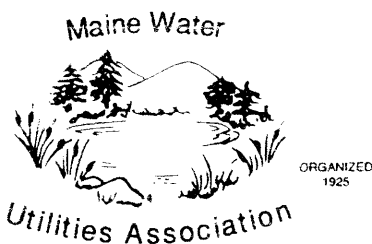


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WATER

NEWS

September 2004

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

Number 118

An Interesting Autumn, For Sure

Michael Nadeau, President

The unofficial end of summer, signified by the Labor Day holiday, has now passed. The kids are back in school, the baseball season is coming down the home stretch (how 'bout them Red Sox?) and the football season is starting - go Pats!!

Soon, fall will be upon us, the leaves will change and important issues facing both the country and this state will be decided at the voting booth.

The Palesky Tax Cap Initiative will be on our ballot November 2nd. In the coming weeks, there will be a great deal of confusion, debate and uncertainty of the impacts to all of us, yes, including water utilities too, should this proposal be enacted.

I would strongly encourage you, as water utilities, to discuss this issue with your local municipal officials and I encourage you to develop a contingency plan in the event that municipal government could not pay for the services you provide. Hydrant rental charges immediately come to mind.

I would also encourage you to attend the MWUA bi-monthly meeting in Gray on October 14 where our Program Committee is bringing advocates from both sides of this issue for an informative session.

Keeping with the election/voting "theme", the Nominating Committee has selected Director candidates for 2005. Details can be found in this newsletter.

The Board of Directors has given a directive to our Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Committee to draft and seek legislation to secure the \$ 2 million DWSRF match through the State's General Fund. It has become apparent that we need to take this issue to the next level instead of playing politics every year that our bond issue comes up. The 5 to 1 match (\$ 2 million State, \$10 million Federal) should not be held hostage by bi-partisan politics.

Further, the Board has asked the Committee to render an opinion on the proposed Regional Water Council legislation currently being presented by a group of southern Maine water utilities. Like our municipal counterparts, regional water councils would be a voluntary, non-profit corporation able to provide a wide range of services through the underlying authority of their members. These councils would be able to provide services such as regional water delivery and supply planning, billing and metering services, accounting services and joint purchasing of equipment. A presentation on this concept is scheduled for the general membership at the MWUA bimonthly meeting in December. Stay tuned.

Our Water Resource Committee has sent detailed and pointed comments on the revised Stormwater Management Rules. Our comments further try to protect our water supplies and educate the public. Our hats are off to the Committee.

The Program Committee, as well as organizing the October and December meetings, is putting together a February Meeting and Trade Show that promises to be the best yet.

The Education and Operations Committee continues to review and improve ways to collaborate current efforts in training and development programs while trying to avoid potential scheduling conflicts with other organizations.

The Public Awareness Committee developed a colorful poster on the importance of water, which I hope you all received. They will continue to educate our youth and participate in numerous venues throughout the State. They will also help develop a more dynamic February Trade Show brochure and will be reviewing our publications, including the Journal and the newsletter.

In closing, I would like to give a special thanks to all of our volunteers and their utilities and or businesses.

Keep the Faith.

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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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Golf Tournament Does Well in New Venue

It was looking pretty sketchy Wednesday when we got up and prepared to go to the golf tournament. Fortunately the skies cleared after a passing thunderstorm and the delay was so slight that everyone still ate lunch pretty much on time.

The first place team consisted of Jan Pilawski, Jim Shugarts, Brad Everly and Greg Prescott. Coming in second were Jim West, Jay Arnold, Mike Greene and Chris Crovo. Third were Steve Clements, Don Ladd, Brian Mitchell and Tom Holt.

The Longest Drive was laid down by Bob Waggoner. Closest to the Pin awards were won by Brian Tarbuck, Dan Bisson and Tom West.

The Casino Hole, which benefited the Peter Lancaster Fund, netted \$350.

This new venue, the Meadows in Litchfield, proved to be a popular one - except for the hornets' nest. However, that adversely impacted only a few but amused a great many more.

The highlight of the day (aside from the hornets' nest) was when Robbie Chadwick presented previous Master Scrambler dignitaries with shirts recognizing their previous accomplishments. In addition they each received what is best described as an unreasonable facsimile of Under Armour.

John Leach was honored when the passing of the Master Scrambler award resulted in the coveted jacket landing on his shoulders.

Rain Also Stays Away for Clambake

The threat of rain did not discourage many or dampen the enthusiasm of those who attended the clambake on Thursday. Once again we enjoyed a great meal of lobsters, clams, steak or chicken with all the fixings. The prices of the lobsters and clams were higher than we have ever seen, but we were able to feed everyone for the same prices as last year. We were indeed fortunate, as the next day most of the coast was closed due to Red Tide.

All things considered, soggy sneakers were not much of an inconvenience. A special thank you is extended to all who were involved with the coordination of the golf tournament and addressing the many needs at the clambake. Once again the Brunswick and Topsham Water District provided the site and the tents, which makes for a great turnkey format. We are indeed very appreciative of that.

Moceus Honored With Staff Merit Award

Lindy Moceus, Phase II/Phase V Rule Coordinator for the Maine Drinking Water Program, recently received the Staff Merit Award that was presented by the Maine Public Drinking Water Commission.

Lindy has been with the Program for approximately six years; for the first 5 years she served as the Total Coliform Rule Coordinator. Congratulations, Mindy, for a job well done!


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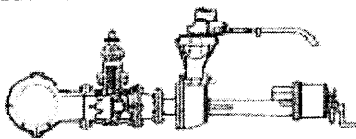
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Annual Award Nominations Nearing

Members are reminded that the deadlines for nominations for the Jeff Nixon Distinguished Service Award, the Sid Anthony Award of Merit, the President's Award, the Jim Doherty Excellence in Volunteerism Award and the Excellence in Operations Award are fast approaching. The nomination deadline for all but the latter award is December 1. The nomination deadline for the Excellence in Operations Award is October 1.

All members are encouraged to submit nominations for consideration. Call the MWUA office for details.

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Nominating Committee Recommends Slate

Nominations for Directors are presented at the October Meeting by the Nominating Committee or from the floor by any member. The By-Laws require that the membership be notified, in writing, of the committee's

selections for the nomination of Directors at least ten days prior to the October meeting.

Nominating Committee Chair David Parent reports that the committee has selected the following as nominees for Directors for 3-year terms, starting in 2005:

Chris Crovo, Portland Water District
Seth Garrison, Bath Water District
Judy Kelley, Aqua Maine, Inc.
Michael Nadeau, South Berwick Water District

There are two open seats to be filled on the Board. Printed ballots will be mailed to all eligible voting members in late October. The ballots will contain the nominations made by the Nominating Committee and such other nominations which are made from the floor at the October membership meeting.

Eligible candidates who can be nominated from the floor include Individual, Retired and Honorary Members of the association who are members in good standing. The ballots will also contain a biographical profile of each nominee.

Ballots are to be returned to the office and must be postmarked no later than 14 days from the mailing date. The envelope containing the ballot must be signed by the voting member.

Current directors whose terms expire at the end of 2005 include Bill Alexander of the Brunswick-Topsham Water District, Mary Jane Dillingham of the Auburn Water District and Skip Dumais of the Van Buren Water District.

Directors whose terms expire at the end of 2006 include Jeff LaCasse of Kennebec Water District and Brian Tarbuck of Augusta Water District.

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Adamson Moves to Efficiency Maine

Joy Adamson, formerly a Source Water Protection Researcher and Planner at the Maine Drinking Water Program, has moved to the Maine Public Utilities Commission. In her new position she will be an Efficiency Maine Program Manager in the commission's Energy Efficiency Division. She is

responsible for the Building Operator Certification Program, the Maine Energy Education Program, the Efficiency Maine website and providing assistance with the Residential Lighting Program and Energy Efficiency's geographic information system (GIS). Adamson is a 1999 graduate of the University of Maine at Fort Kent, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Studies.

The Energy Efficiency Division's Business Program works with businesses across the state to promote the more efficient use of electrical energy and to help Maine businesses save money. Water and wastewater facilities are eligible. The Business Program offers information and cash incentives to all Maine businesses that install qualified energy efficient electric products. To find out more, check out the Efficiency Maine website, www.energymaine.com, or call 1-866-376-2463.

Bond Issue Woes Predicted This Time Last Year

It is interesting - and in this case discouraging - when a prediction comes true. In the September 2003 issue of Maine Water News, then President Jeff LaCasse spoke of the difficulties that were encountered in convincing the Maine Legislature to send the bond issue, which was necessary to acquire the 2004 SRF capitalization grant, out to referendum. It did eventually happen but, as we know, we were more than half a million dollars short and the Drinking Water Program had to scramble to come up with the remainder.

Jeff noted that "Now that the legislature has cut funding once, it is easier for it to happen again. That does not bode well for the future."

Although we know he is not clairvoyant, we now know that he was right. There was much posturing on the part of the legislature and Governor Baldacci this past session but in the end there no bond issue were sent to the voters.

Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee to Discuss Issues, Set Strategy

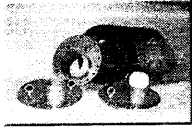
It does seem like an early start, but on the 14th of September the Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee will meet to discuss issues that will be addressed during the First Session of the 122nd Maine Legislature.

As President Nadeau mentioned, at the August Board meeting the Directors voted unanimously to seek legislation that would incorporate the State Revolving Fund match into the Department of Health and Human Services budget. They also requested a recommendation



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from the committee as to what position the association should take on legislation that would allow for the creation of regional water councils, which is being pursued by a group of Southern Maine water systems.

The 20% match for the capitalization grant will be the major topic for the meeting. The association will explore all options to ensure there is a 2005 SRF program that meets the needs of Maine's water supply community.

The sustainable water use issue is also back on the front burner. The DEP has started the process of soliciting input from those who will be affected by the rules. The association has established an ad-hoc committee to work on this. Expect to hear more of this as the process unfolds.

October Meeting to Discuss Hot Topic

Every day it becomes more bizarre. First we voted to force the Maine Legislature to fund local education at the 55 % level. Now the tax cap referendum is on the ballot. Legislative leaders are saying that, if the cap passes, the State will likely step in with at least part of the monies communities will lose in order to ensure service levels are maintained.

What does it mean for the communities and, in turn, what will it mean for Maine as a whole as the ripple effect of a tax cap impacts other operations? Will it be a ripple or will it be a tsunami? Facts and figure are flying fast and furious as Election Day draws near.

Anyone with vision knows that, in the big picture, the future will bring major change. Water systems would be prudent to acknowledge that and incorporate that fact into their planning efforts.

The October 14 meeting, to be held in Gray, will present at least two sides of the tax cap referendum. It will be a chance to obtain information that will, hopefully, assist one in deciding how to vote. More importantly, water system personnel will be better

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prepared to discuss this issue with local community officials – something that everyone should be doing.

As the paying public's perception that they perhaps are not getting their money's worth becomes more prevalent, it is important that water systems be proactive in advocating the value of the service provided. We need to do more of that and it's a safe bet that nobody will do that for you.

Come to the October meeting, become more informed, learn what your cohorts are doing concerning this and leave with a better understanding of how the communities may be impacted - and what you may be asked to do to as a result.

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**November Satellite Teleconference
to Explore Sustainability**

Sustainability is the ability to plan and manage water resources in such a way that we can sustain them for use by future generations.

As indicated elsewhere in this newsletter, Maine is in the process of developing policy that will ensure there will be sustainable water supply for future generations.

On, November 4th, from noon - 3:30 p.m. the fall AWWA Satellite Teleconference will explore the increasingly critical issue of water resource sustainability. The teleconference will focus on balancing increased demand with shrinking resources. The session will include discussion on: long-term water supply issues and planning, water resources and efficiency, water reuse, water capacity maximization, source selection and optimization, desalination technology for inland and coastal uses, regulatory issues, overall building of systems and sustainability and conservation.

In Maine downlink sites will once again be in Portland and Presque Isle. Notices will be sent out from the MWUA office, prior to the conference.

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From Lewiston/Auburn: Take Rte. 4/100/202 south toward Gray. Spring Meadows is on your right.
From Sebago Lakes Area: Take 202/115 north. Go across I-495. Take 100/202 north 1 mi. Spring Meadows is on your left.
From Portland: Take I-495 north to exit 11. Take a right. Follow 4/100/202 north bound. Spring Meadows is 1 mi. on your left.
From Freeport/Yarmouth: Take Rte. 115 west into Gray. Take 4/100/202 north 1 mi. Spring Meadows is on your left.

8:30AM – 9:00AM Registration
9:00AM – 9:10AM Welcome to Gray – Pamela Wilkinson, Chair, Town Council
9:10AM – 9:30AM Overview of Gray Water District – Bruce Sawyer, President, Board of Trustees, Gray Water District
9:30AM – 9:45AM Regulatory Update – Nancy Beardsley, Director, Maine Drinking Program

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

How Will the Maine Tax Cap Referendum Affect You?

Bruce Berger, Moderator

9:45AM – 10:15AM Why Maine Needs a Tax Cap
A Representative of - Tax Cap YES!
10:00AM – 10:15AM Break
10:15AM – 10:45AM The Palesky Tax Cap – Bad Public Policy?
- Geoff Herman, Director of State & Federal Relations, Maine Municipal Association
10:45AM – 11:45AM Q & A: The Impact on Municipal and Waterworks Operations
11:45AM – NOON Business Meeting
12:15PM Buffet Luncheon

Mike Nadeau
President

Chris Curtis, Bill Alexander, Ben Mosher
Program Coordinators

2.0 Training Contact Training Hours will be granted for this session.
PLEASE RETURN RESERVATIONS BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2004
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Registration for MWUA October 14, 2004 Membership Meeting

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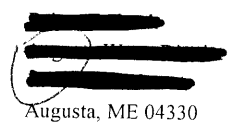
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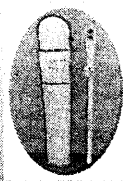
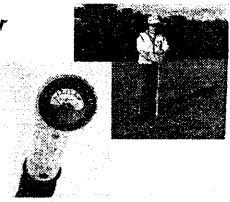


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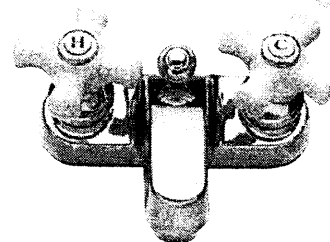
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