see a need to meet on a regular basis? Why did information, ideas or mutual support need to be shared?

There would be little argument from any of our members that we are all doing more with less. It is often overwhelming when we consider what needs to be done and how little time there is available to get it done. Our days are consumed by dealing with the "highest priorities".

The above-mentioned professionals all impacted me in many different ways. Each was different in many ways but all had one commonality: their active membership in MWUA. As a young man starting in the water works business for EJP, I was required to attend all MWUA functions. It was instilled in us that being an active participant was part of our life blood or sustainability. It was at these functions I started meeting all the people that would impact me in ways I would not fully comprehend for years. They taught me about the water works business but more than that, they taught me the value of relationships. That's the core of what MWUA offers every one of its members, the chance to meet others and develop relationships that will impact you in ways you may not comprehend for years. To realize the extreme value of this opportunity requires that somehow we find, make, or buy the time to be actively involved. Being actively involved in MWUA functions and committees will help you develop and maintain the relationships that can greatly enhance what you do every day. The one thing I value over almost anything else are the relationships that I have formed over the last 34 years. It is rare that I encounter an issue where I



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am unable to find someone in my network of relationships that cannot assist me to find the right answer. That is not something you can even put a price on. In fact, it probably qualifies as being invaluable. Listening at a bi-monthly meeting as these leaders expressed their concerns over potential legislative issues, or talking about how they dealt with an issue after a meeting, maybe it was at lunch when they offered an experience with a difficult board member or customer. All of these opportunities helped to expand my understanding and comprehension about the water works business.

If you aren't currently an active participant in Maine Water Utilities Association please consider doing so. We have needs within our committees for *committed, active* members. Think about being a member of the Board of Directors. These are great ways to meet and

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develop meaningful long lasting relationships. If you were formally active and have found that you're just too busy to attend Maine Water Utilities Associations functions, be an active participant on a committee I urge you to rethink your choice. You have already experienced the value of forming relationships, but those relationships need to be maintained.

Ninety-two years ago, a core group of water superintendents recognized the need to meet on a regular basis, share information and ideas and lend mutual support. That group met regularly and became increasingly involved in matters affecting water utilities. Has anything really changed that's more important than that?

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McNelly Receives State Leadership Award

We're proud to announce that Jeff McNelly, PUC Director of Telephone & Water Division and former Executive Director of MWUA, was awarded the New England Water Works Association State Leadership Award. The award was presented to Jeff at the August Clambake in Brunswick. Congratulations, Jeff!



Bruce Bergers presents Jeff McNelly with NEWWA State Leadership Award

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OCTOBER 12, 2017

RANGELEY

HOST: Albert Clinch, Superintendent, Rangeley Water District

LOCATION: Country Club Inn, 56 Country Club Road, Rangeley, ME 04970

DIRECTIONS: <http://.countryclubinnrangeley.com/>

PROGRAM

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM - 9:10 AM Introduction & Welcome to Rangeley, Maine

Tim Pellerin - Town Manager

9:10 AM - 9:30 AM Overview of Rangeley Water District

Vernon Bean, Trustee Rangeley Water District

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM Business Meeting

Presentation of 2018 Budget, *Jim Wallace, President and Bruce Berger, Exec. Director*

Nominating Committee Report, *Frank Kearney, Committee Chair*

Regulatory Update, *Roger Crouse, Maine Drinking Water Program*

10:00AM - 10:15 AM Break

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

10:15AM - 12:15 PM New Groundwater Supply for Greater Augusta Utility District

Andy Begin, PE, Greater Augusta Utility District

Jeffrey P. Musich, PE, Wright-Pierce Engineers

Maintaining Your Groundwater Supply

Greg Smith, PG, CG, - Wright-Pierce Engineers

12:15 PM - 12:30 PM Q & A

12:30 PM Lunch

Jim Wallace
President

Darrin Lary, Rychel Gibson
Program Coordinators

REGISTRATION FOR OCTOBER 12, 2017 BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Please return registrations by: October 5, 2017

2.0 DWP Training Contact Hours

Name(s): _____

Affiliation: _____

	Member	Non-Member	Late Registration (after 10/5/17)	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
Water Systems serving more than 4,000 Customers	_____ @ \$45 = _____	\$50 = _____	\$55 = _____	\$60 = _____
Vendors / Associate Members	_____ @ \$45 = _____	\$50 = _____	\$55 = _____	\$60 = _____
Water Systems serving less than 4,000 Customers	_____ @ \$35 = _____	\$40 = _____	\$45 = _____	\$50 = _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Register online at: www.mwua.org OR mail/fax registration to:
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September 2017, Number 2

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In 2016, after reading about several solar project initiatives in the area and hearing about possible programs designed specifically for municipal entities, the Waterville Sewerage District (WSD), became interested in solar energy. As the result of a recommendation from an environmental specialist the WSD contacted ReVision Energy to learn about the solar programs they offer and to determine if a solar energy project made financial sense for the WSD and the rate payers they serve. The WSD was specifically interested in the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) program that they offer for municipal entities. PPA programs require no upfront capital costs for the installation of the system and has the potential of significant energy cost savings over the life of the system.

After providing some generic information regarding historical electrical power usage, ReVision Energy sent a representative to the WSD to discuss their programs and to gather information about our site. While on site the representative used an electronic device to gather data that was input into their software to produce solar production estimates. Their representative was very professional and based on the information he provided at the initial meeting, the WSD requested a proposal. ReVision Energy provided a proposal recommending the installation of a 33kW grid-tied solar electric array on the roof of the WSD's maintenance bays. The recommended array consisted of 120 Tier 1 solar panels, 3 inverters, a smart meter and real-time monitoring via the internet. They estimated that

Installed solar panels at Waterville Sewerage District

the project would produce an estimated 32,281 kWh of clean solar electricity per year which covers 98% of the facility's current average annual usage. The solar panels are warranted by the manufacturer for 25 years with an estimated life of the system to be 40 years or more. The system is considered maintenance free except for the low-cost inverters which may need be replaced after 20 years. The system will lose an estimated 0.5% in solar electricity production each year.

A grid-tied solar electric system works in three simple steps. First the sunlight hits the solar panels causing electrons to move, creating direct current (DC) electricity. The DC electricity travels over wires from the solar panels to a solar inverter(s). The inverter



Inverter used to convert solar to useable power.

changes the DC to alternating current (AC) electricity. The last step is where the electricity goes. If the facility is calling for electricity, it will go directly into the facility. If the facility does not call for electricity it will go back onto the grid.

The proposal the WSD received from ReVision Energy contained two options, the first was to purchase the system outright which was not feasible and the second was to use the PPA financial structure. Under the PPA option ReVision Energy would finance, build, own and operate the solar array on the WSD's property for a contract term of 6 to 20 years with an option for two 5-year extensions. The WSD would license the site to ReVision Energy and agree to purchase the electricity generated by the system. After 6 years the WSD would then have an annual opportunity to compare solar electricity prices to the traditional commercial electricity prices and to determine whether it is a better choice to keep buying solar electricity from ReVision Energy or to purchase, at a depreciated price, and own the solar array itself. Once purchased there are no more payments for the electricity used from the array. The proposed solar array provides immediate use power to the facility and the electricity not used at the facility goes back onto the grid. The electricity that goes onto the grid is metered and kW credits are given to the WSD to use when the solar array is not producing the power needed at the facility. This is accomplished with the net metering program which is a billing system with the power company that credits solar energy system owners for the electricity they add to the grid.

The WSD's Board of Commissioners

reviewed the proposal from ReVision Energy which contained a lot of easy to understand information to include a comprehensive 40-year PPA Rate Schedule that included: expected annual power generation; estimated utility annual rates; PPA annual rates, annual savings under a PPA program without a buy-out; and expected savings under a PPA program with a 6 year buy-out. ReVision Energy estimated that electricity cost savings over 40 years could be as high as 71%. Following a detailed review, the Board of Commissioners accepted the PPA proposal and within two months the system was installed by a very professional group of ReVision Energy employees. The system has been producing power for 9 months and the electricity production is 5% greater than was estimated.

The solar PPA program is a great program that is available to non-profits and municipal entities who are unable to take advantage of federal tax programs. Solar technology has advanced a great deal and the systems today are reasonably priced, are near maintenance free, and last a long time. Not only is the system good for the environment, but the rate payers will certainly benefit from the savings in electricity costs. The WSD selected ReVision Energy and were very pleased with every aspect of the company, but there are a number of other reputable companies that offer solar PPA programs.

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