

Maine Water News

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

March 2012, Number 162

The Value of MWUA Membership

Jon Ziegra, 2012 President

It was February 1999; and being a brand new Superintendent of a small rural water system I attended my first Maine Water Utilities Association conference. While at the conference I joined a discussion group. People were all worked up over the state's latest half thought out scheme (for the life of me I cannot remember what it was). There was a tall, thin guy with a thick "mid-coast accent" (more on the "mid-coast" in future rants!) who was pleading with the audience to throw out opinions for the rest of the group to chew on. Being one "from away", where you were kicked to the curb unless you spoke your mind, I injected what I thought at the time was a salient point. "Who ARE you"?

At that, my first impression of the MWUA was: *what a bunch of pretentious jerks!* I had surely stumbled into an exclusive boys (and girls) club, knew I was way out of my league, and I definitely did not fit in. After all what in the hell could this organization of the "big guys" offer me anyway?

For anyone who takes over as Superintendent of a water utility for the first time the job can be lonely and bewildering. To get easy credit hours, I attended a MWUA bi-monthly meeting where, just by luck, I sat next to Wayne Rogalski, now former General Manager of the Bangor Water District. Wayne is a pretty cool guy. We struck up a conversation and for the first time in my life I played it smart; I shut-up and just listened. I kept thinking to myself, why was this GM of a water utility behemoth talking to a pip-squeak like me anyway?

I learned more at that ½ hour lunch than I had the previous year. I walked away with a plethora of tips that in the long-run bettered me and my district. Hmm!!! Maybe the MWUA has something more than just easy credit hours! I was always told the MWUA is all about the Big Guy keeping the Little Guy down. I hate to blow the paradigm....It's a myth!

Over time it began to dawn on me, unlike any other water utility organization, the MWUA is made up of water utilities, for the betterment of water utilities, at the direction of water utilities, regardless of water utility size.

The larger water utilities have a lot of valuable institutional knowledge that they are more than willing to share (or let you rip off!!). On the flip-side, the smaller water utilities in Maine are famous for the practical *Yankee Engineering* and know what a tight budget *really is*; super-valuable knowledge the big corporate guys need to "get real".

When I think of the positive benefit to my district from the contacts made, and the knowledge gained I know I get my money's worth. If you are not a member or haven't been active in a long time, give a bi-monthly meeting a try and/or check out a committee that interests you. You won't regret it. If you are an active member and you see someone new, regardless of who you think you are, crawl out of your comfort zone, walk up and say "Hi". Remember we are all in the same canoe together.

The April Bi-monthly Meeting

The upcoming April Meeting is scheduled for April 12th, and it will be held in Lincoln this year. The technical program will begin with an overview of how to implement sustainable practices in your utility. Drumlin Environmental will be presenting this topic, and it is sure to help your utility execute operational sustainability and long range planning in the most effective way.

Stultz Electric Motor and Controls will also be giving a detailed presentation on pump VFDs. This will be an expansion of the presentation Stultz gave at the Product Demo session at the February Meeting.

For more info and to register, please see the registration form on page 7 of this newsletter, or visit our website at www.mwua.org.

We hope to see you there!

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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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The February Meeting

This year's February Meeting and Trade Show was once again a great success. In an attempt to equalize attendance between the two day event, the Luncheon was moved to Wednesday. This strategy appeared to work, as we had more balanced attendance between the two days.

New England Water Works Association co-sponsored once again, and offered excellent training on Tuesday and Wednesday this year. Maine Wastewater Control Association presented training on a variety of pertinent topics on Tuesday and MWUA offered eleven Technical Sessions in total throughout the two days. Attendance was excellent for the technical sessions and the trade show, which is a testament to the efforts of NEWWA, MWWCA and the MWUA Program Committee.

The Meet and Greet on Tuesday and the Trade Show on Wednesday allowed for plenty of time for attendees to mingle with the exhibitors and network amongst other water and wastewater utilities. We had a number of first time exhibitors this year, which added additional diversity and undoubtedly enhanced the annual trade show in a positive way.

As previously mentioned, the luncheon was held on Wednesday, and there was an excellent presentation that showcased the humanitarian efforts that four of the water profession's individuals have been active in improving water quality in third world countries.

In summary, the conference was a success and it was an enjoyable time. We want to thank our co-sponsors for once again contributing to the conference by presenting extremely beneficial and relevant training. We also would like to thank the exhibitors for their support of our trade show, and everyone else that was able to attend our conference and make it the great success that it was.

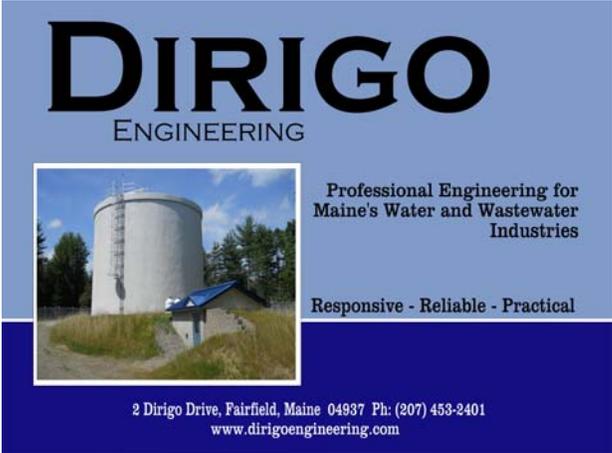


Recipients of the 2012 Excellence in Operations Award, from left to right: Robert Sypitkowski, Trustee, Bangor Water District; Normand Labbe, Superintendent, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District; Jeffrey Musich, Senior Vice President, Wright-Pierce; and Robert MacKinnon, Superintendent, Yarmouth Water District

**Dig Safe, New Financing Vehicles and Tree Growth
Highlight Legislative Activities**

As was noted in the last issue of Maine Water News, a recommendation of a Dig Safe workgroup to change the marking tolerance zone for non-member operators from 36 to 18 inches had the potential to create compliance problems for water and wastewater system managers, as well as increase the likelihood of damage to those facilities. This provision was included in a rule provisionally adopted by the PUC.

Early in February the provisional rule was the subject of a public hearing before the Energy, Utilities and Technological Committee. Many people explained the consequences of such a change. It appears that the committee heard the concerns as there did not seem to be much support at the work session for narrowing the tolerance zone for non-members. It does seem likely that there will be another workgroup or perhaps an advisory board. At a separate work session on LD 1803 – the bill which seeks to make statutory changes as recommended by the workgroup, the committee adopted a few amendments, none of major concern to the association.

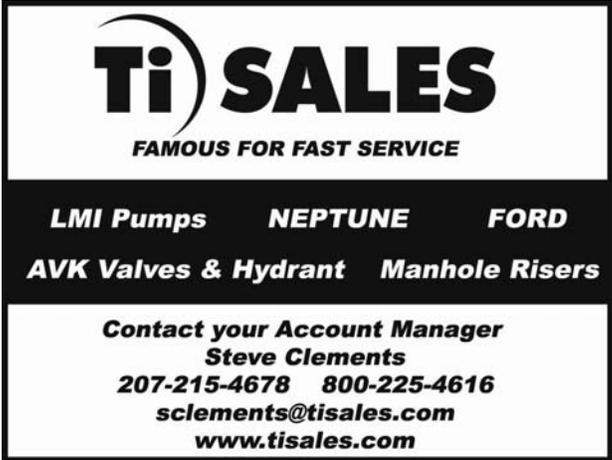


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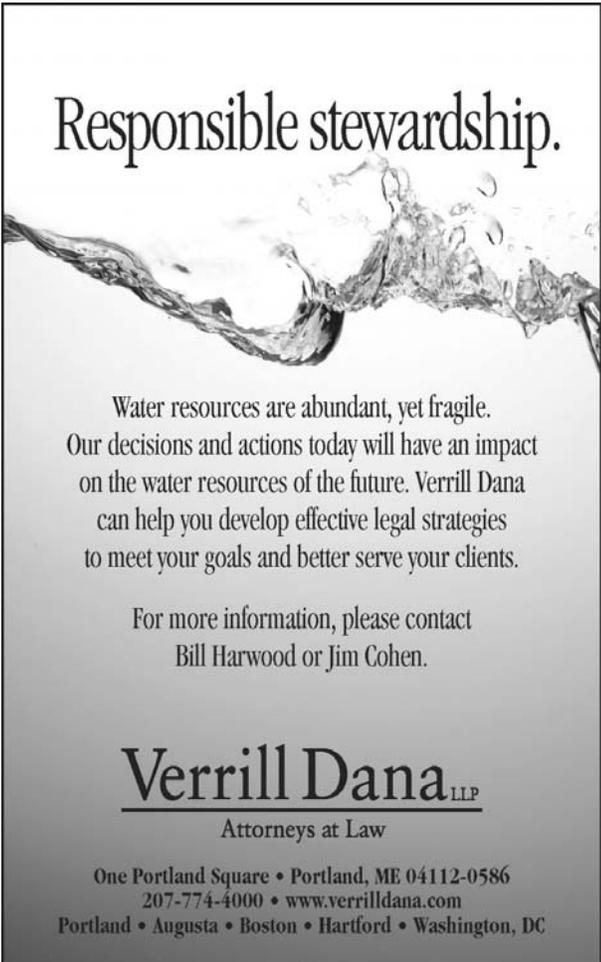


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Prior to the work session, the association contacted Associated General Contractors, in an effort to meet, discuss difficult or contentious issues and determine if there could be some level of agreement on these matters. A meeting was held and included two contractors, the AGC representative, two water/wastewater folks and MWUA's Executive Director. Four issues were discussed: an advisory board, tolerance zones, a one call system and mapping. There was much agreement on these issues. Conclusions and

recommendations were presented to the EUT Committee for their consideration.

On February 28th a hearing was held on LD 1820 An Act To Implement Recommendations To Provide Additional Flexibility for Funding Infrastructure Improvements for Water Utilities. This bill would allow water utilities to establish capital reserve funds and also infrastructure surcharges. A number of people spoke in favor of the bill, with two state agencies speaking neither for nor against. It appears that this bill may be headed for enactment. If that happens, the details of how these new financing mechanisms would actually work would



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be handled in rulemaking.

LD 1138 An Act To Prevent Unnecessary Expulsion of Landowners from the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law Program is currently being deliberated in the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. This bill started out as an effort by the Small Woodland Owner’s Association of Maine to have an administrative penalty for those situations where a property owner misses a deadline, or other TGTL requirement – as opposed to being expelled from the program and paying the tax penalty. A number of other requirements are being proposed, including an attestation that the landowner’s primary objective for the forest land classified pursuant to TGTL is to grow trees to be harvested for commercial use and that other objectives such as preservation, conservation, recreation, scenic or esthetic objectives are subordinate to this primary objective.

Obviously, this attestation provision is problematic for water utilities that own source of supply land for the primary purpose of protecting the water supply. MWUA is working with the various parties in an effort to maintain status quo. It has been challenging, to say the least, working with the various parties on this issue.

SRF Match Still a Possibility

The public hearing on LD 359 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Wastewater and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds was held on October 24, 2011. At that public hearing details were provided as to the anticipated state matches needed in order to secure the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) capitalization grants for the next two years.

Recently, Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee Chair Pat Flood requested updated match requirement numbers and an explanation of federal fiscal year vs. the state fiscal year.

That information has been provided to the committee. The match needed for the next two years is \$3,590,000 and \$4,367,000 for the Drinking Water SRF and the Clean Water SRF, respectively. This SRF program need coincides with State Fiscal Year 2013 and SFY 2014.

There is talk in the legislative halls of a potential bond issue(s). The preference seems to be for infrastructure projects that create jobs. The association will continue to advocate for the Drinking Water and the

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Clean Water SRF match requirements as a part of any bond issue that may be considered.

Upcoming Training

MWUA has a number of training sessions that will be offered all over the State of Maine in the upcoming months. Haz-Com, Confined Space and Chemical Delivery will be offered in Caribou, Brewer, Augusta and Portland on March 6, 7, 8, and 13th,

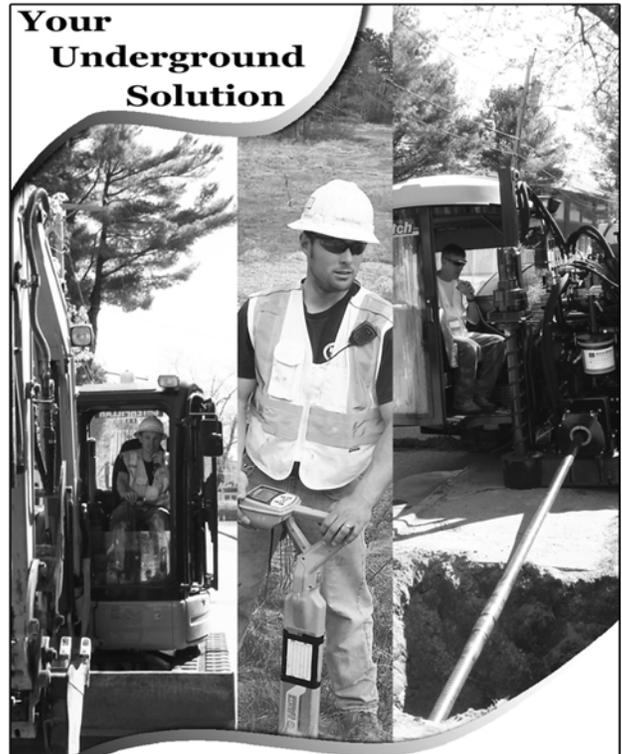
respectively. On March 20th, MWUA and the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC) will be co-sponsoring an "Impacts of Water Treatment on WW Plant Operations" seminar in Portland. SCADA Security will be presented on March 27th – 29th in Old Orchard Beach, Lewiston and Fairfield.

The Education and Operations Committee has much more planned for the Spring/Summer of 2012 as well. Keep checking our website, www.mwua.org, as we will be posting updates concerning upcoming training.

John (Jack) E. Hoadley

John E. (Jack) Hoadley, 68, of Hanover, died Jan. 25, 2012 at Brigham and Womens Hospital in Boston. He was born in Brockton, son of John V. and Emily (Connerty) Hoadley and was raised and educated in Rockland. Jack had served during his youth on the Rockland Call Fire Department and after relocating to Hanover he volunteered for 42 years on the Hanover Call Fire Department. A Hanover resident for the past 47 years, Mr. Hoadley was active in his town and his profession. As the owner of John Hoadley and Sons Plumbing and Heating Co. in Rockland, he was involved with the Hanover Water Department, a member of the

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board of the Plymouth County Waterworks, and active in the Massachusetts and New England Waterworks Association, Utility Contractors Association, the South Shore Plumbing and Gas Inspectors Association and Bay Colony Master Plumbers Associations. His biggest devotion and passion was for his children and grandchildren. He is survived by his wife Donna and his sons Michael E. Hoadley and wife Christine, and David P. Hoadley and wife Christina. He was the grandfather of Ryan, Callie, Cole and Thomas Hoadley, as well as the late Joseph Hoadley. Also surviving are his step sister and many nieces and nephews.

HOST: Lincoln Water District, Ronald Gray - Superintendent

LOCATION: Knights of Columbus, 1003 West Broadway (Route 2), Lincoln, ME 04457 (207) 794-8948

DIRECTIONS: From South: Take I-95 North to Lincoln Exit. Turn right off exit towards Rte 2. At intersection of Rte 2 & River Rd turn right onto Rte 2/W. Broadway. Knights of Columbus will be on right.
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PROGRAM

- 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM **Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 AM – 9:15 AM **Introduction/Welcome to Lincoln**
- 9:15 AM – 9:30 AM **System Overview**
Ronald Gray, Superintendent, Lincoln Water District
- 9:30 AM – 9:45 AM **Regulatory Update**
Dan Piasecki, Maine Drinking Water Program
- 9:45AM – 10:00 AM **Legislative Update**
Jeffrey McNelly, Executive Director, MWUA
- 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM **Presentation of Awards**
Jon Zieggra, MWUA President; Manager, Boothbay Region Water District
- 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM **Break**

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

- 10:30 AM – 11:15 AM **Water Utilities Are In It for the Long Run, Matthew Reynolds, Drumlin Environmental LLC**
 Planning and implementing sustainable practices for your utility. Why bother? What are the opportunities? How to Get Started.
- 11:15AM – 12:15PM **Pump VFDs, Ed Ting, Stultz Electric Motor & Controls**
 Top five VFD application questions; What harmonics are and how we deal with them; Calculating a payback analysis
- 12:15PM **Buffet Luncheon**

Jon Zieggra
President

Bruce Berger, Erin Smith
Program Coordinators

*2.0 Training Contact Training Hours will be granted for this session.
 PLEASE RETURN RESERVATIONS BY April 5, 2012*

Registration for MWUA April 12, 2012 Membership Meeting

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Affiliation _____

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<i>Water Systems serving more than 4,000 Customers</i>	_____ @	\$30 _____	\$35 _____
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