

# MAINE



# WATER

# NEWS

May 2009

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

Number 145

## The State of MWUA

*John B. Storer, P.E., President*

How do you measure success at your water utility? Is it low rates? Is it simply staying in compliance with all the SDWA Regulations? Perhaps your water won a 'best taste' category? Maybe you had zero service disruptions over the past year?

Whatever criteria you might use, there is usually some type of measurement that you can draw upon. For instance, benchmarking data may allow you to compare your water utility to another. So how would you go about evaluating a volunteer, non-profit membership organization? In the first quarter of 2009 the Board of Directors tried to evaluate MWUA's performance and structure. This includes the roles and responsibilities of our paid staff, the volunteer committees, and the Board of Directors.

So how are we doing? That is the key question. In order to conduct a fair assessment it's important to keep MWUA's Mission Statement in mind, which "*is to represent the water works professional membership in advocating safe drinking water through education, legislation, policy and networking.*"

The Mission Statement has helped guide MWUA successfully since 1925. It defines the Association's reason for being. It also gives us a somewhat abstract means for defining success. Fortunately, the internal assessments demonstrated that we are in fact meeting the objectives of our Mission Statement. Even so, we are constantly looking for changes or modifications that will ensure our success well into the future.

We understand that our committees are the work horses of the Association, so it's important that they are properly supported to ensure success. In September of this year the Board of Directors hopes to have a full day Strategy Planning Session with all committee members. The objective will be to review past activities of the committees and collaborate on short-term and long-term

objectives for the success of MWUA. Each committee will be encouraged to establish both a chair, and either a co-chair or vice-chair to help ensure stability and continuity. To help keep members of MWUA informed, we hope to have a standard Committee Reporting Form that will be posted each month on MWUA's website.

Concurrently, we hope to continue "tweaking" our website to expand it as a source of technical information and possibly establish a discussion forum for people to discuss water utility issues.

The Public Awareness Committee has been tasked to research website modifications. They continue to work on public education and outreach, and just successfully published MWUA's inaugural Drinking Water Week newspaper supplement. Hopefully you saw this 20 page supplement in your daily newspaper the weekend before Drinking Water Week. If not, please contact the MWUA Office and we will get you out a copy.

The Legislative Committee continues to do yeoman's work in tracking the numerous groundwater bills that just don't seem to go away. This year MWUA was active with a few other legislative issues, including partnering with MWWCA and MRWA on LD 650 – "[An Act To Create a Sustainable Funding Mechanism for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in the State.](#)" The objective of which is rather self-explanatory. MWUA also helped push LD 722 – "[An Act To Manage Risks Associated with Surface Uses on Public Water Supplies](#)".

The Water Resources Committee has been extremely proactive dealing with Maine's Licensed Site Evaluators and their proposal to change Maine's Subsurface Disposal Rules. The Committee will be holding a Source Water Seminar this fall with site evaluators, soil scientists, regulators, and septic system installers tentatively scheduled to present. There will also be a round table discussion looking at current plumbing codes and septic system performance.

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

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*York Water District*

*Co-Chair: Jim Wallace*

*Portland Water District*

*(Continued from page 1)*

The Program Committee is well underway planning our June bimonthly meeting which will be held June 11 at the Eddington Salmon Club. They have also started planning for the 2010 Trade Show, and believe it or not, the 2011 Trade Show as well. MWUA continues to look at partnering opportunities with MWWCA, so you may see the Trade Show change significantly as we move into the next few years.

The Education and Operations Committee continues to develop our annual Work Plans to ensure our operators have sufficient access to pertinent training for licensing. Additionally, MWUA is looking for other educational opportunities such as additional Manager's Breakfasts or Operator Forums. One idea to enhance these type of meetings is for different utilities to host a meeting when undertaking a significant project. For instance, the folks in Lewiston/Auburn might try to host a session on cleaning and lining of water mains, such that people could see the application first-hand. We also continue to explore a "New Professional Series" to help welcome and educate people that are new to our profession.

Lastly, we have a rather recently formed Water Use Efficiency Committee. They are working on a set of Best Management Practices to help guide water use and water efficiency for both your water system and your water customers. Keep your eyes peeled for this in the near future.

Hopefully you can appreciate that there is much activity underway. While 'activity' doesn't necessarily ensure success, we are certainly working hard to make sure MWUA continues to live up to its Mission Statement. We need you to ensure MWUA's success. Volunteers are the lifeblood of this Association. Please feel free to contact any Board Member or any Committee Chair if you have an interest in serving on a Committee.

**The April Meeting**

There are a number of geriatric critters in Richmond, comprising many species. However, the Old Goat is a fine restaurant with a pub-like atmosphere and it was the site of the April bimonthly meeting. Richmond Utilities District Superintendent Mike Broadbent teamed up with fellow Program Committee member Rick Anair and they came up with an excellent technical program.

Local historian Jay Robbins provided a fascinating account of the early settlers, highlighting the vibrant shipbuilding business, related ice trade and other activities that resulted in the development and growth of Richmond and the surrounding area.

Roger Crouse and Nate Saunders gave us the Drinking Water Program's update on all that is happening on the regulatory front.

Mike Broadbent gave us a great overview of the district, from the time the water system founders tapped the Kennebec in 1886 to the current day. The district actually manages both the water and wastewater needs of the community and they, like everyone, have plenty on their plate.

The technical session, developed and presented by Jeff LaCasse, Brian Tarbuck and Gordie Johnson, focused on current issues with private fire protection systems. Eric Ellis, of the State's Fire Marshall's Office and Will Flynn of Eastern Fire Protection also joined the interactive discussion.

Just before lunch, Madeleine Storer and Dave Parent, neither of whom could attend the luncheon at the February meeting, were honored with the Sid Anthony Award of Merit and the New England Water Works State Leadership Award, respectively. Very appropriate.

At lunch, the Old Goat was filled with coworkers and friends

who came to pay tribute to Ray Hammond, former Utility Analyst at the Maine PUC. There were some interesting stories about Ray and he had his own stories to tell as well.

It was an informative and interesting meeting, with great weather and a wonderful opportunity to see old acquaintances.



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**June Meeting to Feature Variety of Opportunities**

The June meeting will be held at the Eddington Salmon Club, which is certainly one of the most historic venues in the Bangor region. Check out the membership meeting details on page 7.

On Wednesday, June 10 there will be a golfing event in the afternoon and a cookout at the Salmon Club at 6 PM. As usual there will be lobsters, steaks, burgers, and whatever else anyone wants to throw on the grill.

The golf event will start at 1: 00 PM. The Hidden Meadows Golf Course is located off I-95 exit 197. Go west approximately 1/2 mile and the sign to the course is on the LEFT. All participants can pay the course attendant at the clubhouse; golfers will meet on the spacious deck and make plans. The cost is \$22.00 per person for 9 holes and cart, 2 persons per cart. For additional information, contact Frank Kearney at the Old Town Water District at 207-827-2145

For details on lodging for Wednesday evening, contact the MWUA office.



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### **Water Legislation, Water Legislation & More Water Legislation**

As was noted in the March issue, a number of bills are being considered by the 124th Maine Legislature which, if enacted, could have serious implications for water suppliers, particularly those that use groundwater. There has been action recently on a number of them.

LD 55 An Act to Prohibit the Commercial Sale of Water by a Water District, which would have called for additional regulation of the commercial sale of water by a



water district to an entity outside of its territory, was voted Ought Not to Pass, by the Utilities and Energy Committee.

LD 238 An Act Regarding Consumer-owned Water Utilities and Contracts for Water Extraction and for the Sale of Water was voted Ought to Pass Amended by that committee. The amendment prohibits a consumer-owned water utility from entering into a contract that involves large-scale extraction and transportation of water until the utility has held a public meeting that includes opportunity for public comment.

The requirements do not apply to any contract between a consumer-owned water utility and another entity when the entity contracting with the utility is an existing customer of the utility or is a water utility, or when the transportation of water to be provided under the contract qualifies as one of several exceptions in the laws governing restrictions on bulk transport of water.

LD 645 and LD 663 would have granted municipalities more authority over groundwater extraction. MWUA testified in opposition to both these bills. Both bills received an Ought Not to Pass vote from the Natural Resources Committee.

LD 837 and LD 1267 were similar in that they would have placed ground water in the public trust. In essence this would result in a transfer of the ownership of groundwater from the property owner to the state. The association testified in opposition to both bills. These bills received an Ought Not to Pass vote from the Natural Resources Committee.

LD 1269 An Act to Clarify the Laws Regarding Significant Groundwater Wells would clarify that the definition of "significant groundwater well" in the Natural Resources Protection Act would include any portion of a public water system that is constructed on or after January 1, 2009; is used to provide water to be bottled for sale; and is not connected to the remainder of the public water system through pipes or other constructed conveyances, structures, or facilities. That bill will likely be voted out as Ought to Pass Amended; final language is being developed as this issue of Maine Water News goes to the printer.

LD 1310 Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Examine the Legal and Policy Implications of Groundwater Extraction would establish a commission to study the legal and policy implications of groundwater extraction and recommend any changes to state law necessary to balance the State's interests in protecting the public good and maintaining jurisdictional control over environmental impacts with protecting the rights of property owners. It appears that, instead of a Blue Ribbon Commission, the state's Water Resources

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Planning Committee will be tasked with evaluating a number of the initiatives in LD 1310 and reporting back during the Second Session.

LD 334 An Act to Clarify the So-called Dig Safe Law was submitted by a legislator on behalf of one his constituents who was frustrated by the operation and enforcement of the current law. The bill was voted out of

committee as Ought Not to Pass; however the Public Utilities Commission was asked to evaluate the issues brought forth during the public hearing. It is expected that the association will be involved in the discussion which, conceivably, could consider a number of issues.

LD 722 An Act to Manage Risks Associated with Surface Uses on Public Water Supplies is a bill that was submitted by the association. The end result was a new title and a Resolve, Directing a Review of the Management of Risks Associated with Surface Uses on Public Water Supplies. The resolve directs the Drinking Water Program to review and make recommendations on the management of risks associated with surface uses on lakes and ponds that are public water supplies. It also authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources to submit legislation concerning the recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

The Legislature has set a goal for all bills being out of committee by May 15th. Then they have to turn their attention to the difficult budget issue.




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**Free MEWARN Workshop to be Held July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

A free Half-Day workshop, highlighting the Maine Water & Wastewater Agency Response Network, will be held at the Maine Emergency Management Agency, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta on July 22, 2009 from 8:30-12:30. This workshop will feature representatives from the MEWARN Steering Committee, Maine DWP, Maine DEP and Maine Emergency Management Agency who will discuss the MEWARN program and its benefits to member water and wastewater utilities.

For further information and to register contact the Maine Rural Water Association.

CONFERENCE NO. 503

June 11th, 2009

Brewer, ME

Host: Brewer Water District

Location: The Eddington Salmon Club – Corner of Rt. 178 / Rt. 9, Eddington, ME

**PROGRAM**

8:00 - 8:30 Breakfast and Registration

8:30 - 8:45 Introductions - Welcome to Brewer  
*Steven Bost, City Manager*

8:45 - 9:00 Regulatory update - *Roger Crouse, PE - Director ME DWP*

**TECHNICAL PROGRAM**

9:00 - 9:30 History & System Overview – A New Booster Pump Station and 18 inch interconnection  
*Michael Riley, PE – Brewer Water District*

9:30 -10:00 2<sup>nd</sup> City WARN – A skit on how 5 communities work together on Mutual Aid activities  
*M. Riley, K. Moriarty, F. Kearney, D. Cross, C. Torrey*

10:15 - 10:30 Break

10:15 -11:00 Ozone - The Good The Bad & The Ugly – The science behind CT  
*Ronald Hidu, PE – Woodard & Curran*

11:00-11:30 *The Penobscot Nation ~ relations with non-native Mainers & Fish - Dan Kusnierz & Angie Reed*

11:30-11:45 How about a little fish story? - A tail about good simple Public Relations  
*Bradley Moore – Superintendent Bangor WWTF*

11:45 - 12:00 *Salmo salar & the Endangered Species Act -Pat Keliher, Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission*

12:00-1:00 Lunch Buffet - *UMO Update - Sustainability Studies and Maine's Future?*  
*Dr. David Hart – Director of the George Mitchell Center for Environmental Studies*

1:30 – 2:30 Brewer WTP Tour, Hatcase Pond Ozone Facility  
*Mike Riley*

John Storer Frank Kearney, Stephani Morancie & Bruce Stevens

*President*

*Program Coordinators*

**3.5 Training Contact Hours will be granted for this session.**

**PLEASE RETURN RESERVATIONS BY WEDNESDAY, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2009  
PREPAYMENT IS APPRECIATED. RESERVATIONS MUST BE HONORED.**

*Registration form for MWUA June 11th, 2009 Membership Meeting*

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