

MAINE



WATER

NEWS

MARCH 2010

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

Number 150

2010 To Be A Busy Year

Kathy Moriarty, President

Welcome to 2010! To echo my remarks at the Maine Water Utilities Association Conference in Portland, I'm excited about serving as president of your association this year. We have much work ahead of us, but great opportunities to impact our industry.

This year will also be my personal opportunity to work more closely with the many amazing, dedicated people in the water profession. I've been at the Bangor Water District since 1991 and have participated in MWUA from the start of my career. Through that participation, I've gained not only a wealth of practical knowledge but a network of contacts for the day-to-day issues that arise in everyone's work place.

I would be remiss in not thanking John Storer for his work as President in 2009. Let's plan on continuing several projects that came to fruition during his term, including:

- Increased partnering with our fellow water and wastewater groups to maximize knowledge and resources
- Increased outreach to Maine water utilities who are not currently members. Invite someone to one of our next sessions!



- Publication of Drinking Water Week insert in Maine's newspapers to highlight our contribution to quality of life
- The decision to relocate your association's office to a permanent spot in or near Augusta to enhance our image and provide centralized meeting space

As we move to implementing a new logo for our organization, I'd like to make a change in our newsletter as well. I'd like to feature a photo from a utility on the front page of each issue – from the landmark events such as opening a new pump station or needed treatment improvements. Send your photo and a caption to Jeff McNelly at info@mwua.org. This month's newsletter highlights the Madawaska Water District, the 2010 recipient of the Excellence of Operations Award.

The photos below depict the improvements made in locating new groundwater supply, which has allowed them to abandon their challenging surface water supply.

Finally, I hope you'll feel free to contact me with your comments about MWUA – what's working well and what may need changing. It's YOUR association.



Madawaska Water District New Pump Station and Aeration Facility

Maine Water News
is published bimonthly by

Maine Water Utilities Association
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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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The February Meeting

Change was the buzzword at the February Meeting this year and by all accounts the improvements that were implemented were well received by the attendees and the exhibitors.

The show was held under one roof, at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, and that may have been the first time that has happened since the show was held at the Portland Water District meter shop. That proved to be a popular move. The convenience was evident, as it was only a flight of stairs or a short elevator ride between the trade show and the technical sessions. Foot traffic was very busy at the show.

Continuing the traditions of the show, the Holiday Inn was able to deliver on an adequate supply of clam chowder for the Trade Show Preview and many several dozen of Tony's Donuts were imported from across town.

The New England Water Works Association was once again a sponsor and the Maine Waste Water Control Association partnered by holding an all day training track on Monday. There were numerous positive comments on the quality of the training sessions, which is a testament to the efforts of NEWWA, MWWCA and the Program Committee.

The weather was a problem, even though the weather in Portland was very nice. One of our class instructors called on Sunday morning from Virginia and told us: "there's 2 feet of snow on my street and they said they might get a plow here by Tuesday". So, we had to scramble, but we did get a substitute speaker and the session went well.

One of our long time exhibitors – Underwater Solutions – was stranded in Florida by all the snow in the mid Atlantic region as well. Bill wants everyone to know that they will be back in the northeast this spring, ready to provide the service they are known for.

All said, the conference was a success and it was an enjoyable time on many fronts. We want to extend a special thanks to our cosponsors and the effort they put forth on the training front. We are very appreciative of the exhibitors who do so much to support the association, not just in February but throughout the year.





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PUC Seeks Timely Securities Issuance Requests

With all of the construction work happening these days, water utilities need to be mindful of the fact that they need Public Utilities Commission approval before they can issue any debt of longer than 12 months. The statutes give the Commission 30 days to complete their review. PUC approval is necessary before the closing date of all debt issuances of greater than 12 months. The commission is asking that water utilities submit the application with adequate time so as to allow for the review and approval.

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Storer Appointed to Auburn Superintendent Position, Hires Assistant

John B. Storer, P.E. has been appointed superintendent of the Auburn Water and Sewerage Districts. Storer previously was the assistant under the tutelage of Norm Lamie. He knows the system well and understands the challenges facing the district.

The Auburn Water & Sewerage Districts are also pleased to announce that Sid Hazelton, P.E. has accepted the position of District Engineer. He holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology and an A.S. in Civil Engineering Technology from the University of Maine at Orono.


For the past 12 years Hazelton has been the Assistant Public Works Director in Auburn. He previously worked for the City of Lewiston in various engineering capacities.

As District Engineer, Hazelton will provide oversight to the District's daily operations, oversee the safety programs and HAZMAT Team, and perform in-house design services.

New Chief Engineer Moves Into Station 11

Norm Lamie, Superintendent of the Auburn Water and Sewerage Districts, informed the trustees of his "retirement" at their December Board meeting and also announced that he had accepted the position of Chief Engineer at the Maine CDC Drinking Water Program.

Lamie, who has more than 20 years of experience at Auburn - and other venues prior to that - brings a wealth of water utility experience to the position. Among other things, the Chief Engineer has primary responsibility for administration of the State Revolving Fund program. Norm is very familiar with the logistics of that program, having used it on several occasions to finance projects in Auburn.



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Legislature Acts on U & E Bills; SRF Match to be Major Challenge

The Legislature is becoming increasingly occupied with revenue shortfalls and the resultant hole in the state budget; as a result there has not been a burdensome volume of legislation of interest to water utilities.


There have been at least three bills of interest which have been deliberated before the Utilities and Energy Committee that are of interest to the association.

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 sought to allow the district to disconnect the water service of a consumer for nonpayment of sewer services. Those bills are on their way to enactment.



LD 1645 An Act to Streamline Collections for Consumer-owned Consolidated Water and Wastewater Utilities essentially provides that same authority for all

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consolidated utilities, of which there are approximately 40. The Utilities and Energy Committee recently approved an amendment which will require additional steps in order for a consolidated utility actual exercise that authority.

The amendment requires that the utility apply to the Public Utilities Commission, submit revised Terms and Conditions and also submit an annual report listing the number of disconnections issued, disconnections completed, reconnections of disconnections, and the reasons for each disconnection. In addition it is proposed that utilities must also provide customers receiving disconnection notices information about assistance programs.

A provision that the terms and conditions prohibit a “disconnection of a multi-unit rental facility greater than 2 units unless the owner of the facility occupies a unit that would be subject to the disconnection” proved to be very controversial. Some utilities, which currently have this authority, have relied on this process for years to minimize the impact of unpaid sewer charge balances. It appears that the amendment will be modified to grandfather those systems.

Efforts to fund infrastructure replacement, whether it be securing the annual SRF match monies or finding money for the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Fund which was created by LD 650 last session, will be the focus of the 6 +/- weeks.

The “LD 650 Task Force”, which has been meeting over the past several months in an effort to determine sources of funding and to arrive at other related recommendations, recently presented their findings to a joint meeting of the Utilities and Energy and Natural Resources Committees. The legislators were



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receptive and expressed a willingness to work with the water and wastewater profession in addressing the infrastructure needs.

The majority party and the Governor recently announced that they are promoting a bond referendum, the elements of which will target projects and activities that put people to work. The various parties advocating for water and wastewater improvements will continue to work to see that funding for these projects is part of the package.

New Addition to the ETTI Office Team

ETTI is pleased to announce the addition of a new Project Manager/Estimator to the team. Brik Hamilton comes to ETTI from Clinton, ME with over 30 years experience in the earthwork industry. Bringing with him an impressive work history, ETTI is confident Brik will add a great deal of depth and knowledge to the team. Brik will handle additional support for the directional drilling portion of the business as well as the utility installations.

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HOST: Gardiner Water District, Paul Gray, Superintendent

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PROGRAM

- 8:30 AM - 9:00AM Registration, Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Introduction/Welcome to Gardiner
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM System Overview/Interconnection with Hallowell
9:30 AM - 9:45 AM Regulatory Update
9:45AM - 10:00 AM Business Meeting - Legislative Update Awards
10:00 AM Break

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

- 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM Asset Management of Tanks Through a Professional Maintenance Program
11:15AM - 12:15PM Leasing as a Financing Option for Water and Wastewater
12:15PM Buffet Luncheon

Kathy Moriarty
President

Jefferson Longfellow, Rick Anair
Program Coordinators

2.0 Training Contact Training Hours will be granted for this session.
PLEASE RETURN RESERVATIONS BY March 31, 2010

Registration for MWUA April 8, 2010 Membership Meeting

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