

# MAINE WATER NEWS

*A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association*

September 2019, Number 207

## *Executive Director's Message*

*Bruce Berger*

### **Change is Inevitable**

Is change inevitable? It certainly appears to be so. Whether or not we like it, we get older every day. We could develop an infinite list of things that we see change daily, weekly or even annually. For some, change is easily accepted even embraced. For others, we resist it with every fiber of our being. For still others they fall somewhere in between.

The water profession for years seemed to remain static. What we did this year was pretty much what we had done for the last few years maybe even for a decade. Now it seems like there is never enough time to finish everything that comes up during any given day. There is always something, a new contaminate, regulation, law, employee issue, insurance increase, employee turnover, its sometimes appears to be endless. What is available to help us contend with these changes?

Maine Water Utilities Association recently contracted the services of Bellerose and Associates to conduct a membership survey. The survey asked you some significant questions in regards to what kinds of trainings would help you professionally. Your response was great! Your expressions, thoughts and opinions were meaningful. The results of this survey have helped us better understand what the membership training needs are. The results will also guide us to prepare and offer the best possible classes we can to enhance your current skills.

It is the aim of MWUA under the guidance of its Board of Directors to offer meaningful change. Not change just for the sake of change, but the kind of change that assure you that your association remains relevant. Here is a review of some of the changes that MWUA has embraced.

- A new office. The mortgage and taxes for the new building are equal to the rental of the former location
- Moving our conference from Portland to Augusta with the goal of growing and enhancing our annual conference

- Moving our current fiscal year of October 1<sup>st</sup> - September 30<sup>th</sup> to a calendar year.

- Reintroducing the tapping contest and offering training classes at the summer outing to enhance our attendance

- Develop collaborative agreements between other trade groups to avoid duplicity and redundancy. An example is the joint legislative regulatory committee with Maine Rural Water Association

- Forming a separate 501 c 3 non-profit to help us better manage our scholarship offerings and fund raising with greater benefit to our givers

- Involving all our committees in planning and organizing training at our annual conference

With any change comes assumed risk. It would great, if with every attempt at change there would come a 100 % guarantee of success. As you are most likely aware, it does not work that way. With each implemented change here at MWUA there has been healthy debate and in some cases disagreement, but always with the goal of making our Association better.

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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*Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District*

I am proud of our Board of Directors. They are as dedicated as any group I have ever worked with. I value and respect each and every one of them. Collectively, their experience, commitment and passion help guide me and this Association to be better every day.

When you see them please thank them for all they do. Thank them for the changes they have implemented to keep MWUA viable and fresh. Your Board of Directors are as follows:  
Scott Abbotoni-Great Salt Bay Sanitary District  
Rick Anair-Greater Augusta Utility District  
Mike Broadbent-Auburn Water & Sewer Districts  
John Leach-South Berwick Water District  
Jeff Longfellow-Kennebec Water District  
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## Golf Tournament

Despite bad weather predictions, we had a beautiful day for our 34th Annual Golf Tournament. It was a close competition this year. The winning team had a 14 under par while there was a four-way for second place at 10 under par. The tie was broken by looking at scores on certain holes. The winning team once again this year was E. J. Prescott's team of Mike Pekley, Porter Jervais, Brian McGuire and Josh McGuire. Second place went to another E. J. Prescott team, Jason Chadwick, Josh Cobb, Don O'Neil and Craig Douglas. Third place Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Wells Water District team of Steve Cox, Greg Leighton, Peter Goodwin and Keith Levasseur. This year's highest score went to Stiles Company, Ryan Johnson, Chip Whitwicki, Michael O'Brien and Peter Jewett.



Other winners were:

Closest to the Pin on Hole #3 - Craig Douglass

Closest to the Pin on Hole #8 - Jason Marco

Closest to the Pin on Hole #11 - Adam Cardinal

Women's Longest Drive - Amanda Keyes

Men's Longest Drive - Robbie Chadwick

The coveted red jacket went to Nicki Pellenz.

### ***NEW PAYMENT POLICY***

Starting 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.



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## MWUA Annual Clambake

What a great day! This year's clambake started off with some rain in the morning but it cleared off before the technical sessions even started. Thank you to the Technology Committee for the two sessions this year. They were well attended and everyone enjoyed the sessions. The Tapping Contest proved to be challenging this year. It was rough beginning, where the team from Kennebec Water District's Aquaholics had complications and were disqualified. The judges determined that there was an issue with the pipe. Kennebec Water District was given the opportunity to tap again after all of the other teams went. Both the Boothbay Region Water District's Mug Dogs and Lewiston Water District's The Dirty Lew Tappers were disqualified. Greater Augusta Utility District's GAUD Have Mercy and Maine Water Company's Just Don't Know teams were each given 10 second penalties. Their times were, with the penalties, were 3:42 and 3:47 respectively. The Aquaholics came back and defended their title with a finish time of 2:08!



### *Upcoming Trainings*

Drinking Water Treatment in Maine: On-Site Training Series - Brunswick Topsham Water District's Jackson Station Water Treatment Facility, 10/3/19

October Bi-Monthly Meeting - Portland Water District, 10/10/19

Chainsaw Safety and Pipe Saw/Pole Saw Operation - Houlton Water District, 10/22/19; Bangor Water District 10/23/19; Kennebec Water District's Treatment Facility, 10/24/19 and Brunswick Topsham Water District, 10/31/19

Trustee Training - Sable Oaks, Portland, 10/22/19 and Senator Inn, Augusta 10/24/19

Operator Forum: Metering - Tentative dates/locations 10/29/19, 10/30/19 and 10/31/19 in Augusta area, Bangor and Portland

Watch our website for information on these classes.



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## 13th Annual Drinking Water Protection Seminar

On September 12<sup>th</sup> Maine Water Utilities Association sponsored the 13<sup>th</sup> “Drinking Water Protection Seminar”. The theme of this year’s seminar was “Maine’s Future Water Landscape.” There were 60 water professionals in attendance.

Sarah Plummer from Portland Water District (PWD) did an outstanding job setting the tone for the seminar by leading off. She discussed an initiative that PWD coordinated with local breweries as part of last year’s Drinking Water Week. Eleven local breweries that use PWD source supply of Sebago lake were active participants. The goal? Public education. They used the coordination of this event to launch one of their own called *Sebago Clean Waters*. This is an effort to conserve 35,000 acres within the Sebago Water Shed over the next 15 years. Thanks Sarah! Great job.

Teresa Glick of Oxford County Emergency Management Agency built on Sarah’s great start for the seminar. She discussed the willingness of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC’s) in helping communities plan for potential chemical emergencies. Teresa helped us to understand that LEPC’s understand and can help utilities to navigate through some of the communication protocols/chemical plan we all need to develop and maintain for emergencies.

Dr. James Malley of the University of New Hampshire was next. He clearly identified the need to not overreact to negative media/social coverage when they report on municipal drinking water . He often employed humor to make the point he was emphasizing. The take away? We need to be more proactive and engaged with our end users, especially when there are so many activists that promote dis-information rarely based on fact or science.

Norm Labbe, recently retired from Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Wells Water District spoke next on the subject of PFAS in drinking water. PFAS continues to be an issue that every State is attempting to address on their own. Norm did an outstanding job of educating all the systems in attendance of the potential fallout from a legal and public perspective.

Mike Abbott the Director of the Maine Drinking Water Program (MDWP) was next. He updated the current status of PFAS within the State and how the Program is currently dealing with PFAS. He updated all, on the testing the Program has been conducting and the use of data being generated by those efforts. He also spoke on the coloration taking place between MDWP and Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP).

Kerri Malinowski from Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) did an amazing job of explaining what the data they have collected means and the results of their investigations to date. She also helped all understand how the volumes of data collected is being used and the future benefits that will result from the collection of that data.

Nate Whalen from PWD explained how the District employs their Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) and the benefits it offers in managing the activities in and around Sebago lake.

Ginger McMillian of MDEP spoke on identifying risks that can impact public water supplies. She showed us practical real example to show it is not nearly as daunting as we may think. Ginger showed us the importance of developing and using geographic information systems to identify the present and potential risks.

Finishing a very strong technical seminar was Dr. Holly Ewing of Bates College. She has been actively involved with the study of Lake Auburn for Auburn Water and Sewer Districts. She explained a very complicated subject, water quality, in very easy to understand terms. She explained how water a quality issue with in any supply can become extremely complicated depending on the varying influences in and around any supply.

The Water Resource Committee lead by their co-chairs Greg Pargellis of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District and Alisha Cooney of Bath Water District did an amazing job planning this seminar. It proved to be timely and educational.



HOST: Jim Wallace, Director of Water Services, Portland Water District

LOCATION: Portland Water District, Nixon Development Center, 225 Douglass St, Portland, ME

Accommodations Nearby:		
<u>Clarion Hotel</u> 1230 Congress St Portland, ME 04102 (207) 774-5611	<u>La Quinta Inn &amp; Suites</u> 340 Park Ave Portland, ME 04102 (207) 871-0611	<u>Holiday Inn By The Bay</u> 88 Spring St Portland, ME 04101 (207) 775-2311

**PROGRAM**

- 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM **Registration & Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 AM – 9:10 AM **Introduction & Welcome to Portland, Maine**, *Mayor Ethan Strimling, City of Portland*
- 9:10 AM – 9:30 AM **Overview of Portland Water District**, *Jim Wallace (or other), Portland Water District*
- 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM **Business Meeting**
  - Regulatory Update**, *Mike Abbott, Maine Drinking Water Program*
  - PUC Update**, *Maine Public Utilities Commission representative*
  - Legislative Update**, *Roger Crouse, Kennebec Water District*

10:00AM – 10:15 AM **Break**

**TECHNICAL PROGRAM**

- 10:15AM – 11:45 AM **Pipeline Condition Assessment Tools and Case Studies in the Northeast**
  - Jeff Zdrojewski, Pure Technologies*
  - Ryan Borque, Transmission/Distribution Supervisor, Portland Water District*
- 11:45 AM – 12:00 AM **Q & A**
- 12:00 PM **Lunch** *Salvage BBQ*

Scott Abbotoni  
*President*

Josh Cobb, Rychel Gibson  
*Program Coordinators*

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**REGISTRATION FOR October 10, 2019 BI-MONTHLY MEETING**

Please return registrations by: October 3, 2019

**2.5 DWP Training Contact Hours**  
**1.75 DEP Training Credit Hours**

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

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

# of Attendees	Regular	Late registration (after 10/4/19)	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:  
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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 refund.*

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