

# MAINE



# WATER

# NEWS

NOVEMBER 2009

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

Number 148

## Sshh! Can you hear the Silent Service at Work?

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

Why are we so silent? As a profession, we seem content to operate as silent servants; quietly, professionally, and efficiently supplying a product essential for life. Sadly, it seems, the only time we get attention is when a water main break takes out Main Street. One might argue that as individual utilities, our low-profile, under-the-radar approach has been effective, but I'd counter that only a pessimist would believe that no news is good news.

Perhaps we have been reluctant to draw attention to ourselves, but we shouldn't be hesitant to celebrate our profession. How many other Maine businesses can compare with our collective statistics?

- \$1 billion in assets
- \$110 million in annual revenue
- 750,000 Mainers as customers
- 1,200 employees
- 5,000 miles of infrastructure
- 34 billion gallons of product sold annually

Securing the annual SRF match is an exercise that highlights our relative obscurity. Many of our Legislators have a vague idea of who we are and what we do, but we are pretty much unnoticed by the general public. There is a June 2010 Bond Issue coming up to try and secure the necessary 2010 SRF Match and we've already been strategizing on how to help assure passage of the bond package.

A current focus of MWUA is to enhance our public perception. Plans are already underway for our 2010 Drinking Water Week newspaper supplement. 2009's effort was very successful in getting the word out about who we are and what we do. Hopefully 2010's effort will continue to build on that success. In keeping with the theme to enhance our public perception, this year's supplement has tentatively been titled, "What Does Your Water Utility Do for You?" The Public

Awareness Committee is heading up this effort, so please feel free to contact our Committee Co-Chairs (Mary Jane Dillingham and Kirsten Ness) if you have any thoughts or suggestions for a story or article. Additionally, I believe they are always looking for high quality photos of people and projects for use in the supplement.

A couple of other noteworthy efforts are underway at MWUA. We are looking to revise our logo and relocate the office to Augusta. At our September MWUA Planning Session, discussion focused on MWUA's "brand". There appeared to be growing consensus that MWUA needed a new logo that more adequately represented the association and its members. Changing the logo is not something that will occur often, so we want to be diligent in accurately considering our "brand". The objective is to take ideas and suggestions from our members and then work with a graphic designer to develop a professional image. There might even be a contest to find the idea or graphic that leads to the development of our new logo. Keep your eyes peeled for changes to the February 2010 Trade Show where the annual Photo Contest might be tweaked to a Logo Contest.

The relocation of the MWUA office has been under consideration for many years. In August 2009, the Board of Directors voted to move the office to Augusta within a one-year timeframe. There was sentiment that an Augusta presence would enhance the image of the Association. A sub-committee is working to identify potential office space that would include a conference room where MWUA meetings could be held. The intent was to have sufficient space to host both meetings and visitors. Concurrent with the office relocation, the Board also voted to out-source many administrative tasks and functions to the Maine Municipal Association (MMA). Although the specifics have yet to be fully defined, MMA provides similar services for the Maine

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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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*Co-Chair: Jim Wallace*

*Portland Water District*

Wastewater Control Association, so it seemed like a natural fit to help align ourselves a bit closer with our wastewater friends, and would hopefully free up our Executive Director to focus on more critical tasks.

Only time will tell how it all works out. Some people have termed these steps as “change”, but perhaps a better term is “evolution”. Thomas Edison was quoted as saying, “*We shall have no better conditions in the future if we are satisfied with all those which we have at present.*” Rest assured that MWUA is committed to success. We will hopefully continue to evolve year after year to best serve our members.

## **The October Meeting**

The October meeting, hosted by the Paris Utility District, was a unique opportunity to learn more about valves than perhaps you ever wanted to know. The session, which was titled Valves & All They Do For You, was accurately billed. Jeff LaCasse, Gordie Johnson and Brian Tarbuck worked from a detailed Power Point presentation and discussed valve history, types, operation, maintenance & repair, location, and a whole host of other valve aspects.

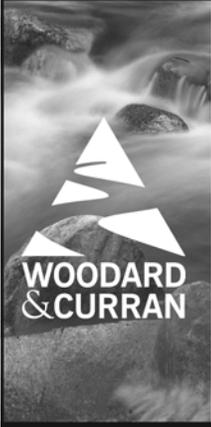
Selectman Roy Glover provided a short and interesting history of how the local communities came to be. Superintendent Steve Arnold told the story of major conflagration that put the system to the test for a few days. Just before lunch we went outside to see Kennebec Water District’s new valve exerciser in operation.

The business portion of the meeting included the report of the Nominating Committee, and approval of the By-Law amendment which was announced in the September newsletter. In addition, Jim West was honored with the New England Water Works Association State leadership Award and Executive Director Jeff McNelly presented him with a fixed income survival kit, as he was retiring that next day. E.J. Prescott gave Jim a nice lamp by which he can read his AARP mail.

Lunch was great, the weather was nice and it was a pleasant drive home.



***NEWWA President Chris Woodcock and Jim West***



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**Operator License Renewal Features a New Twist**

For some it's time to renew the water operators licenses and there are a few changes to be aware of.

The next renewal cycle starts the day after your license is renewed. Classes attended between the renewal date and the end of this year can be applied to the next renewal cycle.

This year the renewal notice will have a summary of Training Contact Hours credited to the license(s) from January through September 2009 - if providers submitted them to the Drinking Water Program. Also, operators will receive 3 TCH of credit for any successful exams they passed during a renewal cycle. This does not include first exams taken in order to become licensed; one must have held a license at the time of testing. The October 2009 exam results will not be recorded by the time renewal notices are mailed.

The water operator board has a new clerk whose name is Jessica Bishop. Her phone number is 287-5699 and email is [Jessica.bishop@maine.gov](mailto:Jessica.bishop@maine.gov).

Additional information on any of this can be had by contacting Terry Trott at 287-7485 or at [teresa.trott@maine.gov](mailto:teresa.trott@maine.gov).

**Calling All Artists – MWUA Logo Contest**

The Maine Water Utilities Association is developing a new logo and we need your help! The Public Awareness Committee will be holding a logo contest at the 2010 February Meeting and Trade Show to gather ideas for the new logo. Put on your creative hat and submit your design of a logo you feel represents MWUA. Please bear in mind that the final logo will be designed by a professional graphic designer and may not resemble the winning entry. We will be partnering with the Bangor Daily News for the final logo design but we need your help to brainstorm ideas.

The winning entry, selected by popular vote, will be eligible for a \$100 VISA gift card.

Please send your logo entries to Madeleine Storer c/o Aqua Maine, Inc., P O Box 310, West Rockport, ME 04865 or e-mail to [mastorer@aquaaamerica.com](mailto:mastorer@aquaaamerica.com). We will also accept submissions at the February Meeting and Trade Show at the Public Awareness Committee booth until noon on Monday February 8th, 2010. Your entry should fit on an 8.5 x 11 piece of paper or smaller.

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If any member has an interest in being involved in this effort or would like additional information, they can contact McNelly.



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### Parent Resigns as Legislative Chair

Dave Parent of the Sanford Water District, who has served as Chair of the association's Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee since 2004, has announced that he is stepping down. He will remain on the committee and still be involved in legislative efforts.

Parent was an effective leader. In addition to his regular duties as Chair he spent many hours in deliberations over a period of more than seven years, that ultimately resulted in the Chapter 587 In-stream Flows and Lake and Pond Water Levels rule. More recently he has guided the association through a sometimes tumultuous effort associated with about a dozen water resources related bills that were dealt with during the recent session.

The committee is currently without a Chair. During the upcoming Second Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature Executive Director Jeff McNelly will coordinate committee efforts. The necessary labors will be divided in that individual members will be asked to be responsible for the key Joint Standing Committees which hear bills of interest to the water supply profession.

### December Meeting in Kittery to Feature Land Deal Discussion

The December bimonthly meeting, hosted by the Kittery Water District and to be held at the Kittery Trading Post, will include an interesting discussion of a recently completed land purchase. The district started into the acquisition process by partnering with the local community and land trust but once the Land For Maine's Future program was brought into the mix, the issue of public access became a thorny issue. In the end, it all worked out but it was a circuitous journey.

The lessons that can be learned from this story could be invaluable to any water system contemplating the purchase of watershed property.

The meeting will also include a system overview, the annual committee reports and other business of the association.

Mark your calendar: it's December 3<sup>rd</sup> – and not the second Thursday – which makes it even more advantageous for any shopping that needs to be done.

Assistant Environmental Engineer in their Bangor Office. The other position is for an Environmental Engineering Services Manager (Chief Engineer) in the Augusta Office. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/jobs/>.



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Distinguished Service Award, the Jim Doherty Excellence in Volunteerism Award, the President's Award and the Sid Anthony Award of Merit.

Rules and criteria governing the awards and application forms can be found on the association's website at [www.mwua.org](http://www.mwua.org) or can be obtained by contacting the MWUA office.

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**Nominees Sought for Annual Awards**

The association is seeking nominees for its annual awards of recognition, which are typically presented at the February meeting. The awards include the Excellence in Operations Award, the Jeff Nixon

**HOST:** Kittery Water District, Roger C. Raymond, Jr., President

**LOCATION:** Kittery Trading Post, 301 US Route 1, Kittery, ME, (207) 439-2700

**DIRECTIONS:** **From North:** From I-95 south, take Exit 2 and merge onto ME-236 south for 0.6 mi. Enter the traffic circle and take 4th exit onto US-1 N. Kittery Trading Post is approximately 1 mi on left.  
**From South:** From I-95 north, take Exit 3 to US-1 N. Kittery Trading Post is approximately 0.3 mi on left.  
**Note:** KTP front doors will open at 9:00am. Meeting will be held in downstairs conference room.

**PROGRAM**

9:00 AM – 9:30AM **Registration, Continental Breakfast**

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM **Introduction/Welcome to Kittery**  
*Jonathan Carter, Town Manager*

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM **System Overview**  
*Michael Rogers, Superintendant*

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM **Regulatory Update**

10:15AM – 10:45 AM **Business Meeting –**  
**Election of Directors**  
**Presentation of 2010 Budget**  
**Annual Committee Reports**

10:45 AM **Break**

**TECHNICAL PROGRAM**

11:00AM – 12:15PM **Kittery Water District Land Acquisition: Challenges Associated with a Package Deal Involving Many Purchasers: A Round Table Discussion**  
*Andy Tolman, Maine Drinking Water Program – Source Water Protection*  
*Roger C. Raymond, Jr., President, Kittery Water District*  
*Wolf Tone, Trust for Public Lands*  
*Tim Glidden, Maine State Planning Office - Land for Maine’s Future*

12:15 – 12:30 **Questions & Answers, Wrap Up**

12:30PM **Buffet Luncheon**

John Storer  
*President*

Ben Mosher, Nate Johnson, Rick Anair  
*Program Coordinators*

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