

MAINE



WATER

NEWS

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A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

Number 149

A Vocation of Distinction

John B. Storer, P.E., President

In my term as President of MWUA, I have tried to use this space to keep members informed as to what is going on with MWUA. So by now you should all be aware of changes to the 2010 February Trade Show, that we will be revising our MWUA logo, and that the Drinking Water Week newspaper supplement will return again in 2010. Additionally, in only the second year of the Scholarship effort we are able to award three \$1,000 scholarships. An overhaul of our website is also forthcoming.

As I look back over 2009, I can't begin to express how meaningful it was for me to serve as MWUA's President. I think I learned more about our profession in one single year than I had in my previous 15 years. We have a wonderful profession, full of extremely passionate individuals. If you need an example of that passion simply ask Gordie Johnson or Don Gobeil about their thoughts on the LD 650 effort. Just be careful if you pose that question via e-mail, for your server may crash due to excessive traffic.

One of the on-going challenges for MWUA will be to enhance the positive visibility of our silent-service profession. We all get attention when a main break washes out a well traveled street, but the general public needs to know who we are and all of the good work that we do. Keep in mind that we have a very important SRF Bond Vote coming up in June 2010. The bond vote highlights the need to keep the general public educated about our collective profession.

Speaking of our profession, I'd like to share a poem that our incoming President, Kathy Moriarity, had shared with me. It is by J. B. Mannion, former Executive Director of AWWA. It is titled, "Who Are We?", and I think it magnificently captures the spirit of our profession. *"We are, all of us, water beings on a water planet. Water is life. Without it, all living things die.*

Our dependence on water is absolute; our psyches know this and signal us in myriad ways of water's elemental importance and significance. This is why we love the water and remember experiences associated with it. Of the earth's vast resources of water, only a small fraction is fresh and drinkable. A few people among the globe's billions have been charged with the task of ensuring everyone else has a reliable supply of safe water. Supplying potable water is an essential human activity, and a great responsibility, and a vocation of distinction."

Sadly, much of the general public takes our profession for granted. I know at one time I did. As a child I once pledged to my mother that I would never enter this field. For those of you that don't know, my mother has been at Aqua-Maine (and its previous forms and versions) for well over 30 years. Although I was convinced I would find a more interesting career, in hindsight I think I was destined to join this profession. When I was 3 years old, my parents moved to the vacant family farm and I was introduced to the water profession by having to lug buckets of water from the old spring supply in the back field up to the main house. It was easy to appreciate water when you didn't have any internal plumbing. Family night for us was heading to the local YMCA for hot showers. Rest assured, my parents eventually put in modern plumbing, but my connection to the water profession didn't go away.

As I mentioned, my mother worked at a water utility, so obviously she couldn't afford daycare, so the old Camden & Rockland Water Company used to be my summer daycare. I remember roaming through the building, bugging Jeff McNelly or Trevor Hunt up in the old water quality lab. I also remember seeing the crew rush off to fix a main break.

So you might think I was destined to follow in this field, but I went off to college convinced I was going to design skyscrapers. I finally stumbled into this

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profession when the reality hit that I needed to get a job. A good college friend and classmate, Steve Cox, graduated a year ahead of me and landed a job with a water and wastewater engineering firm. I decided to forego graduate school and Steve let me know the engineering firm was hiring. I didn't have a clue about water treatment, but I got my foot in the door. And today, I couldn't be more proud of my career choice. I never expected to be doing this, but in the words of Mr. Mannion, our water profession truly is a "vocation of distinction."

The December Meeting

The December Meeting, hosted by the Kittery Water District and held at the Kittery Trading Post, presented an opportunity to enjoy some camaraderie, finish up some shopping, and listen to a very interesting account of a recent land purchase consummated by the District. In addition, the annual committee reports updated the membership on all of the activities the Association's volunteers are involved with.

We learned that the land deal, a process which took about two years, involved many partners: the Town of York, the York Land Trust, the Trust for Public Lands, the Land for Maine's Future Program and the District. The variety of funding sources created a conflict of interests and missions. The Land for Maine's Future Program, which has an essentially unfettered public access policy, was certainly at cross purposes with the District's obligation to control when, where, and what types of activities are allowed on their source of supply watershed properties.

A deal was eventually struck, but it ended up being a situation where the District's purchase of the property was parallel to the purchase of the remainder. Many lessons were learned, which lessons should be instructive for future efforts.

There was a chance to see people who do not typically attend meetings farther north. The lunch was excellent, and when we came out of the meeting we were greeted by clear skies and a 70 degree day. Nice.

Bi-Monthly Meeting Locations

The bi-monthly meeting locations have been established for 2010.

As in the past, February will be in Portland; however this year both the technical program and the trade show will be under one roof at Holiday Inn By The Bay. Another article in this newsletter provides more in the way of details.

April will find us in Gardiner, hosted by the Gardiner Water District. Topics are being finalized, but it appears that once again it will be a construction related topic.

The June meeting, which is one we look forward to, will be in Caribou/Presque Isle.

Golf once again will be at Val Halla, in Cumberland, and the Clambake is scheduled to be at Thomas Point Beach in Brunswick.

South Berwick will welcome us in October, and in December we will be in Belfast.

With this issue of the newsletter you will find the 2010 calendar, which includes the dates of these bi-monthly meetings. Make plans now to attend the meetings in your neighborhood, at the very least, and all of them if you have the opportunity.

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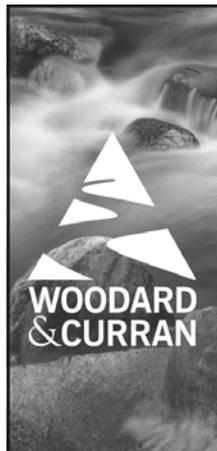


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Legislative Session off to a Quick Start

The Second Session of the 124th Maine Legislature was off and running on Wednesday, Jan 4th. Two bills were heard that day before the Utilities and Energy Committee: LD 1515 An Act to Amend the Charter of the Caribou Utilities District and LD 1516 An Act to

Amend the Charter of the Dexter Utility District. The Association testified in support of those bills, which would allow for the disconnection of water for the non-payment of sewer service. Another bill, LD 1645 An Act to Streamline Collections for Consumer-owned Consolidated Water and Wastewater Utilities, would amend Title 35-A to allow consumer-owned water utilities that also provide sewer services to do the same thing. That bill is expected to be heard the end of January.

LD 1577 An Act Concerning the Establishment of Water Levels is to be heard before the Natural Resources Committee on January 8th. This bill will essentially move the establishment of a water level regime or a minimum flow requirement from the Board of Environmental Protection to department staff. While this is viewed as a neater and cleaner way to do things, the associations is monitoring the bill closely due to the potential implications relative to surface water supply operations.

The most important issue for the association this session is related to the June 2010 bond referendum which was put forth to provide the required match for the 2010 and 2011 State Revolving Fund capitalization grants. If approved, this will only provide enough match for 2010 due to increased 2010 allocations from the federal government. The association will be working with the Maine WasteWater Control Association and others in an effort to obtain that match deficit prior to the 2011 construction season.

It has only begun, but it appears that this short session of the legislature will provide enough in the way of proposed bills and issues to keep the association very busy.

Add to the mix the severe budget crisis in Augusta and undoubtedly it will be a very interesting session.



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Winter Safety Awareness Seminar Slated for February 26th

Enterprise Trenchless Technologies and AGC Maine will be hosting a trench and excavation training seminar on February 26th at the ETTI facility in Lisbon Falls. The session will feature a discussion of unattended trenches, OSHA training and a guest speaker who survived a trench cave-in. Register online at www.agcmaine.org or call (207) 622-4741 for more information.

Auburn Water & Sewerage Districts Announce Job Opening for General Manager Position

The Auburn Water and Sewerage Districts seek an experienced individual to lead this dynamic organization. The General Manager oversees and manages all facets of District operations and reports to two seven member appointed Board of Trustees. The candidate must possess a bachelor's degree in engineering, public administration, business administration or related field and have eight (8) years experience in the administration and operation of a public utility.

The ideal candidate will be a strategic, results-oriented leader with a participative management style possessing strong managerial, technical, financial, communications, and human resources skills who is closely involved with the daily operations of the organization, its staff and customers. This individual will have extensive knowledge of water and wastewater issues, including water supply and water quality

protection, with a thorough understanding of local, regional, state and federal water and wastewater issues.

A competitive compensation and benefits package is offered. For more information about the Auburn Water & Sewerage Districts, please visit their website at www.awsd.org. Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest and resume by **Monday, January 18, 2010** to: Auburn Water & Sewerage Districts, Attn. Bruce Rioux, President, P.O. Box 414, Auburn, ME 04210-0414.



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February Meeting & Trade Show

MWUA's 84th Annual February Meeting and Trade Show will be held on Monday, February 8th and Tuesday, February 9, 2010 exclusively at the Holiday Inn By The Bay, in Portland, Maine. Don't forget to

join us the evening before for the Super Bowl Sunday Meet & Greet, which starts at 6:00 PM.

The Trade Show Meet and Greet will be held on Monday, from 11:30 to 12:30, followed by the Business Luncheon, which will be held in the New Hampshire and Vermont Rooms from 12:30 – 1:45. The Trade Show Preview, held in the Casco Bay Hall, will run from 4: 00 – 6:00 on Monday evening.

There will be a variety of sessions available on Monday and Tuesday, cosponsored by the Maine Water Utilities Association, New England Water Works Association, and the Maine WasteWater Control Association.

The conference brochure and online registration is available at www.mwua.org. Don't forget to select the sessions you plan to attend (*the sessions are listed at the very bottom of the page and carry over to the second page*).

Alternatives to registering online include faxing a registration form to (207) 832-2265 or simply mailing a form via snail mail to MWUA, P.O. Box P, Waldoboro, ME 04572. Register by January 22nd to take advantage of the early registration discounts.



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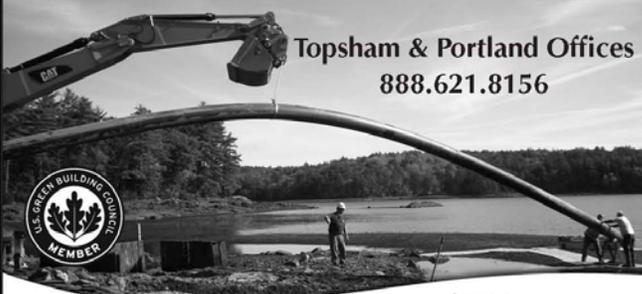


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84th ANNUAL FEBRUARY MEETING AND TRADE SHOW
February 8 - 9, 2010
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 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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Option 1 - Mail completed registration form with payment to: Maine Water Utilities Association, PO Box P, Waldoboro, ME 04572
 Option 2 - Fax Registration: (207) 832-2265
 Option 3 - Register Online: www.mwua.org

EVENT REGISTRATION - Please check all that apply

Registration & Name Badges are required for attendance at all sessions and events.
 Pre-Registration closes January 29, 2010

	Register by 01/22/2010	Registrations Received 01/23/2010 - 01/29/10
<input type="checkbox"/> TWO DAY FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	\$150/person	\$175/person
Two-Day Full Conference Registration includes:		
- Monday & Tuesday Training Sessions (including material handouts and certificates)		
- Monday's Business Luncheon & Trade Show Preview		
- Tuesday's Training Sessions, Lunch, Trade Show Attendance, as well as coffee & pastries		
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE DAY MONDAY SESSION ONLY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	\$100/person	\$125/person
* Sessions 1-12 Include the Luncheon		
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 1: Preparing for System Operator Exams		8:00 am - 11:15 am
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 2: Water Words That Work: Communicating Effectively with the Public		8:00 am - 11:15 am
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 3: Avoid Current & Future Violations by Eliminating Pathogens in Your Distribution System		8:00 am - 11:15 am
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 4: The Importance of Meter Reading		8:00 am - 11:15 am
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 5: The Maine Atlantic Salmon Listing-Potential Impacts on Waste Dischargers		8:00 am - 9:00 am
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 6: How To Read Your Wet Test		9:15 am - 10:15 am
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 7: Emerging Technologies for Improving WWTP Energy Efficiency		10:30 am - 11:30 am
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 8: Reducing Risks from Arc Flash Hazards		2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 9: Energy Savings at Waste Water Facilities		3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 10: Trustee Session		2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 11: The Groundwater Rule		2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 12: Water Words That Work (continued from morning session) - Website Development ...		2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE DAY TUESDAY SESSION ONLY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	\$65/person	\$80/person
* Sessions 13-15 Include the Luncheon		
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 13: Uni-directional Flushing & Valve O & M		1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 14: The Bottom Line: Managing Revenues, Depreciation and Expenses During Tough Times		1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 15: The New Wave of Public Relations and Drinking Water Utilities		1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
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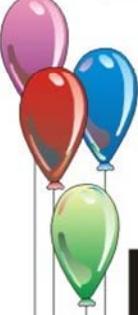
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