

# MAINE WATER NEWS

*A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association*

November 2019, Number 208

## *President's Message*

*Scott Abbotoni*

*Summer loving had me a blast*

*Summer loving happened so fast*

*I met a girl crazy for me*

*Met a boy cute as can be*

*Summer days drifting away to oh oh the summer nights....*

I am a summer person I love the heat the hotter, the better. Once again summer is long over and we are back into the fall season. Is it me or does the summer seem to go by faster and faster each year? Come to think of it the years seem to go by faster and faster as I get older. Boy it seems like yesterday I was in school staring at the clock wondering if the next hour would ever end. I start to work on an assignment in class do a few problems or write a few paragraphs look up and OMG it's only been five minutes.

I am thinking of school because it is that time of year that we are checking into our credit hours seeing if we have enough to renew our water or wastewater license so that we can work another year. I have the wonderful privilege of not only renewing my water license but also my wastewater licenses this year. So, I grab my training folder to check out my training hours for the last few years and low and behold I don't have enough to renew either license. It seems like I go to a training all the time. Then I remember "oh I think I got busy and didn't sign in at that class" that was stupid. Then looking back to February and the MWUA conference I couldn't get many there either. Well that is "our" conference and I have to help at that one. I am not complaining as I love to help out this is more of a reminder to everyone to keep track of your hours it is very important. Sign in!

I am very impressed with the classes that are given by the different entities and associations it seems like they have stepped up and improved the content, speakers and venues where they are held. Good job to everyone involved! Look at all the different topics we have to be trained on. Safety, first aid, corrosion control, break point chlorination and confined spaces are just a few. What other industry do you have to have training in all these different areas? I can't think of any.

Now if you would like to be involved in planning the training, MWUA has a place for YOU to help out. Some of our committees are looking for help and I encourage everyone to join a committee. I was on the program committee before I became a Director and it was a great experience. Don't be scared of getting up in front of a bunch of people there are plenty of behind the scenes things to do and someone else can do the presentation part. Just try it for a year and see if you like it, if not at least you tried it or maybe there is another committee you could try.

Continued on page 2

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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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Training is a very important part of our ever-changing industry and I am very big on cross training. Everyone at the G.S.B. Sanitary District is cross trained and has some grade of license in both water and wastewater. I do hope the utilities that do both water and wastewater follow this practice. If not, you should consider it.

That's my opinion we welcome yours.

P.S. In the beginning of this Column I wrote the words from a song. If you email me the name of the song and who the singer or singers were, I will put all correct answers into a hat and draw out a name and you will win a prize. Good luck

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#### **NEW PAYMENT POLICY**

Just a reminder that our new payment policy started on October 1, 2019, MWUA will no longer be using the "Bill Me" feature for any events. Instead you will be invoiced immediately. Payment will be due upon receipt. All payments must be received one week prior to the event. If payment is not received, you will not be registered for the event.

## October 2019 Bi-Monthly Meeting

Portland Water District was our host for the October Bi-Monthly Meeting. We were welcomed by Paul Hunt and Jim Wallace who provided us with a great presentation on the history of Portland Water District.

Mike Abbott from the Drinking Water Program reviewed the new staff members, the district maps (non-municipal systems and municipal systems) and the organizational chart for the Drinking Water Program. Mike reported that David Braley received the 2019 Staff Merit Award. The Annual Program review was just completed and Mike showed the results to us. Maine is above the National and Regional target. Mike reported that almost half of the systems that were offered to participate in the free PFAS sampling declined. He presented maps showing the results of the 2013-2015, 2018 and 2019 sampling. The Governor's PFAS Task Force recommendations are due in December. EPA has an announcement coming out today on the Lead & Copper Rule.

Jeff McNelly from the Public Utilities Commission reported that the Commission will be revising Chapter 660 to incorporate statutory amendments enacted during this past legislative session. Revisions to Term and Conditions need to comply with Chapter 120 Filing Requirements for Schedules of Rates, Terms and Conditions. The PUC wants to see a document that depicts existing language and proposed language. They will work from that document during their review process. Once agreement on the revisions has been reached, a final version will need to be filed to be dated and stamped. The PUC continues to work on the revisions to Chapter 62. AWWA recently released an Addendum to the Manual of Water Supply Practices (Manual M6) Water Meters. The manual was published in 2012, so this Addendum is very useful as we strive to update meter testing/replacement protocols, such as testing intervals, testing procedures and other aspects of the Rule. Much has changed since the Rule was last amended in 1987. The PUC staff will refocus on the water supply inquiry once the Chapter 62 rewrite is completed.

Jeff Zdrojewski from Pure Technologies and Ryan Borque from the Portland Water District provided the technical portion of the meeting. Jeff presented leak detection and condition assessment methods and technologies that can be used on water transmission and distribution systems as well as wastewater forcemains. Ryan provided a case study from Portland Water District's project with Pure Technologies. They received rave reviews from the attendees.



## 94th Annual Conference and Trade Show

Our Annual Conference will be on February 5th and 6th, 2020. We are moving to the Augusta Civic Center. No worries about parking this year! The Exhibitor information will be going out shortly. The hotel information will be on our website by the end of the month. The Program Committee is busy getting all the sessions booked. Be sure to watch your emails and our website for information.

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## December 2019 Bi-Monthly Meeting

The December Bi-Monthly meeting will be held at The Elm in Waterville on December 5, 2019. We currently are having our bylaws reviewed and updated to reflect the changes our Association has encountered over the last few years. These revised bylaws will be presented at the meeting. The 2020 Budget will also be presented. Both of these items will be voted on, if there is a quorum in attendance. The Revised Bylaws will be implemented upon approval.

An election of the Board of Directors will also be held. The nominating committee has nominated, for corporate membership vote, three current members whose original terms will expire. The nominees are:

- Brian McGuire, Houlton Water Company
- Richard Anair, Greater Augusta Utility District
- John Leach, South Berwick Water District

The technical portion of the meeting will be *Coordinating Utility Upgrades with Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT)*. Jeffrey Preble, PE from Wright-Pierce will be discussing:

- Bridge and Roadway projects
- Teaming up with MDOT or completing upgrades ahead of their project – pros/cons
- Discussion on the utility accommodation policy
- Lining up the funding
- Coordination in the construction phase
- Communications
- Payment procedures
- Post Construction



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## Legislative Update

In preparation for the second session of the 129th legislature (2020 session) almost 400 new bills have been submitted by legislators to the legislative council for consideration. Many of these bills will not be assigned a LD number but with another 450+ carryover bills from last session, there will still be plenty of activity during this short/emergency session.

The 2019 session was overall successful in regards to major issues before the water industry. Here are a few highlights:

1. Sustainable funding for water and wastewater project - the Legislature approved legislation that will provide a steady source of additional funding for water and wastewater projects. However, this funding will not be available until 2025.
2. All septic systems in the shoreland zone will now need an inspection at the time of property transfer.
3. The Water Resource Planning Committee, under the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry has been reconstituted. This Committee is charged with planning for sustainable use of Maine's water resources. Representatives from the drinking water industry as well as many others will be part of this committee.
4. The rules relating to siting of oil storage facilities were improved to better protect public water sources.

## Training Updates

### Chainsaw Safety Training

Yves Levesque from Mike St. Peter Safety Services did a great job of helping many operators understand the importance of safety when using a chainsaw. Yves emphasized the need to have and use the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and the consequences of not using proper PPE. He also explained the proper operation and employing respect when using a chainsaw. He was able to make application by using real life examples to make the point. Yves took the entire class out into the field and showed all in attendance the practical application of everything discussed by cutting down a tree. All were given the opportunity to apply what they were taught within the class



### Trustee Training

Trustees and decisions that make are coming under greater scrutiny in recently. William Harwood Esq. of Verrill helped all in attendance that understanding the law, and developing critical thinking is essential for utility governance boards. He used a fictitious water district that more than likely was a compilation of all the utilities he's worked with over the years to stimulate our thinking and stimulate involvement. The session was very interactive and informative. It helped all to clearly understand many of the responsibilities and obligations that Boards have been given and the public expects.

HOST: Roger Crouse, General Manager, Kennebec Water District

LOCATION: The Elm, 21 College Avenue, Waterville, ME

Accommodations Nearby:		
<u>Hampton Inn Waterville</u> 425 Kennedy Memorial Drive Waterville, ME 04901 207-873-0400	<u>Best Western Plus</u> 375 Main Street Waterville, ME 04901 207-873-0111	<u>Holiday Inn Express &amp; Suites</u> 332 Main Street Waterville, ME 04901 207-873-2777

**PROGRAM**

- 8:00 AM – 8:15 AM Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 8:15 AM – 8:30 AM Introduction & Welcome to Waterville, Maine, Mayor Nick Isgro or City Manager Mike Roy, City of Waterville
- 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM Overview of Kennebec Water District, Roger Crouse, PE and Jefferson Longfellow, PE, Kennebec Water District
- 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Business Meeting
  - Regulatory Update, Nathan Saunders, Maine Drinking Water Program
  - PUC Update, Jeff McNelly, Maine Public Utilities Commission
  - Legislative Update, Roger Crouse, Kennebec Water District
- 10:00AM – 10:15 AM Break

**TECHNICAL PROGRAM**

- 10:15AM – 12:00 PM Coordinating Utility Upgrades with Maine Department of Transportation  
Jeffrey Preble, PE, Wright-Pierce
- 12:00 – 12:15 PM Q & A
- 12:15 PM Lunch

Scott Abbotoni  
President

Darrin Lary and Nate McLaughlin  
Program Coordinators

REGISTRATION FOR December 5, 2019 BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Please return registrations by: November 25, 2019

4.0 BLWSO Training Contact Hours

Pending 2.0 DEP Training Credit Hours

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Attendees	Regular	Late registration (after 11/25/19)	Total Due
Member	@ \$65.00 each	@ \$80.00 each	\$
Non-member	@ \$80.00 each	@ \$95.00 each	\$

Register online at: [www.mwua.org](http://www.mwua.org) OR mail registration to:

Maine Water Utilities Association  
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**Cancellations: Due to costs incurred by the Association, if you must cancel, we request that you do so at least 7 business days before a scheduled class. You may cancel by phone or by email ([cwade@mwua.org](mailto:cwade@mwua.org)). If you do not cancel at least 7 business days before the class there will be no refunds.**

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