

MAINE WATER NEWS

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

September 2020, Number 212

President's Message

Brian McGuire

In my humble opinion, the covid-19 pandemic has proven to be an issue unlike anything we have ever encountered. The impact may affect us in ways we may not fully understand or comprehend for years. Here at MWUA we are trying to make adjustments that will help us provide the support and services our members have grown to expect and need.

When the shutdown was announced, like you, we had no idea the length or breadth of the pandemic. We certainly did not see it being extended as long as it has. We took a wait and see approach. Within a couple of months, it became evident that the waiting and seeing approach was not going to work for MWUA, at least not long term. Our loss of revenue from many cancelled events had a negative and significant effect on our financial status. The BOARD decided we needed to develop a plan that included assuming some risks. Our immediate concern became developing a dependable source of revenue. Many options were considered. The best option quickly was identified as developing and putting on training classes. An incredible opportunity presented itself. **Tom's Water Solutions** was formed. We contacted them and collectively decided to develop a working relationship where they would support MWUA as our training coordinator and facilitator on a contract basis. Although we experienced a slow beginning, the BOARD's decision to take the risk they did has proven to be exactly what MWUA needed to do to replace lost revenue. Tom's Water Solutions has proven to be a great partner for MWUA. Our training classes are almost always full, and the membership support has been incredible. Risky? perhaps, but worth every minute of anxiety it created.

Other things that we decided to focus on was to continue to invest our limited resources in developing a new enhanced website, maintaining development of the "Leadership Institute" and continuing our investment in a new membership software program. The BOARD knew and understood that to maintain membership engagement and involvement we needed to make their interaction experience with the association as easy as possible. They also understood the importance of becoming an association that developed and offered cutting edge training such as the "Leadership Institute." Have you been on the new website? We encourage you to visit. Have you checked out the "Leadership Institute" program? It is my understanding that there is nothing like it within our profession. Please check it out, also on our website.

Finally, we are very pleased to let membership know that we are developing and building an online studio here at the MWUA office. We feel that a studio will allow us to offer online training in a professional setting, and help us to offer extremely high-quality classes, along with a very dependable high-speed internet connection.

We are also very thankful to the incredible financial support of **Albert Hodsdon**. He generously has offered to pay for the development and installation of our online studio.

Continued on Page 2

Maine Water Utilities Association
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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 would like to thank **Nicki Pellenz** and **Machias Savings Bank**. Their support, advice and guidance throughout this pandemic is without equal. They are an incredible institution that really cares and demonstrates their support for their clients with much more than words.

MWUA staff, which includes Cindy Wade and Janet Berger, have done an amazing job through very trying times. The training offerings caused us to redo almost all our former approaches to managing the training, but they have been able to accomplish it with few to no issues. The development of our membership software has been a huge effort. Countless hours of data migration had to happen. Slow, tedious, mind numbing work. Its launch is imminent. Your online experience for signing up for classes, paying bills, and/or checking your TCH totals will become much easier.

Lastly and most importantly, thanks to all of you, our membership. You have proven, through your support, that MWUA is important to you. We truly appreciate all you do every day that helps make MWUA who we are, a strong membership focused organization. Until we can be together again, in person, please remain safe and well.

Brian McGuire
President



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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.

Annual Source Water Seminar

The Annual Source Water Seminar is being held virtually. This year's seminar, Public/Customer Perception of Drinking Water is being held over the course of three consecutive Thursdays. The first class session was held on September 10, 2020. The next two are on September 17, 2020 and September 24, 2020. Each day will consist of two sessions which will be an hour long. You can still register to attend on the 17th and 24th.

Leadership Institute

Our new program, Leadership Institute, starts on September 29, 2020 with the first session, "Authentic Leadership". Each session is spread over two days (normally a Tuesday and Thursday of the same week). The session will start 10:30 am and run until 2:30 pm. There will be an hour lunch break. We have three more sessions scheduled for this year and four sessions scheduled for the first half of 2021. All of the sessions will be held virtually.

Golf Tournament

We are joining forces with MeWEA for this year's golf tournament. It will be held on Friday, October 9, 2020. See page 5 for the registration form.

Bi-Monthly Meetings

The October Bi-Monthly Meeting was changed from October 8, 2020 to October 15, 2020. Both the October and December Meetings will be held virtually. See page 7 for the October Bi-Monthly Meeting registration.

Technology Seminar

The Technology Committee has put together a great seminar, "Leveraging Drones at Your Utility". This seminar is going to be on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 and will be held virtually.

PAYMENT POLICY

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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NEW MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

MWUA is in the process of getting a new Membership Management Software tool. As many of you, we have experienced a lot of issues with our current one. It is our hope that our new tool will prove to be much easier for everyone to access and manage their accounts. Watch your emails for the announcement of our launching!



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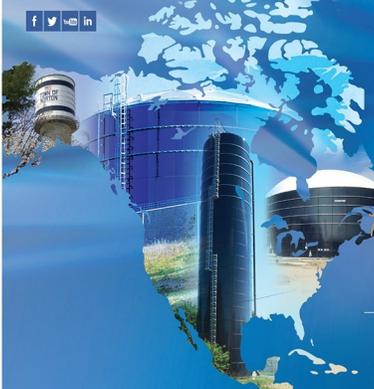








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MeWEA & MWUA GOLF TOURNAMENT
Friday, October 9, 2020

PLACE: Val Halla Golf Course: 60 Val Halla Road, Cumberland Center, ME 04021 - Phone: 207-829-2225

DIRECTIONS: Traveling on I-295 from the North/South. Take Cumberland/Yarmouth Exit 15. Turn right onto Route 1 - 1st light, turn left (Portland St) .8 mi changes to Middle Rd .6 mi turn right onto Greely Rd 3 mi. Turn left onto Val Halla Road.

TIME: Two-tier start @ 8:00 AM and 8:30 AM
Barbeque on the green

FORMAT: Scramble Format is as follows: Men play white tees; Women begin on the red tees. Each Group must use one drive from each player on each nine. **REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO 100 GOLFERS!**

COVID 19 REQUIREMENTS: All players must wear masks. Masks will be provided at registration.

REGISTRATION: Register by October 2, 2020 online at: www.mwua.org;
or complete this form and return to:
Maine Water Utilities Association
15 University Dr, Augusta ME 04330

COST: \$70.00 per person, including cart and lunch
(meal cost is \$15.00 per person for those requiring a breakdown)

MeWEA & MWUA GOLF TOURNAMENT
October 9, 2020 at Val Halla Golf Course
Registration Deadline: October 2, 2020 *Pre-payment is Required Please
REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO 100 GOLFERS

DATE: Friday, October 9, 2020
PLACE: Val Halla Golf Course, 60 Val Halla Rd., Cumberland, ME 04102
TIME: Two-tier Start at 8:00 AM and 8:30 AM

		MEMBER #1 CONTACT INFO:
Team Member #1 _____	_____	ADDRESS _____
Name	Company	
Team Member #2 _____	_____	CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
Name	Company	
Team Member #3 _____	_____	PHONE _____
Name	Company	
Team Member #4 _____	_____	E-MAIL _____
Name	Company	

Payment enclosed for _____ (# people) at \$70.00/person. \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Corporate sponsorships of \$200 are recognized with business logo & sign displayed on course
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MWUA OCTOBER 2020 BI-MONTHLY MEETING
VIRTUAL
October 15, 2020

PROGRAM

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM **State Agencies’ Updates**
 Regulatory Update, *Maine Drinking Water Program Representative*
 PUC Update, *Maine Public Utilities Commission Representative*

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM **Legionella Bacteria in Drinking Water.** *Nathan Saunders, P.E., Drinking Water Program*

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM **Break**

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM **Drinking Water Testing for Lead in Maine Schools,** *Maia Ferris and Christina Trufant, Maine Drinking Water Program*

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM **Q & A**

Brian McGuire
President

Justin Richardson,
Program Coordinator

REGISTRATION FOR October 15, 2020 BI-MONTHLY MEETING
Please return registrations by: October 9, 2020
2.5 BLWSO Training Contact Hours

Name(s), Operator License number(s) and Email Address(es) is required to send ZOOM meeting information:

Affiliation _____

# of Attendees	Regular	Late registration (after 10/2/2020)	Total Due
Member	@ \$25.00 each	@ \$40.00 each	\$
Non-member	@ \$40.00 each	@ \$55.00 each	\$

Register online at: www.mwua.org OR mail registration to:
 Maine Water Utilities Association
 15 University Dr
 Augusta ME 04330
 207-623-9511

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). If you do not cancel at least 7 business days before the class there will be no refunds.

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