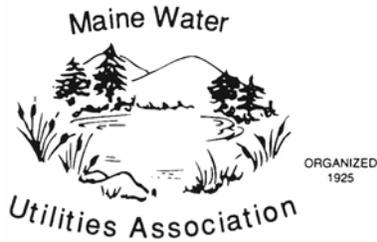


MAINE



WATER

NEWS

May 2006

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Number 127

We're a Long Way From Dixfield

Brian Tarbuck, President

One of the duties of the MWUA President is attendance at American Water Works Association's annual Fly-In to Washington, DC. This year, Maine's representatives consisted of yours truly and Mr. Jim West, Portland Water District's chief operations guy and Vice President of the New England Water Works Association. Jim originally hails from Dixfield (someone show Lacasse where it is) and from his humble beginnings he is now a pretty big wheel in Portland.

Washington, DC is impressive. We all like to armchair quarterback the government. They don't do this. They should do that and so on. But actually being there is another story. It's humbling, impressive and extremely busy.

Our day started out with a breakfast meeting with the American Water Works Association. They coached us on what to say to our senators and so on. We took the handouts, figured out the Metro subway system and made our way to the enormous Senate office buildings.

The security guards let Jim and me in amidst throngs of school kids, fancy-pants lobbyists and hordes of staffers walking with purpose down the seemingly endless halls. We grinned with awe at the vastness of the place and joked that for the next year, we are the people that our Senators will equate with Maine's water utilities. We both agreed that we'd have been better off had they sent Rick Knowlton and George "Trout Sandwich" Peters. We puff out our chests and swagger around like we own the place.

We caught a glimpse of Senator Snowe, but that was all. We met with one of her many aides, Mr. Patrick Woodcock (no relation to the Maine legislator). We thanked him for the Senator's support of the MtBE "no safe haven" provision in last year's energy bill and remind him that SRF is important to the state because it helps us comply with unfunded federal mandates at a lower cost. He is very polite, very attentive and all of maybe 28 years old. Jim and I conclude from our walk through the cavernous Senate

buildings that the entire US government is run by 25 year olds.

Our next stop was with Senator Collins. We arrive way too early and see Senator Collins take photos with a 4H club and glad-hand some guys with a model of a wooden boat, then watch her hightail it down the hall. We figured we'd seen all we'd see of her. We joke that at least we can say we "saw" the Senator. We get to her office and are greeted by Mr. David Hunter, one of her staffers. He's about my age and has a PhD in geosciences. We have two AWWA people with us who want to meet with Senator Collins about the chemical security bill. David says to follow as he speed-walks down the hall. Says we're going to the Capitol. We crank along behind him through a basement security checkpoint and get on a dinky little subway that goes between the Senate and the Capitol. In minutes we're in THE Capitol. We're walking around, gazing awestruck at our surroundings when I nearly run into some gray haired guy. I look: it's John McCain. That would've been cute. "Uncoordinated Maine hick tramples prominent war-hero Senator. News at 11." Minutes later, we're meeting with Senator Collins who is extremely pleasant. She spent about 5 minutes talking with us. We thanked her for her support of SRF and the no safe harbor MtBE thing. Jim and I are beaming like we just won the big pumpkin contest at the state fair. Then Westy asks her on a date! He turns on the Dixfield charm and invites her to Portland's water treatment plant, sounding like he's asking her to the junior prom. Her response is polite but noncommittal. The guy is smooth.

Mr. Hunter stayed with us for 15 minutes in the Capitol until they kicked us out. We stood on the Capitol steps looking across at the Supreme Court (Anna Nicole Smith was NOT there; I asked). Folks were looking up at the Capitol through their cameras. We gazed off at the cherry blossoms and watched serious looking men brandishing assault rifles only 25' away. We breathed in the not too-smoggy air, smug in our conquest of the Hill, primed for careers as professional lobbyists. As we grinned, I clapped my hand on Jim's shoulder and said, "Well, you're a long way from Dixfield big fella."

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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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Second Session Adjourns (Well, Almost)

The Maine Legislature has wrapped up business for now, adjourning early Saturday, April 29, but agreeing to return on May 22 for three more days of work to be followed (perhaps) by a true adjournment.

One accomplishment was the enactment of a Resolve, in response to LD 2070, An Act to Ensure the Availability of Public Drinking Water Supplies. LD 2070 was submitted by MWUA. It specified that withdrawal of water by a water utility would be permitted under new rules being proposed by the DEP, provided the withdrawal is consistent with the sustainable yield of the source of supply.

The resolve directs DEP to work with stakeholders to develop rules related to water withdrawals, and any necessary statutory amendments, that reconcile the objectives of protecting aquatic life and other designated uses and the ability of community public water systems to use their existing water supplies for the purpose of providing water service. The amendment also authorizes the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature to report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

That process has already started and a number of water utility managers are involved in the discussions. The schedule calls for provisionally adopted rules and any necessary statutory amendments to be ready for the First Session of the 123rd Legislature by this January.

One thing that did not get done is the 20% match required to secure the 2007 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grant. The Drinking Water Program needs \$1.8 million to pull down \$9 million in federal funds. That could either come via LD 775, the MWUA bill which would get the money via the General Fund, or via a bond issue. The problem is the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee only has about \$800K to fund bills on the Special Appropriations Table (where LD 775 sits) and the prospects for any bonds does not look good.

That committee may meet prior to May 22 and, if they do meet, there is the possibility of them reporting out 2 general obligation bond bills (one of which would provide the DWSRF match) and review the bills on the Senate Special Appropriations Table.

Island Falls Water Department to Host June Meeting

The June meeting will be held in Island Falls at Birch Point on Pleasant Pond. There will be golf and other activities on Wednesday the 7th, a cookout that evening and a great technical session on Thursday. The cookout on Wednesday evening (at 6 PM) will include lobsters &/or steak and other coastal delicacies. Check out the registration form on page 7 for more details.

Anyone desiring to secure lodging for Wednesday evening should contact the office at their earliest convenience. This is a great chance to take advantage of a great cookout and technical session at a very reasonable price. Call the office if you need more details.

Email Changes at MWUA

The MWUA office has new e-mail addresses, effective immediately. Jeff McNelly can be reached at: jmcnelly@mwua.org. For office staff use: info@mwua.org.

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Steve Murray Retires

After thirty-eight years of service working for the James W. Sewall Company, Steve Murray retired on March 30th. Steve is a long time member of the Maine Water Utilities Association. His father was also an active member of the association. We wish Steve all the best.

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Ben Mosher on the birth of his daughter Claire Morgan Mosher. Claire was born on April 29th and weighed 7lbs 12oz.

Moriarty Promoted to Assistant General Manager

Kathy Moriarty has been promoted to the position of Assistant General Manager for the Bangor Water District. Her new duties will be in addition to her current responsibilities as the Water Quality Manager for the utility. Congratulations, Kathy!

Chemistry Instructor Seeking Summer Employment in Water Industry

A Bates College Chemistry instructor with a Class II treatment/distribution license and significant experience is seeking employment for the period June 15 -August 15. He is willing to work full-time, part-time, or temporary, and on nights, shifts, and/or weekends. The position must be within a reasonable commute of Brunswick. Walter Lach can be reached via email at: llach@prexar.com or by phone at (207) 729-7901.

Raymond A. Smith

Raymond Smith, President of the Kittery Water District Board of Trustees, passed away in January.

Portland Water District News

David Anderson, a chemist and quality assurance officer for the district recently received the Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award from the Water Environment Federation. The award recognizes outstanding performance, professionalism and contributions to the water quality analysis profession. Congratulations, Dave!

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**Maine Public Drinking Water Commission
Seeking Nominations for 5th Annual Drinking
Water Program Staff Merit Award**

The Maine Public Drinking Water Commission established the Annual Staff Merit Award to recognize a member of the staff who has, in the opinion of the Commission, made a significant contribution to the Drinking Water Program operations. The criteria for nomination are: That member of the DWP that best exemplifies the DWP's motto: "Working Together for Safe Drinking Water." Nancy Beardsley has elected to exclude herself from the nomination due to her position on the DWC.

Suggestions for consideration, and a brief justification, should be sent (confidential) to the Review Committee, c/o Cheryl Pratt, DWC Secretary, Drinking Water Program, 286 Water St., 3rd Floor, Augusta, ME. 04333-0011 or by email at: Cheryl.pratt@maine.gov. Nominations must be received by Friday, May 26th.

For additional information, contact Cheryl Pratt at 287-5694.

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NPS Water Pollution Control RFP Issued

Maine DEP is seeking proposals to conduct Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Control Projects to restore or protect lakes, streams, or coastal waters that are impaired or considered threatened. The request for proposals (RFP) offers grants for two types of watershed-scale projects: NPS Watershed Project; & NPS Watershed Survey. Grants will be funded with monies to be provided to DEP by the U.S. EPA under the Federal Clean Water Act. The RFP may be obtained at: www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docgrant/319.htm or by contacting Norm Marcotte, MDEP, Bureau of Land and Water Quality at 287-7727 or by email at: norm.g.marcotte@maine.gov.

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Water Utility Services Supervisor Sought

Portland Water District is searching for a Water Utility Services Supervisor. This opening is a regular, full-time position, which focuses on creating and implementing a broad range of programs that ensure the reliable distribution of drinking water to the District's customers through field inspection, meter and backflow services. The successful candidate will budget, manage and plan for the department, provide timely report preparation to ongoing projects and internal reporting requirements.

The preferred selected individual will possess an associates degree in civil/environmental engineering, industrial technology, or public/business administration, demonstrate knowledge and experience with industrial technologies, process and prioritize initiatives simultaneously, function in a team environment, and have excellent written and oral communication skills, and a valid drivers license with a clean driving record.

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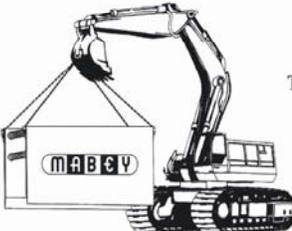
The Bikers Against E. coli will be riding once again in the Trek Across Maine to support the American Lung Association of Maine. As always, we need support. Each rider must raise at least \$450 to participate. We will thank team donors by listing their names in the MWUA newsletter and by saying nice things about them as we strain to push ourselves over the 180 mile route from Sunday River to Owls Head. The first 10 donors over \$300 will get their corporate logo printed on the back of our T-shirts plus special recognition at the annual trade show in February. FMI: Brian Tarbuck at 622-8880 x117 or email at btarbuck@augustawater.org

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