

Maine Water News

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

January 2012, Number 161

The Close of Another Productive Year

Steve Cox, 2011 President

Here we are at the close of 2011 and the beginning of 2012. What little hair remains on my head is starting to grey on the sides, but I in no way attribute that to my 2011 MWUA presidency. It has been a pleasure to serve. Like all effective Boards, we may not always agree, but we do always listen with open mind. I appreciate the confidence of the Board members and Jeff throughout 2011.

I would like to thank Maine Water (Aqua Maine) for the support this past year. Management, customer service and division superintendents patiently tolerated and supported my time away from the office attending MWUA functions and meetings. It is comforting to know your back is covered when conflicts arise.

Anyone who has met my wife knows that I married “up” and that I have the most to gain in our relationship. Well the same has been true in my relationship with MWUA, and I thank everyone for helping me advance my knowledge and abilities in the drinking water profession.

Looking back at 2011, the Maine Water Utilities Association had a very effective year as a direct result of the hard work of staff, committees, partnering organizations and participating members. The biggest success may have been securing the State match for the SRF in years 2014 and beyond. Many individuals and organizations deserve credit in bringing this to fruition, and it was great to see the years of effort educating our lawmakers finally pay dividends. But we cannot rest. The Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee is already tracking potential legislation that may impact us all. I encourage everyone to review the weekly email blasts and to get engaged.

When I look at the structure and functions of the MWUA it reminds me of a saying that applies to many who volunteer time and resources to the success of the association: “If you really need to get it done; ask the busiest person in town!” For them, it is all about

prioritizing tasks and being efficient and effective with the little extra time they do have.

I have asked Elizabeth to email Outlook calendar event invitations to all members for the bimonthly meetings as well as the February Show and August Clambake. Please “accept” the invitation so it gets on your Outlook calendars... an easy way to effectively avoid schedule conflicts, and it may prevent you from missing a meeting full of training and networking opportunities.

I wish you all a safe, healthy and productive 2012! See you in February.

MWUA 2012 President Jon Ziegler



The December Meeting

The Great Salt Bay Sanitary District hosted for the December bimonthly meeting. After some time spent searching for a suitable venue it was settled that we would assemble at the Massasoit Engine Company (aka the Damariscotta Fire House). The space met our needs in fine fashion and it was nice envisioning what it might have been like to fight a fire with the old hand pumper and vintage equipment they have on display.

The business meeting included a welcome to town, an overview of the Great Salt Bay system, a regulatory update and annual committee reports. Additionally, the Nominating Committee Chair was present to attempt to hold the election for the 2012

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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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Directors. Lacking a quorum it was determined and reported that the Directors would act on this at their next Board meeting.

The technical program focused on fluoridation and there was a relevant story to tell. In November, after several months of intense debate over the pros and cons of fluoridation, the voters in both Newcastle and Damariscotta turned back an effort to cease fluoridation of the water system. Jennifer Donnell and Judy Feinstein of the Maine CDC discussed the technical aspects of fluoridation and the role of the Oral Health Program, respectively.

Water Division Manager Scott Abbotoni spoke of the many public meetings he attended and the arguments that were brought forth both in opposition to and in support of fluoridation. From the beginning, the trustees and management were firm and consistent in maintaining a neutral opposition and striving to provide accurate and objective information. Damariscotta Health Officer Dr. Tim Goltz was also in attendance and he provided his perspective of the several month long public process.

Following an excellent lunch many made the short trip to Little Pond to view the UV system and related treatment equipment.

It was a productive day – an opportunity to see some interesting treatment equipment and hear about how a system successfully interacted with the public during a very emotional public process.

Lobbying Cost Calculation Available

Water utilities are aware that they must include, in the annual PUC report, all monies spent on lobbying activities. The association conducts lobbying on behalf of its members. The portion of a member's 2010 dues spent on lobbying costs can be determined by multiplying the dues by 0.010. If there are any questions concerning this, please contact the office.

2012 Bi-monthly Meeting Locations

The bi-monthly meeting locations have been established for 2012.

The Annual February Meeting and Trade Show will be on February 7th and 8th, and will once again be in Portland and all under one roof at the Holiday Inn By the Bay. The registration form is included in this newsletter, so don't forget to sign up!

April will find us in Lincoln, and June will be held in Rangeley. The August Golf Tournament will once again be held at Val Halla Golf Course in Cumberland, and the Annual Clambake is scheduled to be at Thomas Point Beach in Brunswick. Boothbay will welcome us in October, and December will be in Fryeburg.

Included in this newsletter is the 2012 conference calendar which includes the bi-monthly meeting dates. Make note of these dates, so you can attend meetings close to your location, and more if possible! We look forward to seeing you there.

Maine Water Company

Aqua Maine, Inc. has a new name! They are now the Maine Water Company. Their new website is www.mainewater.com, and their new emails are: first initial last name @mainewater.com. All phone numbers and other contact information will remain the same. For more information, please visit their website.

Dig Safe to be a Major Issue at the Legislature This Session

Public Law 2011, Chapter 72 (An Act to Clarify Dig Safe Standards), established the Dig Safe Work Group. The work group was comprised of 22 persons appointed by the Public Advocate, selected from specific entities affected by the Dig Safe requirements. The Work Group, chaired by the Public Advocate, was charged with examining ways to clarify and simplify the rule to facilitate compliance and to eliminate regulatory uncertainty.


The law required the Commission and the Public Advocate to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT) that includes all findings and recommendations supported by at least 2/3 of the appointed members of the work group.

The Commission was directed to submit provisionally adopted rules necessary to carry out the recommendations of the Work Group to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

A hearing was held on the proposed rule on November 10, 2011 and on December 14th the

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Commission provisionally adopted the rule. The provisional rule will have a hearing before the Legislature. The two possible outcomes are for the provisional rule to be adopted as is or in an amended form. A number of comments were received at the public hearing. However, because the law as adopted required the Commission to provisionally adopt rules necessary to implement the Work Group's recommendations, the only changes made by the Commission as the result of the hearing process were

those which, for the most part, clarified language or corrected obvious inconsistencies without encroaching on the intent of the work group.

The single most important issue for the water and wastewater systems is the fact that the work group decided to change the tolerance zone for non-member operators from 36 to 18 inches. A number of people testified that water and wastewater facilities are more difficult to precisely locate due to their depth, the fact that they are not readily traceable, there is interference from shallower facilities and a number of other factors. The Commission heard those concerns and noted

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that this change has the potential to result in a shifting of risk, liability and costs to non-members, specifically water districts and municipalities. However, they felt they had to adopt this provision as recommended by the work group.

In addition to the findings and recommendations of the workgroup it is expected that the report that will be submitted to the Legislature will include suggested statutory language needed to implement recommendations made to EUT Committee.

Included in that suggested statutory language is a “Resolve: Creating a Work Group to Examine the Need for a “One Call” Dig Safe System in Maine”. This proposed resolve, in essence, would be a continuation of the work group; the major objective of that effort would be to make Dig Safe membership mandatory for all underground facility owners, including water and wastewater utilities and municipalities. This work group would be comprised of 28 persons, and as was the case with the first work group, only two persons would represent quasi-municipal water or sewer utilities. MWUA will be opposing the concept of this new work group.

Finally, it appears that a coalition of underground facility operators will be submitting

authorizing statute for a Dig Safe Advisory Board. The association is evaluating the merit and value of such a board and will be actively involved in these discussions.

MWUA has a subcommittee of its Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee developing talking points on this Dig Safe issue. The potential impacts on water and wastewater utilities, should this effort continue in the direction it is being steered, are adverse and significant. System managers, particularly those who have representatives on the EUT Committee, should be prepared to testify at the hearings.

Public Law 106 to Provide Opportunity for Meaningful Reserve Accounts

LD 909, An Act to Provide Additional Flexibility for the Funding of Infrastructure Improvements by Consumer-owned Water Utilities was enacted by the 125th Maine Legislature as Public Law 106. One requirement of the law was that the Public Utilities Commission convene a work group to ensure that the capital requirements of small water utilities are provided for in an adequate and appropriate manner. The work group has met several times and those meetings have been productive.

There is an opportunity to provide language to



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the EUT Committee which would allow water utilities to establish capital reserve funds and also infrastructure surcharges.

The reserve accounts that the association envisions would allow systems to allocate meaningful sums of money to the replacement of infrastructure. The goal is to have the ability to fund known future expenses but also unanticipated contingencies, such as the relocation or replacement of facilities as the result of

MDOT projects.

The infrastructure surcharge is a mechanism that is being used by investor owned water utilities in many states. In concept, it allows water utilities to file tariffs or other method of automatic adjustment of rates for the recovery of the costs of certain system improvement projects between rate proceedings.

MWUA is working with MRWA and others in an effort to develop and advance legislation which allows these financing options. The goal is to have them be as simple and as flexible as possible.

Roscoe C. Varney

Roscoe C. Varney, 62, of Wiscasset, died Nov. 6, 2011 at his residence. He was born in Stockton Springs on March 4, 1949, the son of George and Sarah Varney. He was employed at Searsport Water District and then was the Superintendent of the Wiscasset Water District for 19 years where he was extremely instrumental in bringing the water district from a rock building to what it is today. He was predeceased by his father, sister, and daughter-in-law. He is survived by his wife, mother, sons, stepdaughters, brothers, a sister, grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

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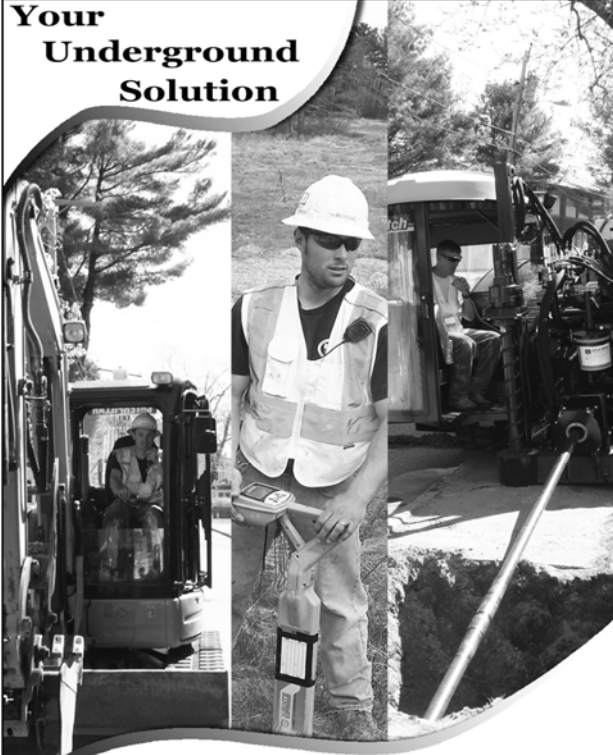
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Jon "Michael" Lund

Jon "Michael" Lund, 62, of Pittston, died Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011, at his residence. Born on Jan. 27, 1949 in Gardiner, Mike was the son of Richard and Harriette Hall Lund. In 2009, he married Denise "Dee" Brochu Gordon. Mike was a member of many water related associations, including MWUA. Mike had a variety of jobs, which included working with E.J. Prescott. He is survived by his wife, a son and his wife, a stepson, grandchildren, a brother and sister-in-law, and nieces and nephews.



Maine Water Utilities Association

86th Annual February Meeting & Trade Show

February 7 - 8, 2012

REGISTRATION FORM

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Name: _____ Title: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Option 1: Mail completed registration form with payment to: Maine Water Utilities Association**
Option 2: Fax registration to: (207) 623-9522
Option 3: Register online at: www.mwua.org

Maine Water Utilities Association
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 Augusta, ME 04330

EVENT REGISTRATION – Please check all that apply

Registration & Name Badges are required for attendance at all sessions and events. Pre-Registration closes January 31, 2012

	Register by 01/28/12	Registrations Received after 01/28/12
<input type="checkbox"/> TWO DAY FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	\$180/Person	\$200/Person
Two Day Full Conference Registration Includes:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tuesday & Wednesday Training Sessions (including material handouts & certificates) ▪ Tuesday's Lunch on Trade Show Floor & Trade Show Meet & Greet ▪ Wednesday's Training Sessions, Luncheon, & Trade Show Attendance (as well as coffee & pastries) 		
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE DAY TUESDAY ONLY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	\$90/Person	\$110/Person
*Sessions 1 – 13 Includes the Lunch on Trade Show Floor		
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 1: Budgeting.....		8:00 AM – 11:15 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 2: A Day in the Life of an Operator.....		8:00 AM – 11:15 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 3: Putting the Control Back in Process Control: Dealing with Treatment & Distribution Challenges (All Day Session).....		8:00 AM – 11:15 AM & 1:00 PM – 3:15 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 4: Failure to Prepare is Preparing to Fail: Using Asset Management to Ensure Stable & Sustainable Water Utility Operators.....		8:00 AM – 11:15 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 5: Choosing a Certified Lab.....		8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 6: Biosolids End Use.....		9:15 AM – 10:15 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 7: Fall Protection.....		10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 8: Technical Writing for Water & Wastewater Professionals.....		1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 9: Legislative Process & Update.....		2:15 PM – 3:15 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 10: Product Demonstrations.....		1:00 PM – 3:15 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 11: A Trustee's White Board.....		1:00 PM – 3:15 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 12: Innovative Treatment Processes & Distribution System Management Techniques.....		1:00 PM – 3:15 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 13: Principles of Public Health for Drinking Water Operators.....		1:00 PM – 3:15 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> ONE DAY WEDNESDAY ONLY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	\$90/Person	\$110/Person
*Sessions 14 – 21 Includes the Luncheon		
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 14: Renewable Energy Projects: Challenges & Benefits.....		8:00 AM – 11:30 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 15: Disconnections & Chapter 660.....		8:00 AM – 11:30 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 16: Source Cornucopia.....		8:00 AM – 11:30 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 17: Making Most of the People Happy All of the Time: Preparing & Responding to Water Quality Complaints.....		8:00 AM – 11:30 AM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 18: Work Life Balance.....		2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 19: Financing Capital Improvements.....		2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 20: Winter Road Maintenance & Related Water Supply Issues.....		2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> Session 21: E. coli Happens: Drinking Water Operator Conduct & Public Health.....		2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
<input type="checkbox"/> WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON ONLY	\$35/Person	\$45/Person
<input type="checkbox"/> WEDNESDAY TRADE SHOW ONLY	N/C	N/C


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February 7 & 8, 2012
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