

MAINE



WATER

NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2009

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Number 147

Pandemic Preparation. Are you Ready?

John B. Storer, P.E., President

Is your utility prepared for a pandemic? Hopefully you haven't become complacent due to recent threats that never materialized, such as the Avian Flu scare from a few years ago. Now we are facing the potential for a Swine Flu outbreak (H1N1) in addition to regular seasonal Flu. Statistically speaking, health care officials tend to believe we are due for a pandemic outbreak. It's important to break through the hysteria and understand the potential for a pandemic outbreak, and be educated and prepared. As utility operators, we need to prepare for the worst, to ensure continuity of our operations.

According to the Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC), "*No one can predict how a pandemic will affect us, but it will most likely last longer than other public health emergencies (months vs. days); a number of health care workers and first responders available to work will be reduced because of illness or needing to care for family members; and basic resources could be limited.*

Possible examples include: given the high level of global travel, a pandemic virus may spread very quickly, leaving little time to prepare; medical supplies may be in short supply and unevenly distributed; there may be no vaccine for several months; medical facilities may be quickly overwhelmed; illness and panic may result in sudden shortages of personnel to provide community services such as health care and public safety; some workplaces and schools may be closed; and large gatherings may be banned".

The information stresses that vaccines may be limited or unavailable, key personnel may be absent due to their own illness or in caring for sick family members, and it's likely that key supplies may be unavailable or delayed. Sound ominous? Keep in mind that during the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918-1919 an estimated 20 to 40 million

people died around the world, including approximately 675,000 Americans. In Oxford County, the Maine National Guard recently held an exercise to quell a riot that might break out in the event of a mass rush for flu vaccines.

So how do you prepare for a pandemic? The most logical step would be to get vaccinated, but the H1N1 vaccine is currently only in production and not readily available. Additionally, members of the Maine WARN Steering Committee recently met with officials from the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and they confirmed that water utility operators are not expected to be given priority with available vaccines. Vaccine priority will go to children, pregnant women, health care providers and emergency responders. The American Water Works Association (AWWA) has tried to work with individual state public health officials to remind them that drinking water and wastewater utilities are classified as first responders under federal law. But don't count on your status as a water utility operator to move you up the vaccine priority list.

Education and preparedness will be crucial to dealing with a pandemic. I strongly suggest you take time to review Maine CDC information regarding both a pandemic influenza outbreak, as well as just regular seasonal flu. The Maine WARN website (www.MEWARN.org) is currently being modified to include direct web links to the Maine CDC. The Maine WARN website will also include an important link to a document prepared by the Department of Homeland Security. It was developed specifically for the water and wastewater sector and deals with preparedness, response, and recovery from a pandemic influenza. It discusses items such as essential services, equipment, materials, and personnel. Maybe you are a large utility that can afford to lose 40 or 50% of your licensed operators, but what happens if you can't receive critical water treatment chemicals? What happens if your office staff is out

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sick and can't process bills or payroll? It's all about being prepared and having a contingency plan.

In addition to developing a pandemic outbreak plan, you should consider developing a basic plan to avoid contracting the flu, or spreading the flu. Trevor Hunt at the Bath Water District prepared a very basic plan that covers the essentials of good hygiene and common sense. The stated mission of the plan is "to prepare for and reduce its (pandemic outbreak) impact to the District, maintain day to day operations during and after an outbreak as best as possible and to become more 'pandemic-resistant' by being aware of prevention."

I've contacted Trevor and he is willing to share his plan. Simply drop him a note or feel free to contact me. The sky may or may not be falling, but as responsible water system operators we have to expect the worst and prepare for the worst. We can always "hope" for the best, but by being educated and prepared, we can ensure the "best" of any possible scenario we might encounter.

Golf and Clambake Draw Good Crowds and Great Weather

After the summer we have had, we wondered just what might be in store, weather wise, for the golf tournament and the clambake. It was a joy to have two great days of weather back to back.

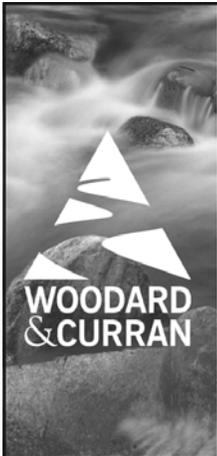
The golf event was held at a new venue, Val Halla Country Club, and all enjoyed the course and the facility. Last year's recipient of the Master Scrambler Jacket, Mike Pelkey, announced that he had decided it appropriate that Mike Nadeau's name be engraved on the sleeve. It being Jim West's last Clambake Scramble as a gainfully employed water works guy, certain Associate members took it upon themselves to chip in and buy him a new set of clubs, for which he was very grateful.

The clambake, which attracted more than 450 attendees, was held under clear skies and warm but not oppressive weather. The food was great, there was ample opportunity to catch up on the news with old friends and, all in all, it was a very nice day.

As always, we appreciate all that the Brunswick & Topsham Water District does in securing the site, setting up the tents and just making it a very turnkey day.

Results of Annual Golf Tournament

Men's Long Drive #14:	Closest #3:
1st - Jim Golter	Joe Gillen - 18' 11"
2nd - Dave Jones	Paul Morin - 21' 1"
3rd - Steve Miller	Steve Cox - 24' 0"
Ladies Long Drive #4:	Closest #11:
1st - Nicki Pellenz	Josh McGuire - 4' 1"
2nd - Brucine Berger	Greg Leighton - 6' 4"
	Jim Guilbault - 9' 7 1/2"
Closest #17:	Dave Jones - 18' 8"
Porter Gervais - 8' 1"	
Robbie Lockhart - 22' 6"	



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Aqua Maine Hosts Governor at Groundbreaking

On June 30th, Governor John Baldacci traveled to Rockport to participate in the groundbreaking for the first large-scale membrane filtration plant to be constructed in the state.

Baldacci praised the decision to utilize a technology which requires fewer chemicals, produces less wasted water, and incorporates solar energy technology in a building which is smaller than a traditional filtration plant.

Aqua Maine commenced planning for the facility in 2005, in response to more stringent Safe Drinking Water Act regulations which require enhanced treatment for the purpose of inactivating Cryptosporidium. The project is being partially funded by a \$2.5 million no-interest loans and a \$1 million grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Also on hand for the ceremony were local state representatives and senators, state office personnel representing U.S. Senator Susan Collins and Rockport Town Manager Robert Peabody.

The Camden and Rockland division of Aqua Maine serves 7,700 customers in Rockland, Camden, Rockport, Thomaston, Owls Head, Warren and Union.

PUC Moving to Hallowell

The Maine Public Utilities Commission has announced that it will be moving its operations to a larger facility in Hallowell. Starting in October they are requesting that the old address of 242 State Street not be used. Their state mailing address of 18 State House Station is still valid.

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Nominating Committee Offers Slate for 2010, Recommends By-Law Revision

At the August meeting of the Directors, Nominating Committee Chair, Bill Alexander, informed the Board that his committee had selected a slate of candidates as nominees for Directors for 3-year terms, starting in 2010.

There are two open seats to be filled on the Board. The terms of Jeff LaCasse of Kennebec Water District and John Storer of Auburn Water District expire at the end of the calendar year. LaCasse became a Director in January of 2001 and Storer became Director mid-year 2006. Storer is serving as the 2009 MWUA President.

The committee has selected the following candidates:

- John Storer, Auburn Water District
- Alan Frasier, Brunswick & Topsham Water District

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

Auburn & Lewiston Also Gear up For New Regulations

A few counties west of the Aqua Maine construction project the Auburn and Lewiston systems are embarking on a new disinfection process that will use ultraviolet light to kill microorganisms.

The new \$7.7 million water treatment facility being built at Lake Auburn is designed to inactivate Cryptosporidium (a protozoan parasite), as required under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Officials from both cities and the federal government were on hand for a ceremonial groundbreaking on August 11th.

This facility is also being built with federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money. A grant provides 30% of the costs and interest free loans account for the rest.

When the cities realized they had to meet the new dual disinfection standard, they considered several alternatives. UV was chosen because it was determined it would do the job without the need to add additional chemicals.

membership be notified, in writing, of the committee's selections for the nomination of Directors at least ten days prior to the October 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.

Current Directors whose terms expire at the end of 2010 include Stephen Cox of Aqua Maine, Inc. and Kathy Moriarty of Bangor Water District.

Current Directors whose terms expire at the end of 2011 include Gordon Johnson of Portland Water District, Don Gobiell of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District and Jon Ziegler of Boothbay Region Water District.

The Nominating Committee has also recommended an amendment to the By-laws. Amendments to the By-laws may be adopted by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual or any regular or special meeting of the members of the corporation provided notice of the proposed change is given in the notice of such meeting of the members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. The Board voted to present those recommended changes to the membership at the October meeting. The proposed amendment is as follows:

Section 4.4. Elections. The directors shall be elected by a majority of the eligible voting members by election to be conducted ~~in November before adjournment of the annual meeting of the corporation of each year~~ and shall accede to office at the annual meeting of the directors to be held in January. ~~The election shall be by a mailing to all eligible voting members. Ballots Votes shall be received and tabulated counted by a representative of the Nominating Committee. The results shall be reported to the Board of Directors,~~ presented to the membership at the December membership meeting and published in the January edition of the Maine Water News.

Maine Water Supply Profession Loses Two Good Men



Michael R. Nadeau, 50, died on July 1 at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital in Dover. He was born on Dec. 13, 1958 in Dover, the son of Reginald J. and Patricia A. (Nutter) Nadeau. He had been the Superintendent of the South Berwick Water District since 1988. He was a member of the Maine Water Utilities Association Board of Directors from 2002 to 2007 and served as President in 2004. Mike was an active participant of the Southern Maine Regional Water Council, and served as its first President in 2006.

Mike was also a member of the American Water Works Association, the New England Water Works

Association, the Maine Rural Water Association and the Maine Backflow Prevention Association.

He was a South Berwick Water District Trustee from 1987-1988 and was also a past member of the South Berwick Rotary. Mike received the New England Water Works State Leadership award in February of 2008 and the Maine Water Utilities President's Award that same year.

Mike is survived by his wife of 27 years, Claire, his son, Travis Nadeau and his wife, Kari, his granddaughter, his parents, two brothers and their wives, his sister and her husband and several nieces and nephews.

He was always striving to advance the professionalism of the water supply business and, as a result, the South Berwick Water District was actively involved in research projects with the American Water Works Association Research Foundation.



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Richard W. Gustafson

Richard Warren Gustafson, 56, of Hermon, died July 6, 2009, at Bangor hospital. He was born Sept. 20, 1952, in Bangor, son of Warren Alfred and Eleanor May (Woodbury) Gustafson. Richard was a graduate of Bangor High School, Class of 1971, and was employed for 23 years by Bangor Water District, where he worked with many close friends. He was an avid sports fan who enjoyed the Boston Red Sox, the New England Patriots and the Boston Celtics.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Jacqueline (Voye) Gustafson, his daughter, Kristen M. Kelleher, three grandchildren, his twin brother, his sisters and their husbands, aunts, uncles and many nieces and nephews.

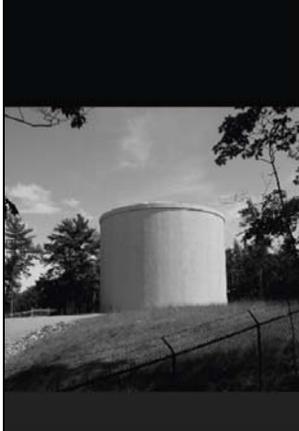
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Frasier Offers Experience; Shares His Views

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Alan J. Frasier, General Manager of the Brunswick & Topsham Water District, joins current President John Storer as a nominee for election for Director, for a three year term commencing in 2010.

Alan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Maine and is a registered Professional Engineer. Following his graduation in 1978 he commenced his career at Weston & Sampson Engineers in Boston and in 1984 he went to work for Wright Pierce Engineers in their Topsham office. In 1988 he migrated to the Brunswick & Topsham Water District, as District Engineer, and in 2007 he became General Manager.

He is a former member of the MWUA Water Resources Committee and, since 1996, has served on the Board of Licensure of Water Treatment Plant Operators.

Frasier was asked the following question: "What do you feel are the 2-3 most important issues for the association for the coming year? He responded as follows:

The Association was formed as a way for utilities to share their experiences and expertise – we all have something to teach and lots to learn. It also provided a way for the industry to advocate for and defend its positions and interests. That is our purpose for “being” today as well, so I think it is important to keep that vision and mission as a backdrop against which all of our activities are undertaken and the results evaluated.

Given that, three major issues are at the top of my list:

Strive to maintain funding for the State Revolving Fund. It has proven to be valuable and effective.

Assert our interests in the continuing debate over groundwater and surface water ownership.

Look at new ways to share and disseminate the tremendous collective knowledge and experience we possess. Whether the topic is regulatory issues, operational practices, or management concepts, we can help each other to succeed. Success means that we meet the expectations of our customers by providing them with safe water, reliably and affordably.



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October Meeting to be Replete with Practical Knowledge

Have you ever thought what you would do without them? Them? Why valves of course. The October bimonthly meeting, to be held in South Paris, will be a great opportunity to learn much about valves – from soup to nuts. A comprehensive understanding of what valves can (or cannot) do, their operation, maintenance and repair details and a host of other tips and tricks are invaluable to those who operate hydraulic systems. The lessons learned will help you to not only get out of trouble, but hopefully stay out of trouble.

In addition the October meeting will feature the report of the Nominating Committee and will include a vote on amending the by-laws.

Register by October 1st – either online or otherwise - in order to take advantage of the early bird rate.

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February Meeting to Offer a New Look, New Trade Show Location

The MWUA Annual February Meeting and Trade Show has, for many years, featured technical and professional sessions at the Holiday Inn by the Bay and the Trade Show at the Cumberland County Civic Center. With changing demographics and challenging economic times being experienced by not just the vendors, but the water systems as well, it was recognized that the time had come to seriously consider how the needs of the various types of members can best be met.

After thoughtful consideration, including a survey of a segment of the vendor population and discussions with the Board and others, the Program Committee recommended that the whole event be held under one roof. The Board concurred; as a result the sessions and the Trade Show will be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay.

The dates of the conference are February 8-9, 2010; however the festivities will commence on Sunday evening with a Super Bowl party at the hotel. Past Super Bowl events at the hotel have proven to be quite successful – so we are looking forward to it.

The technical and professional sessions will start first thing Monday morning. The good news on this front is that we start early (waterworks folks are early risers!); and the better news is that we expect the historical and

chronic parking conundrum, which has so defined Portland, to be alleviated to a great extent by then. For sessions, we will once again have NEWWA partnering to bring two tracks in the morning; in addition Maine WasteWater Control Association will have an all day training track on Monday.

The Trade Show will be held downstairs in the Casco Bay Hall. There is room for just a few less booths than we have had across the street the past couple of years, but with some reconfiguration and creative thinking we expect it to provide a much improved situation for networking. The trade show will feature a one hour kick off exhibit time just before the luncheon on Monday and the traditional preview that afternoon. On Tuesday we will get an early start and the Trade Show will wrap up at noon.

It needs to be recognized that, with display space at a premium, everyone will need to adopt a cooperative mindset in order to make things work.

Tuesday afternoon there will be more training, compact and focused so as to get people on the road at a reasonable time.

The Holiday Inn's new owner has already taken steps to improve the facility. We will be working with the same staffers, who have been so easy to work with in the past, so we expect that things will go well.

The Program Committee is to be commended for their forward look.

Mark the calendar, watch your mail, check out the website and keep your ear to the ground as the program comes together and additional details become available.

UFO Session Looks to be Very Informative

For many months now a stalwart group of financial types who work in Maine's water utilities has been meeting regularly to discuss financial issues. They represent small, medium and large systems alike and the topics they tackle, while varied, typically impact all systems, regardless of size.

They have assembled an impressive cast of financial experts and developed a session titled: **Business Issues Impacting Water Utilities**. This symposium will be held on October 22nd at the Portland Water District's Nixon Training Center, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The symposium will highlight top financial trends with an emphasis on how those trends will impact the water supply profession, and individual utilities.

Whether the greater part of your work day is spent on financial matters, or if those issues are just one aspect of what you do, this seminar will be particularly useful.

Additional information, as well as the registration details, can be found on the website at: www.mwua.org.

Host: Paris Utility District, Steve Arnold, Superintendant
Location: Tuscany Hall – 98 Old Route 26, South Paris, ME Telephone: 207-890-6675
 Approximately 0.4 miles North of junction of Rt. 117 and 26, South Paris, ME

PROGRAM

- 8:00 - 8:30 **Meeting Registration**
- 8:30 - 8:45 **Business Meeting**
 Report of Nominating Committee
 Vote on Bylaw Amendment
- 8:45 - 9:00 **Welcome to Paris**
- 9:00 – 9:15 **History of the Paris Utility District - Steve Arnold, Paris Utility District**
- 9:15 - 9:30 **Regulatory Update – Maine Drinking Water Program**

**TECHNICAL PROGRAM
 Valves & All They Do For You**

*Jeff LaCasse, Kennebec Water District, Brian Tarbuck, Greater Augusta Utility District,
 Gordie Johnson, Portland Water District*

- 9:30 - 10:30 **Valves – A Basic Primer**
 Topic 1 will cover the history, types, terminology, cost, regulation, and new technology of valves. Topic 2 will cover the maintenance, access, repair, operation, location, and documentation of valves.
- 10:30 - 10:45 **Break**
- 10:45 - 12:00 **Comprehensive Valve Maintenance Programs**
 This segment of the program will cover safety/liability concerns, recordkeeping, handy dandy tips and gadgets, and case studies.
- 12:00 – 12:15 **Q & A, Wrap up**

12:30 **Lunch**

John Storer
President

Jefferson Longfellow & Keith Pomerleau
Program Coordinators

3.0 Training Contact Hours will be granted for this session.

PLEASE RETURN RESERVATIONS BY WEDNESDAY, October 1st 2009
PREPAYMENT IS APPRECIATED. RESERVATIONS MUST BE HONORED.

Registration form for MWUA October 8th, 2009 Membership Meeting

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