

MAINE

WATER

NEWS

MARCH 2004

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

Number 116

Trust

Michael Nadeau, President

I recently had to have surgery. Before electing to have the surgery, I got two other opinions, each differing from the original, but one agreeing closely with the original. I went back to my primary surgeon and questioned his diagnosis and was first met a big ego and a difference of opinion. I raised my concerns (and voice) and asked him if it were his father, would he perform the same procedure? I went on to describe the process that I preferred (from one of the two other opinions who is an expert in the field) and questioned the liability I would place on him. His attitude changed and he ultimately agreed with me on the process we would take. In the end, I placed my whole trust in this person and believe he has a very deep trust and appreciation for me as well. The procedure was a success and, together with the help of others, everything went fine and is going well.

Do you have that trust with your physician? Do you have that trust with your customers?

I hope you believe and have the trust of the MWUA. And while some of us have big egos, we too need your ideas, opinions and comments so we can make better decisions and represent you and the water profession in a dedicated, professional manner.

The Maine Legislature adjourned without any tax relief or reform for Maine residents. The Legislature also killed all proposed bond issues including the \$2 million dollar match for the DWSRF that would secure \$10 million dollars in federal funds. While they have gone home, there is a chance that, later on this summer during a special session, our voices will be heard once again in support of the \$2 million bond for the DWSRF. A huge thanks (kudos) for the long hours by Jeff McNelly, our Executive Director, Nancy Beardsley, DWP Director, Seth Garrison, Chair of our Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee and MWUA legal counsel Verrill & Dana in fighting the cause and informing the legislature of our needs.

The association's Strategic Plan is moving forward. We have brainstormed and have identified the realities that

will define our future environment. These factors fall into the following categories: political, economic, regulatory, technology, customer expectations, environmental and employees.

Once we get our arms around this we can talk about strategy, goals and objectives as they relate to the association and to the individual water systems. Some of these issues will be ones where the association takes the lead; others may be better addressed at the local level and that line is, really, always moving.

Let's consider a few examples of efforts warranting the association's effort. On the political front, the association needs to strongly advocate for the annual SRF match to be in the DHS budget and not be deliberated on the legislative floor where every year it's a crap shoot. Concerning education for our "customers"- what is the smartest and most efficient way to deliver this to our members?

Some of the areas that may fall under the purview of the local utility include customer expectations (also), technology and employees. Yes, it's a crazy world out there. How are you going to find the time to deal with those issues when there are meters to read and lots of other work to do? Well, neglect the customers, the technology and the employees and someone else may be wrestling with that problem. That someone may already have - or be able to convince the decision makers that they have - the solutions.

The MWUA is a complex organization. The more I come to understand our association the deeper appreciation I have for it and for the dedicated people who volunteer or have volunteered their time and efforts in the continual evolution of our association. This organization represents the water profession in such important ways. But it is the people who make the difference. There is just such a level of conviction and dedication from these key individuals that I cannot begin to explain in this column.

I hope each and every one of you takes the time to consider being one of these individuals. The MWUA does good work. But we can do better. Together we all can make a huge difference. The time to start is now. So jump aboard and let's make that difference.

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The April Meeting

If you're ever in the area, LaFleur's Restaurant, on Route 4 in Jay, is a wonderful place to eat – especially the mashed potatoes. The quality of the food at the April meeting was matched by an excellent technical program.

After a warm welcome by Doug Burdo and staff of the Livermore Falls Water District, Trustee Darryl Brown gave us an informative and entertaining overview of the system.

Roger Crouse, Assistant Director of the Drinking Water Program, provided a regulatory update which focused on new rules, the bond issue and other timely events

Cliff Wilson, President of Wachs Utility Service, was very persuasive in convincing the crowd of the need for regular valve maintenance *and* a data management system to keep track of these and other critical system components. Seth Garrison and Rick Knowlton each provided very eye-opening customer billing cost analysis information. Their findings should encourage any system manager to truly do the math when considering whether to outsource or perform certain tasks in-house.

A very nice day made the whole event that much more enjoyable.

Finance Center Seeking Water Program Manager

The New England Environmental Finance Center is seeking applications for a Water Program Manager position.

The Water Program Manager at the Environmental Finance Center will develop and implement projects that address water and stormwater-related outreach and training needs identified by the Finance Center. Activities will include conceptualization of program design; implementation of existing work plans; negotiation and management of contracts with consultants and subcontractors; coordination of meetings involving representatives from diverse organizations; identification of funding opportunities and proposal development; preparation of project reports; and dissemination of program products via presentations and published articles.

Specific projects will include creation of a searchable online directory of watershed-based funding sources for New England; creation and distribution of a training program in basic financial management skills for municipal officials; and developing and directing a networking program to optimize coordination of water-related technical assistance in Maine.

Qualifications: Master's degree in planning, public policy, conservation biology, or other relevant field, and three years of relevant experience, including project management in academic, non-profit or government settings; or, a Bachelor's degree and five years of relevant experience as noted above. Strong communications skills and experience in project management, group facilitation, finance, planning, and research preferred.

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, and references to:

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Source Water Watchdogs Receive Award on Earth Day

Maine Drinking Water Program Source Water Protection staffers Andrews Tolman, David Braley, and Joy Adamson were honored on April 22nd as recipients of EPA's Environmental Merit Award. This annual award recognizes environmental advocates who have made outstanding effort in preserving New England's environment. It was also awarded to state source water protection coordinators from the other New England states for their contributions to the long-term safety and viability of drinking water.

Since 1999, the various state programs, working with local, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations, have completed over 2,500 source water assessments, identifying potential threats to drinking water from hundreds of municipal and private suppliers in New England. They have launched creative new programs to ensure that drinking water threats do not materialize. Efforts include partnering with non-profit agencies and drinking water suppliers to protect source waters, drafting model land conservation easements with the New Hampshire Society for the Protection of Forests, starting land conservation programs to purchase critical land near drinking water sources and working with Maine's George Mitchell Center to create a manual on source water protection for suppliers.

Congratulations to Maine's staff for all the excellent work accomplished to date!

Sewall Announces Transition

The James W. Sewall Company, of Old Town, has announced that Scott E. Graham, PE, has been named Director of Engineering, effective April 5. Mr. Graham has 16 years of engineering experience at Sewall in design engineering, construction monitoring and project management. A Maine native, Graham has an A.S. in construction technology from the University of Washington and a B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Maine.

He replaces Stephen D. Murray, PE, who was named Vice President and Manager of Engineering Services in 1997. An Orono resident and 1962 graduate of the University of Maine, Murray has managed hundreds of successful projects during a 35-year tenure at Sewall. In 2002 Steve received the ASCE Maine Civil Engineer of the Year Award. Murray will continue to serve the firm in a reduced time capacity as Senior Consultant/Project Manager.

James W. Sewall Company was founded in 1880 as an engineering and forestry consulting firm. The company provides comprehensive services in aerial mapping, GIS development, engineering and forestry consulting. Offices are located in Maine, New York, Kentucky and North Carolina.

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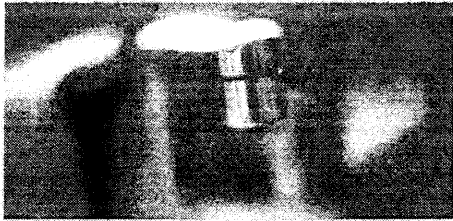
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DEP Seeking 319 Nonpoint Source Project Proposals

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection is inviting proposals for Nonpoint (NPS) Source Water Pollution Control Projects to restore or protect lakes, streams, or coastal waters that are impaired or considered threatened. The RFP offers grants for 3 types of watershed-scale projects: NPS Watershed Projects, NPS Watershed Surveys and Watershed Management Plan Development.



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Grants will be funded with monies to be provided to DEP by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Clean Water Act. Maine public organizations, such as state agencies, soil and water conservation districts, regional planning agencies, watershed districts, municipalities, and nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organizations are eligible recipients.

Proposals for projects are due by 2:00 pm May 25th. Contact the MWUA office for additional information.

Water Operators Board Seeking Specialists, Extends Exam Application Deadline

The Board of Licensure of Water Treatment Plant is seeking individuals to serve as Subject Matter Specialists. These individuals would review material used for developing questions for the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) exams. Occasionally, ABC asks the Board to supply names of subject specialists to assist in exam preparation. Presently, ABC is conducting a search for security specialists. Anyone desiring to become a specialist, should contact a board member, or call Terry Trott at 287-7485.



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(cont. from p. 4)

The board has also announced that, due to the short time between the April and June water operator exam dates, the in-hand deadline for the June water operator exams will be extended to May 21, 2004 by 4:00 PM.

The June exams will be held in Orono on June 22, at Nutting Hall on the University of Maine campus and in Portland on June 24, at Masterton Hall on the University of Southern Maine campus.

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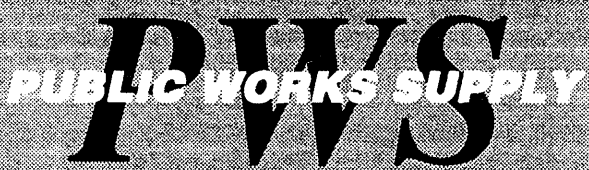
Legislature Goes Home Leaving Unfinished Business

It was crazy the last week of April as the Maine Legislature rushed to deal with 3 issues: (1) adopting the budget; (2) tax reform; and (3) passing a bond package. After going into session on Thursday morning, they finally adjourned at 8:00 Friday morning - with no tax reform legislation and no bond package. There is a presumption that these issues will probably be dealt with later this summer.

The association spent many hours in the State House lobbying for the \$2 Million bond match needed to secure the State Revolving Fund capitalization grant. Many members called their House and Senate members, urging passage of a bond bill that the voters could decide on in November.

Towards the end of that last week of April deliberations resulted in a \$40 Million "compromise" total bond package. The Senate debated it but it never did get to the House. The difference between the parties was insurmountable, with the Democrats wanting a total borrowing package of \$120 million and the Republicans wanting no bond package. The Republicans felt they had been shut out of the budget process and were upset and concerned about the state's financial condition. As one House Republican put it: "we are adopting our 6th supplemental budget". Hence, their view was that perhaps there is a need for fiscal constraint.

The association distributed two separate "talking point" papers that emphasized the 5:1 match and the fact that all of the \$2 million in state bond monies would be used for capital improvements. We also made the point that, if the \$2 million bond is not sent to the voters, the state will likely have to borrow the match from the Maine Bond Bank or some other source. The legislators were informed that under that scenario, the 2005 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program may not include the principal forgiveness provision that currently exists and that any modification of that provision would be particularly devastating to small systems in economically disadvantaged areas.



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(cont. from p. 5)

The Legislature was also told that the Drinking Water Program has no unauthorized but un-issued bond money, that they use all of their money each year and there are still unmet capital improvement needs.

It was interesting to note – and was mentioned in the distributed materials - that the previous week Executive Director McNelly and Legislative Committee Chair Garrison had been in Washington, D. C., as part of a contingent that met with the Congressional delegation to discuss public water supply needs. They learned that Senator Snowe and many of her colleagues were recently successful in restoring reductions that had been proposed for the federal State Revolving Fund program. It was emphasized, to the members of the Maine Legislature, that it would indeed be unfortunate if Maine were not able to provide the voters with the opportunity to match, and secure, the \$10 million of federal money that is available.

The association feels the efforts were productive in that it seems like we have the support of 3 of the 4 caucuses, with the House Republicans being those who remain to be convinced. It is critical that the association and system managers be in contact with state representatives when they return later this summer to finish business.

June Meeting to Feature Operational and Non Point Source Issues

Bar Harbor will be the site for the June meeting and the event promises to be both enjoyable and entertaining.

On Wednesday, June 9th some of the folks will golf and some will fish or take advantage of Acadia’s bike trails or other attractions. Tee off time at the Kebo Valley course is at 11 am.

On Wednesday evening we will once again have one of the famous do it your self lobster and steak feeds. If you plan on attending that cookout, indicate your choice(s) on the registration form. Contact the MWUA office if you have

questions.


The Thursday session promises to be top shelf. Herb Spencer of Florin Technologies will discuss filter remediation which can be accomplished in-place, saving time, money and aggravation for those who must perform this maintenance.

The second speaker is LeMarr Cannon, Maine’s NEMO Coordinator. NEMO is not what you might think it is - it stands for Nonpoint source Education for Municipal Officials. The program is aimed at land use decision makers to reduce non point pollution through land use planning. So, it’s really filter remediation before the water ever sees the filter.

It will be a great program in a great location, so we hope to see many there. Bring your Code Enforcement Officer or Planner or whoever it is in your community that you work with to protect your source of supply. If you travel the farthest to Bar Harbor both you and your municipal guest will eat for free – and it doesn’t matter if you have a surface water or ground water system.


Remember, the requested dress is casual – so don’t get all gussied up and embarrass yourself.

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Clambake and Golf Tournament Date Fast Approaching

As summer approaches, one thinks of vacations and spending a little time relaxing with friends and family.

The month of August offers two perfect opportunities: the annual MWUA Clambake on Thursday, August 12 and the golf tournament to be held the day before. Once again, the Clambake will be at Thomas Point Beach in Brunswick. This year the golf tournament will be held on Wednesday, at The Meadows in Litchfield. The fee, which includes the cost of a cart, will be very reasonable and we hear the tee time will likely be a very leisurely “eight-ish o’clock”.

Make plans now and watch for the registration in the July issue of Maine Water News.

HOST: Bar Harbor Water Department, Chip Reeves, Director, Department of Public Works

LOCATION: Kebo Valley Golf Course, Route 233, Bar Harbor. Phone at clubhouse: 207-288-5000

DIRECTIONS: From Route 3 coming into Bar Harbor you will come to a stop sign, and Route 233. Take a right and Kebo Valley Golf Course is 1/2 mile on your left

ACCOMMODATIONS: Overnight accommodations are available at Aurora Inn (1-800-841-8925) Quality Inn (1-800-282-5403) Seacroft Inn (800-824-9694) Quimby House Inn (800-344-5811)
Casual Attire is Requested

8:30AM – 9:00AM Registration
 9:00AM – 9:15AM Welcome to Bar Harbor Chip Reeves, Director, Department of Public Works
 9:15AM – 9:30AM Regulatory Update

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

9:30AM – 10:30 AM In Situ Filter Remediation - Cleaning biofilm from conventional and pressure filters
Herb Spencer, Florin Technologies

10:30AM – 10:45AM Break

10:45AM – 11:45AM An Introduction to the Maine NEMO Program: An educational program for municipal officials focused on land use planning and natural resources, specifically linking land use to water quality
LaMarr Cannon, Maine NEMO Coordinator

11:45AM – 12NOON Wrap-Up Questions and Answers
 NOON Buffet Luncheon

There is an opportunity to play golf at the Kebo Valley Golf Course (www.kebovalleyclub.com) on Wednesday June 9th. Six Tee Times have been reserved starting at 11:00am. Please register below if you would like to participate. The cost, including cart, is \$55 per player. Other outdoor recreation activities include fishing, and hiking and biking Acadia's trails. Contact the office for additional information or visit Bar Harbor's Chamber of Commerce (<http://www.barharbormaine.com>) website.

Michael Nadeau
President

Stephani Morancie, Keith Pomerleau
Program Coordinators

2.0 Training Contact Training Hours will be granted for this session.
PLEASE RETURN RESERVATIONS BY Tuesday, June 1, 2004
 PREPAYMENT IS APPRECIATED. RESERVATIONS MUST BE HONORED.

Registration for MWUA June 9 - 10, 2004 Membership Meeting

Name(s):

I plan to be at the cookout Wednesday evening (June 9th). I would like ___ lobster ___ steak (incl. qty., i.e., 1,2,3 each).
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I plan to attend the business meeting and technical session on Thursday (June 10th) ___
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 Meeting @\$20: _____ (small systems only)
 Golf @ \$55 _____
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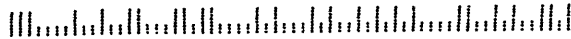
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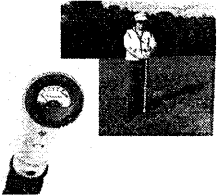


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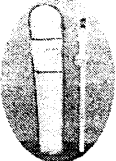
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