

MAINE WASTE WATER CONTROL ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, December 19, 2003
Maine Municipal Association, Augusta

Attendance: Al Jellison; Vivian Matkivich; Andrew Fiske; David Anderson; Mac Richardson; Howard Carter; Tom Wiley; Tony Gordon; Steve Lane; Mike Grove; Darold Wooley; Dan Bisson; Chuck Applebee; Jeff Pinette; Brian Kavanah; Nancy Sargent; Joan Kiszely

- I. **Call the meeting to Order:** Al Jellison called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Introductions were made around the table.

- II. **Approval of the Minutes from the November 21, 2003 Meeting:** The Executive Committee reviewed the minutes from the November 21st meeting. Mac Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2003 meeting, as amended. Darold Wooley seconded the motion. All approved.

- III. **Financial Report:** Vivian Matkivich reported on the financial report for the period ending November 30, 2003. Vivian had the scholarship transfer donation change made and it is reflected on the November report. Vivian reviewed the revenues and expenses. She will have the credit under operator exchange changed for the next report. Mary Waring made a motion to accept the financial report for the period ending November 30, 2003, as amended. Mac Richardson seconded the motion. All approved.

Vivian reported that one of the Certificates of Deposit would mature on December 21, 2003. Mac Richardson made a motion to rollover the Certificate of Deposit in accordance with the recommendation of the Treasurer. Tom Wiley seconded the motion. All approved.

Vivian then reported that the audit of the financial records of MWWCA came out fine. She noted that the Charles Perry CD information is not in the report, but will be next year. Mac Richardson made a motion to accept the audit report for the 2002 financial year. Darold Wooley seconded the motion. All approved.

Al Jellison took a moment to note that this is Vivian's last meeting as the Treasurer and wanted the Executive Committee to recognize her efforts over the last few years. Dan Bisson will take over in January.

- IV. **NEWEA State Director's Report:** Greg Cataldo was not present. Greg advised Al that in filling out the grant application for the training/apprentice program, Maine Wastewater Control Association does not meet the criteria as a non-profit so the grant application cannot be completed. Al noted that a sub ad hoc committee might be comprised to see where to go with this. Darold Wooley reported that he spoke with Leeann Hanson briefly on the joint sponsorship

training. Darold advised her that it would have to be a hot issue of the day to potentially draw out of state registrants. Darold asked if anyone knew what the NEWEA Spring Convention dates are. Howard Carter will find out the dates and will report back so the meeting calendar can be finalized.

- V. **DEP Representation:** Brian Kavanah introduced Andrew Fiske, the newly appointed DEP Bureau Director of Land & Water Quality. Mr. Fiske reported that he appreciated everyone's forbearance between administrations. He provided a brief description of his background and noted his first consideration is understanding, in depth, what the Department currently does, and the overall processes in place. Mr. Fiske discussed what he would like to accomplish. He identified there is the need to understand the fiscal constraints that wastewater treatment plants are under and indicated feedback from the MWWCA is welcomed to highlight some areas where there may be a disconnect. Mr. Fiske stated he would like to work with MWWCA on bond issues and wants to be sure to understand what's happening with SRF funding and legislature relating to bond issues. He would like feedback on incentive grants versus loans and asked for thoughts and observations from the Executive Committee. Al noted that MWWCA will be having a formal meeting with him at a later time, however, the floor was opened to the Executive Committee for comments and concerns. Discussion took place around the table with committee's comments/concerns with DEP.

Brian Kavanah apologized on the length of time it took to get back on the bacteria standards. Brian reported on the bacteria and the ambient standards. Discussion took place on the different models DEP considered and what they finally decided on. Brian reported that they will get the final on paper within the next few weeks and come back to MWWCA for review prior to finalization. Discussion took place on the standards.

Brian further reported on newly formed environmentalists group, Environments Maine. At a meeting with DEP, Environments Maine provided a draft on why they think Maine needs higher penalties for polluters. Upon review, the DEP pointed out that not everything included in the report appeared to be factually correct. They agreed to work with DEP to present correct facts and hold off on releasing this report until some time in January. Environment Maine's proposal suggests that Maine should adopt a policy similar to New Jersey's, that include fines and penalties for polluting. For more information on the slant in their report, it can be viewed on their website at www.environmentmaine.org.

VI. **Old Business:**

A. **Budgets:** Al reported that if there are any purchases from this year that were not submitted to the Treasurer, please forward them to Vivian. NEWEA registration will be done all together on a purchase order so NEWEA can bill MWWCA and the monies can come out in 2004. Joan Kiszely reported that she

spoke with Marty Hanish and they feel if people are going to use a debit card, there would be too many liability issues and it was not recommended.

B. Items to be carried over for 2004: Vivian Matkivich reported that funds for Ops Challenge, scholarship donations and deferred funds from dues will be carried over to 2004.

VII. Committee Reports:

Ops Challenge: Vivian had no report. Tony Gordon reported that most of the equipment is at the Saco plant. There are two teams this year. One team is Pump Fiction Retreads, and they have met a few times. Vivian reported that last year, the Ops Challenge team received pipe from EJ Prescott as a donation. Tony will write a letter to EJP to ask if they will donate the pipe to the Ops Challenge team. Vivian thought it would be a good idea to mention a thank you will be published in the NEWWN newsletter. The name of the other team has not been selected yet.

1st Vice President: Darold reported that he is planning a retreat for the Executive Committee to take place on February 5 – 6, 2004. The location will be the Meadowmere Resort in Ogunquit. Darold distributed brochures to the Executive Committee for their review. Darold will distribute the agenda for the retreat at the January meeting. He noted that Joan Kiszely worked a deal to make the retreat affordable and possible. The Executive Committee will discuss goals for 2004, will review the current Strategic Plan and see where MWWCA stands. They will also look at lobbyist scenarios to see if the association is getting the most out of that position. Mac felt member communications may be a good subject. Darold may have something on expanding website use and watershed issues. Discussion took place on additional agenda items. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee that the retreat will serve in place of the February Executive Committee meeting. Darold noted that everyone will get a single room. If anyone wants to upgrade, they can cover the cost on their own.

Awards: Mary Waring had no report.

Government Affairs: Mike Grove reported that he attended the Natural Resources Committee (NRC) workshop on the bacteria criteria. This issue will impact the membership. The DEP was expected to report back to the NRC with comments. The Commissioner expects to have a resolution to the Gulf Island Pond water quality issues. Cruise ship issue is another hot item. Janet asked if he received the EPA blended policy and wanted to know if MWWCA wants to comment as an association. Discussion took place on the blended effluent issue and whether MWWCA should write a letter of support for this policy. Deadline on the support paper is January 9th. Discussion took place on certain issues in the policy. Vivian Matkivich made a motion that MWWCA will send a draft letter of support within the next two weeks regarding the EPA blending policy, to the

effect that it is an environmentally important issue to the Executive Committee. Tony Gordon seconded the motion. All approved.

Residuals: Jeff Pinette reported that the Committee met in November and provided the draft minutes to the Executive Committee. The Committee needs to address the fact that a DEP representative has not been at their meeting since the beginning of the year. DEP does not feel it is appropriate to attend unless invited. Jeff stated he will proactively attempt to address having a DEP representative at the future residuals meetings.

Jeff just received NEBRA correspondence regarding a national request for a moratorium on spreading sludge. The Committee is working on a response. MOFGA published their anti-sludge report. Residuals will be working on a response to MOFGA. Their policy is anti-sludge spreading.

Another item the Residuals Committee is working on is the fundraising for the White Paper. The letter is drafted and they figured out how to collect the donations. Pledges will be sent to MMA to be placed in a Residuals account and when that effort is completed, one check will be cut to the George Mitchell center. Because MWWCA does not want to carryover any donations in 2003, the Residuals Committee will delay mailing the letter until the beginning of January so the carryover will be a non-issue.

This week, Jeff had a focus discussion with John Peckenham to address comments that Jamie received on fundraisers. The Committee updated its goal statement which Jeff provided to the Executive Committee. The Committee agreed with Mr. Peckingham that he will cut back to focus on the regulatory issue and will save assessment of best practices for a future White Paper effort. This will limit the direction it would go in. Discussion on the fundraising letter and amendments to the letter.

Personnel Advancement: Janet Abrahamson reported that Greg Wood agreed to present a session at the Spring Conference. Janet also felt that it would be a good idea to do a basic training on the MEPDES permit.

Laboratory: Dave Anderson reported that there was nothing new. The Committee will meet again in January.

2nd Vice President: Vivian Matkivich had no report.

Membership: Chuck Applebee reported that he spoke with Terry Pinto at Rockland and will send a membership packet to Rockland. Chuck will work with MMA on public works departments who have municipal wastewater plants and try to encourage them to join. Howard Carter mentioned that he may want to recruit the MS4 communities. Al Jellison reported that there were 610 members for 2003.

Public Relations: Mac Richardson reported that he has not seen the NEWWN yet, but it is due out any time. Mac reminded everyone that the deadlines are the 10th of the odd months.

Collection Systems: Lenny Blanchette was not present- no report.

Pretreatment: Ron LeTarte was not present. Vivian Matkivich reported that they had a meeting on December 11th and the Committee members are interested in what Dick Darling is planning to do with the \$40,000.00 from the Security grant money. Brian was requested to find out and report back at the next meeting.

JETCC: No report.

Convention: Tom Wiley reported that there was a change of date for the Spring Conference as Jeff's catering double booked the May 14th date. The new date is April 30th. Point Sebago will forward a contract for the Fall Convention some time in January. Tom noted that Joan Kiszely did a site visit at the Four Points Sheraton in Bangor as a possible future site for the Spring Conference.

Web Master: Steve Lane reported that he is in need of some new content for the MWWCA website. Anyone who has some new information, please get it to Steve for placement on the website. Steve indicated he could post information within 24 hours of receipt. He sought clarification on posting of the MWWCA Executive Committee minutes. It was agreed that the final minutes are to be posted to the site once they are sent to him from MMA. Vivian noted that some people have been having a hard time finding the yahoo group link.

Industrial Representative: Mike Barden was absent – no report.

Past President: Howard Carter congratulated Al Jellison on a fine year.

Safety: Andy Rudzinski was absent – no report.

VIII. Other Business:

a. 2004 Budget: Darold noted that there were changes under the general fund transfer and retreat line items. Mac Richardson made a motion to create a revenue and expense account for the Residuals White Paper. Vivian Matkivich seconded the motion. All approved.

Mac Richardson moved to approve the 2004 budget. Darold Wooley seconded the motion. All approved.

b. Year-End Review: Al Jellison thanked the Executive Committee for all their hard work over the last year and officially handed the gavel over to Darold Wooley.

c. Other:

Janet reported that there was a regulation passed by the FCC last year that will go into effect January 13th. It dealt with no more expansion on wide band communications applications. This will affect 22,000 small and rural communities. Janet will give the national comments to the Executive Committee.

IX. Adjourn: Mike Grove made a motion to adjourn. Darold Wooley seconded the motion. All approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.