

MAINE WATER NEWS

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

July 2020, Number 211

President's Message

Brian McGuire

Covid-19, the pandemic, and corona virus. We have all become too familiar with these phrases. How has the current situation affected how you now do business at your utility? Has it affected your revenue in an adverse way? Has employee morale suffered? Have you been able to adjust in a way that has benefitted your system? The lessons learned from this current pandemic will be a case study in lessons learned. At some point these questions are ones we will have to ask and answer honestly. Will we ever encounter anything remotely close to this again? Let's hope not, but either way we need to be prepared.

Here at MWUA we did not understand the depth and breadth of what pandemic was all about. Historically nothing like this has ever occurred during our lifetime. Its unfortunate that many entities assigned to manage outbreaks like these were so ill prepared. Many of us out of ignorance decided to take a 'wait and see approach.' What have we learned? This probably is not going to get better anytime soon, at least not without a vaccine. Assuming a 'wait and see attitude' will probably no longer serve us well.

We have decided to make plans according to our present circumstances. Membership still needs training contact hours (TCH's) to maintain their licenses. To help you achieve that goal we have developed online or virtual trainings. (A list of trainings is available at www.mwua.org). Can you afford to wait and see what happens before signing up for these training classes? Many of the various organizations are cancelling their annual conferences that many of us have relied on to secure a majority of the TCH's. There is no longer a grace period beyond December 31st to acquire the TCH's you may need. Do you have a plan to obtain the TCH's needed based on the current situation? To wait and see may create problems for licensed operators. In addition to online classes we have also decided to hold our annual conference in February. The actual conference may require that we do it virtually. If we indeed go virtual with the conference what will that mean for you? The conference may become a four-day event as opposed to a two-day event. It will require that trainings be offered via Zoom. It will require extensive planning to pull it off, but we think we're up for the challenge.

Along the same theme we will be looking to bring back our bi-monthly meetings virtually. The first will be the October meeting. Hosting our membership meetings virtually is not our first choice. The basis or conceptual design of our bi-monthly membership meeting was to encourage social interchange. Accomplishing this via Zoom is far from ideal but necessary because of the value they offer our membership.

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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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We have worked hard over the last 18-24 months to develop an intense training program for existing managers and supervisors. It is called the 'Leadership Institute'. The original design of this program involved having it offered in a classroom setting. We decided to put it on hold because we were waiting to see what happened. When we realized that the pandemic with all its imposed safety measures would not allow us to offer the class in a face to face setting, we quickly adjusted. We decided to develop this training opportunity to a virtual training setting. Unfortunately, this format influences how many can attend the class to 20 people. If you have interest in seeing what this training is all about check out our website or watch for mailings headed your way.

Finally, if there is something that MWUA can do to help you to navigate through this incredibly difficult time please let us know. Until we can once again meet normally, be well and be safe!

Brian McGuire-President MWUA



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SAVE THE DATES!

The following is a list of our currently scheduled events through 2020. These are based upon the Restarting Maine's Economy and the Rural Reopening Plan put out by the state.

35th Annual Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament has been put on hold due to the state's restrictions and companies' policies. Watch our website for all the details.

2020 Clambake

Unfortunately, with the state's guidelines for reopening, we will not be able to hold the clambake or tapping contest this year. We will miss everyone getting together. We hope to see you all back in 2021!

Bi-Monthly Meetings

The Bi-Monthly Meetings for the rest of the year are:

October 8, 2020 and December 3, 2020 will be held virtually.

Annual Source Water Seminar

The Annual Source Water Seminar will be held virtually. This year's seminar, Public/Customer Perception of Drinking Water, will be held on September 10, 2020; September 17, 2020 and September 24, 2020. Each day will consist of two sessions which will be an hour long.

Technology Seminar

The Technology Committee is busy working on their seminar on drones. It is currently planned for October and will be in Gardiner.

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NEW WEBSITE

MWUA has a new website! We are very excited with our new website. Please let us know what you think. We are always looking for suggestions and new ideas on how to make our website more useful for our members. Email either Cindy or Bruce (cswade@mwua.org or bberger@mwua.org).



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Virtual Trainings

Web Conferencing: *The Basics and Options for Public Meetings, Hearing and More*
July 14, 2020, from 1:30 - 3:00 pm.

Cyber Security:

Part 1: *Remote Security during Crises w/ COVID-19 Considerations*

July 21, 2020, from 9:30 - 11:00 am; July 25, 2020, from 10:00 - 11:30 am and July 30, 2020, from 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Part 2: *Securing Your Cyber Assets*

September 30, 2020, from 9:30 - 11:00 am and October 7, 2020, from 1:30 - 3:00 pm

America's Water Infrastructure...What?

Part 1: *An Overview of AWIA and What it Means to You*

July 23, 2020, from 9:30 am - 11:30 am; July 28, 2020, from 1:00 - 3:00 pm and August 1, 2020, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Part 2: *Risk Assessment, Emergency Planning and Certifying Your Compliance*

August 27, 2020, from 9:30 - 11:30 am and September 2, 2020, from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

DWP Updates w/ COVID-19 Considerations: *Updates, News, Rules and Upcoming Items on Your Radar*
COVID-19 Explained

August 12, 2020, and August 20, 2020 from 9:30 - 11:30 am

Source Water Partners: *Source Water Protection Resources, Partners, Updates and Emerging Issues*

August 13, 2020, and August 25, 2020, from 9:30 - 11:30 am

Additional virtual trainings that we are working on are:

Maine PUC:

Funding Avenues

Water Rate Cases

Terms and Conditions

PUC Updates

Water Main Extensions

Ductile 101

Hydrants and RW Valves

In-Person Trainings

Water Works 101: *Field Bootcamp for New Hires and Office Staff*

August 18, 2020, and September 17, 2020, at EJ Prescott's Training Center in Gardiner

September 23, 2020, at EJ Prescott's Office in Bangor

from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm (lunch included)

Watch our website for dates on trainings and additional classes!

PAYMENT POLICY

MWUA no longer uses 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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April 2020 Bi-Monthly Meeting Cancelled Due to the Coronavirus

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