

# MAINE WATER NEWS

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Number 110

## What, Me Worry?

*Jeff LaCasse, President*

The beginning of 2003. In the Maine Water Utilities Association, there has been some transition in that three new board members have been elected – Bill Alexander, Mary Jane Dillingham, and Skip Dumais – and I have moved into the President's role. Dave Parent did an exceptional job in keeping the association at the forefront of several important issues in the past year and I hope to be able to continue to advance the cause. The organization has a solid foundation from which to build.

During this cold winter many water utilities have been inundated with main and service breaks and frozen services and meters. Frost levels in my area are deeper than any time in the past ten years. Those cold related operational issues are keeping many utilities busy day and night. But in the hours when things slow down, planning for the coming months is necessary. That planning process may prove difficult. Why?

The global situation is, at best, uncertain with global military maneuverings changing daily.

The national situation is, at best, uncertain with the economic downturn, the threat of homeland terrorism, and the regulatory climate.

The State of Maine situation is, at best, uncertain with the state budget crunch and its unavoidable trickle down effects, the loss of critical Maine business to foreign competition, and the unknowns that may arise in the current legislative session.

The local situation is, at best, uncertain with municipal impacts from the state budget crunch potentially fueling "municipalization," a phenomenon in which municipalities seek to absorb water utilities into their departmental structure, ostensibly as a cost savings move. (Pay attention to this one because you're sure to hear it again).

There are also unpredictable, extraordinary weather events such as the extended drought and cold periods that

have recently visited.

On top of all that uncertainty, there are specific regulatory impacts that must be addressed. A regulatory alphabet soup with ingredients such as DBP, ESWTR, TTHM, HAA5, TOC, GIS, TMDL, SWAP, SDWIS, CCR, TCR, a few other acronyms, and a dash of Vulnerability Assessment has been mixed and is awaiting consumption by the water utility community.

There is no clear sense of what impacts will be felt on our industry and our lives from all these unpredictable events. Apparently, the one thing that is certain is that our jobs will not be any easier.

How can we possibly transition from all those unknowns to being prepared? How can we possibly manage this year? Well, based on my past experiences with the people in Maine water utilities, the answer is a quick "No problem". In just the past few years, Maine water utilities have successfully faced down the Ice Storm, Y2K, September 11, the continuing regulatory hammer of the Safe Drinking Water Act and even a division in the ranks resulting from proposed local governance legislation. Fighting the impacts of what Mother Nature sends our way is second nature to most utilities. We do what we have to do when it needs to be done.

In addition to the resourcefulness of individual utilities, there is another resource that is in place to make life easier for all. That resource is the Maine Water Utilities Association. Since 1925, the MWUA has provided a forum for all Maine water utilities, regardless of size or affiliation, to exchange ideas and to gain the advantage of collective knowledge and strength. If you are out there with a problem or a situation, there is a very high probability that at least one other Maine water utility is having, has had, or will shortly be having that same problem or situation. Reinventing the wheel is never efficient and, in our case, not necessary. So, if you have one of those problems or situations and are feeling alone, give Jeff McNelly or any of the MWUA board members a call. I assure you that at the very least a discussion will take place on the issue and in

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

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##### Water Resources Committee

talented people throughout the MWUA with expertise in almost every area of business and technology that I can think of. If an individual member cannot help, he or she can point you to someone that can.

So bring on 2003. Sounds like a challenge. I think we're ready.

### Committee Corner

**Education and Operations:** Plans have been finalized for a number of sessions for 2003. The Construction Inspection session was well attended. Brochures for the March 19<sup>th</sup> Microsoft Excel intermediate level class have been mailed. Excavation Safety / Hands-on Backhoe Training, GIS and office personnel sessions will be held this spring. The committee had a table at the trade show and committee members were there to answer questions about upcoming classes and operator certification. Thanks to Leeann Hanson of JETCC and Janet Abrahamson of Maine Wastewater Control Association for providing literature about their organizations and upcoming classes. The committee is looking forward to working with JETCC and MWWCA on future meetings and seminars. Roger Crouse of the Drinking Water Program and Dick Darling of Maine DEP provided information on operator certification.

As always the committee is looking for people who would like to volunteer their time and talents. Contact Mike Morey at Augusta Water District (622-3701) or Joan McArdle at Yarmouth Water District (846-5821) for additional information. Anyone wishing to submit ideas for technical inserts for Maine Water News should contact Chris Silke at Auburn Water District (784-6469) or Dan Bisson at Camp Dresser and McKee (829-6200).

**Legislative:** The 121<sup>st</sup> Maine Legislature is in full swing! Over 900 bills have been printed and reviewed as of February 21<sup>st</sup>. The good news is that relatively few of them will directly impact water utilities. The Legislative Committee is actively following fifteen bills and is recommending opposition to only four of those. Included on the list of issues in front of this legislature, in addition to the budget crisis, are proposals to change how the PUC collects fees from water utilities, to require the DEP to issue permits for all groundwater or surface water withdrawals that exceed 50,000 gallons per day, to require the DEP to develop an eradication plan for invasive aquatic plants, to amend workers comp laws, to provide public access to fish, game and wildlife resources and to amend the standard water district enabling act. We are waiting for additional new bills that will address the November bond issue, local governance and the ability of municipalities to impose service fees on tax-exempt organizations, among others! For more information about any legislative issue call Jeff, committee chair Rick Knowlton or any member of the committee.

Additionally, the Committee has recommended to the Board combining the roles of the Regulatory Liaison Committee and the Legislative Committee into one larger committee with a broader focus. The committee is also considering the qualifications of different outside lobbyists to assist the association in legislative and regulatory affairs.

**Public Awareness Committee:** Former Chair Mary Jane Dillingham, who was elected a member of the Board of Directors, has been replaced by Brian Tarbuck. Gary Stevens, of York Water District, is

(cont. from p. 1)


most cases a scurry of activity will begin with the intent to present you with help to understand better or even solve your dilemma. I've found no reluctance to share experiences, information, and, most of all, opinions from MWUA members. I cannot emphasize enough that there are an extraordinary number of very smart and very

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THAT EQUITY MAY PREVAIL

*(cont. from p. 2)*

...serving as vice-chair. Goals for 2003 include completely rebuilding the website to make it much more useful to the membership and the general public. Secondly, we will be working with Joy Adamson at the Drinking Water Program to promote Drinking Water Week, May 5 - 9. It's tough to get an organization that's comprised of members who are predominantly introverts to promote their day to day work to the public. But as we learned at the February meeting, if you don't tell your story and get aggressive about doing it, somebody else will. We will be pushing for some additional training in the public awareness arena to encourage the membership to get out there and tell their story. Tell your local newspaper about those summer projects, tell them about the main breaks and why you're outside in -20 ° weather. Otherwise, they will write the article without you. Finally, the committee thought it would be a great public awareness idea to make up some MWUA t-shirts and hats. Be sure to get yours soon as they're going fast! Well, not really, but they make wonderful gifts and they're quite slimming.

**Program:** The committee has just completed the planning and implementation of the annual conference. Once again, with few exceptions, the show was a rousing success. The committee made some substantial changes to improve this year's show. Those changes included carpeting the entire ice surface and big-ticket raffles at the end of the day on Tuesday that people had to be present to win. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeff, Carrie, and all the members of the Program Committee for their hard work before and during the conference. It is a true team event, and it takes everyone's efforts to make it a huge success. If you see a committee member, make sure you say thanks. We are now turning our sights to April, when we will be in Bucksport. Other locations for 2003 are Dover-Foxcroft, Brunswick, Farmington and Kennebunk. We hope to continue to have strong attendance at our bi-monthly

meetings. As always, we continue to look for new members with new ideas, so if you are interested, see Jeff, Carrie, or any committee member about joining.


**Water Resources:** The committee continues to work on elements of a sustainable water use policy/strategy, is reviewing the Total Coliform Rule white papers and is promoting source protection efforts, particularly as they relate to surface water supplies. Collaboration with the Voluntary Lake Monitoring Program has resulted in a letter being mailed to surface water systems, inviting them to be in this program. For those systems not currently monitoring their surface water source, the VLMP can assist in coordinating a monitoring program that is appropriate and specific to their source. The data collected can be invaluable in making informed and focused decisions about future source protection efforts and are often essential in applying for watershed protection grant funds.

### The February Meeting

Once again, the weather did not impede attendance at the February Meeting and Trade Show. The economic times may have caused a few people, particularly those in Southern New England, from coming but the event was well attended.

Monday was a busy day, as always, with people attending management sessions, an operations session and a number of timely and informative afternoon concurrent classes.

The luncheon speaker's presentation: "Why People Drive You Crazy" caused us to think that perhaps we, individually, may have some ownership in that craziness. Also at the luncheon, Michelle Clements of the Portland Water District was recognized for distinguished public service, it was noted that PWD had received NEWWA's second place Consumer Confidence Award and the Lewiston Sun Journal received an EPA Drinking Water Sources Protection Award. The Auburn Water District was totally caught by surprise when it learned that it was the first recipient of the association's Excellence in Operations Award.



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(cont. from p. 3)

We ate a lot of clam chowder and consumed many beverages at the trade show preview Monday evening. On Tuesday the Civic Center was a busy place, with two safety related operator training sessions, a luncheon that fed hundreds and a raffle, just before the close of the show, that featured a weekend escape, a brush saw and \$200 gift certificates for L.L. Bean and the Home Depot.

At the banquet Bruce Goucher, of the Augusta Water District, received the Sid Anthony Award of Merit. He was stunned and very happy. Steve Bishop, of Metcalf and Eddy, was also very pleased to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of his 50-year career in the waterworks field. Rick Knowlton and Norm Labbe received NEWWA state waterworks leadership awards.

Dave Sweet received the President's Award from 2002 President David Parent. Parent reviewed just a few of the many contributions Dave has made to the association over the years, including committee work, serving as President, and most recently his efforts as Legislative Committee Chair. It was a well-deserved honor.

Charlie Eshbach, President and GM of the Portland Sea Dogs, was the banquet speaker and he provided a very interesting synopsis of his involvement in professional baseball.

On Wednesday it was back to work, dealing with frozen services and meters and all that goes with winter.

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## MWWCA Schedules Spring Conference

The Maine Wastewater Control Association has scheduled its Spring Conference for April 4<sup>th</sup> at Jeff's Catering at the East West Industrial Park, in Brewer.

Topics relevant to the waterworks business include:

- \* How To Survive A Bureau of Labor Standards Inspection
- \* pH Measurement
- \* How Does Water Treatment Affect Wastewater Characteristics?
- \* Sampling and Chain of Custodies
- \* Process Optimization Using Examples of Both Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment Data
- \* DEP Issues: Writing or Updating O & M Manuals and Understanding the DMR

The deadline for pre-registration is Friday, March 28. Brochures are available from the MWUA office.

The pre-registration fee for members is \$55.00 per person, with door registration being \$75.00 per person. Maine Water Utilities Association members are invited to register at MWWCA membership rates. Training contact hours are available for the sessions listed above.

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## Surface Water Systems Must Create a Disinfection Profile

**Starting July 1st, 2003 !!! Are you ready?**

**Submitted by: Shannon Gallant, State of Maine Drinking Water Program**

### What is a Disinfection Profile?

A disinfection profile is a graphical representation of the system's level of inactivation of *Giardia Lamblia* based on data collected on the same day every week for one year.

### Who has to develop a disinfection profile?

Community and non-transient non-community systems that use surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water must create a profile. Systems that measured TTHM levels below 0.064 mg/L and HAA5 levels below 0.048 mg/L on their summer testing don't have to do the profile.

### What data should a system collect to develop a Disinfection Profile?

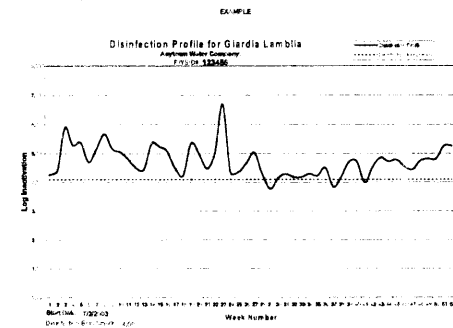
Record the following information on DWP reporting form DP-2 (shown to the right) for the same day each week for 52 weeks.

1. The peak hourly flow for that day in gallons per minute.
2. The disinfectant residual concentration ("C") in mg/L during peak hourly flow at any point between the entrance to the distribution system and the first customer. Use the same point every week. This is the "residual point".
3. The water temperature in degrees Celsius at the residual point during peak hourly flow.
4. The water pH at the residual point during peak hourly flow.
5. Contact time ("T") in minutes from the point of disinfection application to the residual point, at peak hourly flow. This has to be approved by the DWP (see "How do I determine my contact time?").

*In order to record this information you will have to take each of the above measurements every hour for the entire day. At the end of the day you can determine what your peak hourly flow was and input the proper values into the spreadsheet (DP-1).*

### What is done with the data?

Record all data in DWP reporting form DP-2, this is a Microsoft Excel form. The spreadsheet will automatically calculate your log inactivation achieved on a weekly basis and it will create a 52-week profile (shown below). It will also calculate your disinfection benchmark. The disinfection benchmark is the lowest monthly average log inactivation for the year.



you can download all forms at [www.medwp.com](http://www.medwp.com)

### How do I determine my contact time?

Contact time "T" is determined using either the baffling factor method or from data collected from a tracer study. The DWP will be asking each water system to submit information on how they determine their contact time. The following information should be submitted using form DP-1 (shown to the right):

1. A diagram of the system from the point of disinfection application to the disinfection residual concentration measurement point, including all dimensions.
2. If a tracer study was performed, the date it was performed, who it was performed by and a copy of the results.
3. An explanation of how contact time ("T") is determined each day, i.e. a table showing T vs water flow (gpm).



**Remember – If you want to make a change to your disinfection process you must first consult with the DWP.**

**If you are required to create a profile, you will receive a letter from the DWP.**

**Questions??? - Contact the State of Maine Surface Water Treatment Rule Coordinator, Shannon Gallant at 207-287-3962.**

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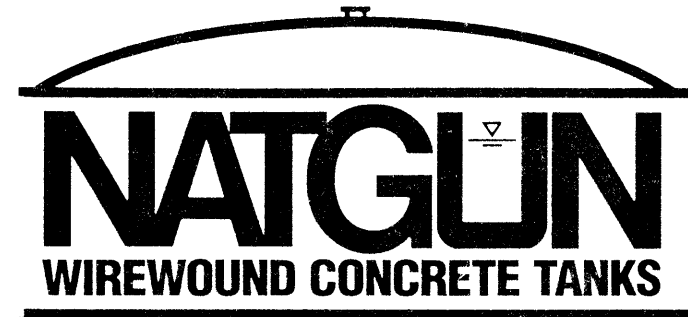
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**Additional Water Operator Exam  
Dates Set For June**

Another operator exam date has been added to address the need for additional licensed operators in the state. The dates are June 24 at University of Maine in Orono and June 26 at the University of Southern Maine in Gorham. Application must be postmarked by May 3. Applications are available on the Drinking Water Program's web site @ <http://www.state.me.us/dhs/eng/water/index.htm> or by calling the DWP (287-5699) for a copy.

**Bikers Against E. coli Ready to Ride**

The Bikers Against E. coli will ride again in the 2003 Maine Lung Association's Trek Across Maine. The team is comprised mostly of Maine Water Utilities Association members. Each member of the team needs to raise at least \$400 to donate to the Maine Lung Association. This gives the Association the opportunity to be recognized for service to the community, and the team name always generates conversation along the 175 - mile long ride from Bethel, Maine to Belfast, Maine. Stay tuned for more news.



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**Financial Types to Meet**

Several months ago, a few Maine water utility finance officers met to discuss meeting on a regular basis to discuss common issues. The next meeting is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Portland Water District, from 8:30 to 1:00. The scheduled agenda is listed below.

Utility Bill Payment Options

*A NEACH representative*

Arbitrage Rules - What are the rules to avoid arbitrage?

*Jim Saffian, Pierce Atwood*

Lease-Leaseback Transaction Overview

*Jim Saffian, Pierce Atwood*

Water Rate Filing Overview

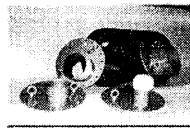
*Bill Harwood, Verrill Dana*

Anyone who would like to attend or who would like additional information should contact Tom Quirk, PWD's Finance Director or Treasurer David Kane at 774-5961 or email ([kane@pwd.org](mailto:kane@pwd.org) or [quirk@pwd.org](mailto:quirk@pwd.org)).



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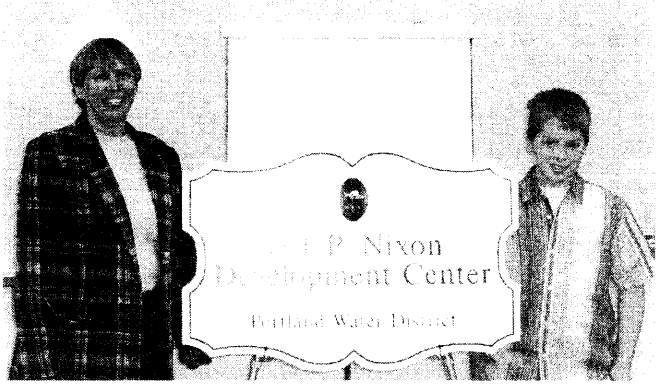
### Meet the New President

2003 President Jeff LaCasse has been on the Board of Directors since 2001. Jeff is a Maine native who grew up in Skowhegan and graduated from Skowhegan High School. He attended the University of Maine where he received a degree in Agricultural Engineering. Following graduation from UMO he worked for Heath Consultants for a number of years, at various locations throughout the country, and eventually ended up working in California.

Jeff migrated back to Maine and found employment at the Kennebec Water District. He has been at the district for 25 years, has worn a number of hats during that time and is now the district's General Manager. Along the way he received an MBA from Thomas College in Waterville.

He is married to Vicki, who also hails from Skowhegan, and they have two children.

Jeff enjoys sports, both the contact and non-contact variety. He has been known to sport the spoils of the latter at Board meetings – and wherever else he went until he healed up.



### Jeff Nixon Development Center Dedicated

February 12<sup>th</sup> was a special day for many of us in the business as we gathered at the Portland Water District for the dedication of the Jeff P. Nixon Development Center.

The district has made a major commitment to turn an on-site facility into a modern training center. Grants from New England Water Works Association and Maine Water Utilities Association are being used to purchase equipment. The Center will be the foundation of PWD's Training Academy and regional development opportunities.

Jeff was well known throughout the waterworks business. He was Operations Manager at the district, a former Chair of the MWUA Education Committee, former Director and President of the association and a member of the NEWWA Board of Directors.

General Manager Ron Miller's remarks, which included the statement that Jeff was a mentor to him, reminded us that he was also a mentor to us and, indeed, a very good friend.

Jeff's wife Sue and son Dylan unveiled the plaque. It was great to see them and to realize that Jeff's memory lives on, not just because his name is on the plaque, for, as they say, the apple did not fall very far from the tree.

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**Maine Water Conference Set For April 16**

The Maine Water Conference was founded in 1994 by the George Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research.

It serves as a forum for water resources professionals, researchers, consultants, citizens, students, regulators and planners to exchange information and present new information on water resources issues in Maine.

On April 16 the Augusta Civic Center will once again be the location for the conference.

The morning plenary session will feature topics on Sprawl and Health of the Ecosystem, an Invasive Aquatic Species Update, Maine Environmental Policy and a session on Maine Rivers.

Afternoon breakout sessions will address Sprawl and Ecosystem Health, the State of Maine's Environment, Stormwater and Wastewater Issues, How Beaches Work and Lake Education Roundtable.

The attendance fee, which includes lunch, is \$35, on or before April 4, and \$10 extra after that.

During breaks and lunch, posters and displays by organizations, agencies, departments, consultants and businesses are available for viewing and discussion.

To register for the Maine Water Conference or for additional information, contact Ruth Hallsworth at (207) 581-3196 or by e-mail at [hallsworth@maine.edu](mailto:hallsworth@maine.edu) or visit the George Mitchell Center website at [www.umaine.edu/WaterResearch/](http://www.umaine.edu/WaterResearch/).

**April in Bucksport to Focus on  
Dig Safe, Directional Drilling**

The Dig Safe Rule has been in effect for many years; until recently compliance was, in essence, voluntary. That all changed a few years ago, when the Maine Legislature delegated enforcement authority to the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

The PUC is actively enforcing the Dig Safe Rule. To them – and everyone, really – it's a matter of public safety, prevention of utility damage and, above all, personal safety.

The April meeting, which will be at the Bucksport Golf Club, will feature construction topics, including Dig Safe compliance. PUC staffer Ralph Howe will review the commission's recent activity relative to enforcement of the rule and discuss what utilities can expect in the future.

Jerry Scott, of Woodard and Curran, will discuss directional drilling, a technique that can often be used to accommodate difficult construction projects.

Some of the members are hoping to play golf that day. We wish them the best. It will soon be spring - come hear what you need to know for the upcoming construction season.

**Correction -Update**

The January issue of Maine Water News included a listing of agencies and entities that provide free information or no-cost services. RCAP, an agency that performs income surveys, was listed as one of those. The e-mail for them that was included in that article was incorrect. The correct e-mail for RCAP is: [rcap@maine.rr.com](mailto:rcap@maine.rr.com).



HOST: CONSUMERS MAINE WATER COMPANY - BUCKSPORT DIVISION  
DAVID MICHAUD, SUPERINTENDENT

LOCATION: BUCKSPORT GOLF CLUB, Route 46, Bucksport, Maine (207-469-7612)

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PROGRAM

8:30AM – 9:00AM Registration  
9:00AM – 9:30AM Welcome to Bucksport  
David Michaud, Superintendent  
9:30AM – 10:00AM Business Meeting

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

10:00AM – 11:00AM Directional Drilling Technologies  
Jerry Scott, Woodard & Curran  
11:00AM – 12:00AM Dig Safe Enforcement Update  
Ralph Howe, Maine PUC  
12:00NOON – 12:15PM Wrap-Up Questions and Answers  
12:15PM Buffet Luncheon

Jeffrey LaCasse  
President

Jefferson Longfellow & A. Gregory Reed  
Program Coordinators

2.0 Training Contact Training Hours will be granted for this session.  
PLEASE RETURN RESERVATIONS BY Friday, March 28, 2003  
PREPAYMENT IS APPRECIATED. RESERVATIONS MUST BE HONORED.

Registration for MWUA April 10, 2003 Membership Meeting

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License #

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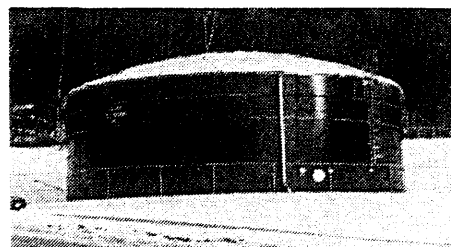
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