

MAINE WASTE WATER CONTROL ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, March 21, 2003
Maine Municipal Association, Augusta

Present: Al Jellison, Darold Wooley, Vivian Matkivich, Howard Carter, David Anderson, Mac Richardson, Janet Abrahamson, Leonard Blanchette, Tom Wiley, Jeff Pinnette, Mary Waring, Greg Cataldo, Karen Brown-Mohr, Joan Kiszely, Nancy Sargent

Absent: Mike Farmer, Brad Moore, Paul Wintle, Andy Rudzinski, Scott Clukey, Steve Lane, Brian Kavanah, Ron LeTarte, Mike Barden

- I. **Call to Order:** Al Jellison called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

- II. **Approval of the Minutes from the February 21, 2003 Meeting:** Darold Wooley made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2003 meeting, as amended. Janet Abrahamson seconded the motion. All approved.

- III. **Treasurer's Report:** Vivian Matkivich reported on financial reports for the period ending January 31, 2003 and February 28, 2003. She noted that a few accounts were missing from the list of accounts on the January report, but this was corrected for the February report. Revenues for January were \$16,039.96. and for February were \$15,420.05. Mac Richardson made a motion to accept the financial reports for the periods ending January 31, 2003 and February 28, 2003. Darold Wooley seconded the motion. All approved.

Vivian noted that she asked MMA to put the information regarding registration as a non-profit organization in the MWWCA Administration Guide. Al Jellison said that he would also like a copy of the annual tax return in the Guide.

- IV. **NEWEA State Director's Report:** Greg Cataldo reported that the WEF Congressional Briefing is on track. He is scheduling appointments with congressional delegates and/or their aides, but the war is keeping them busy. Mary Waring had the Clean Water Week posters framed. She showed an example to the Executive Committee. Al will bring them to Senator Collins' and Representative Michaud's Bangor offices to get these through security and transported to Washington in time for the Briefing.

- V. **DEP Representative:** Brian Kavanah was absent. Al Jellison distributed the DEP O&M Newsletter for August 2002. Janet wanted to discuss the way Maine DEP requires that all grab samples for chlorine residual in one calendar day be averaged and reported as a daily average. The maximum daily concentration for the month would be the highest average day. Vivian suggested that the DEP's article be reprinted in the MWWCA paper. Mac Richardson will have something placed in the paper on the matter. Mac advised that he would summarize it, send it to Dennis Merrill and make sure he has no problem with it. Greg Cataldo felt it

would be wiser to just make mention of where it can be found on the MWWCA website rather than take up copy space with an article or summation.

Al Jellison reported that MWWCA sent a letter to DEP supporting JETCC funding. DEP replied that they are going to provide some funding for JETCC – \$20,000 in 2003 and \$10,000 in 2004. Al Jellison and Darold Wooley were invited to the JETCC board meeting two weeks ago and found that JETCC's board is looking at how to obtain other sources of funding. Discussion took place on the JETCC funding issues.

V. Old Business:

A. Spring Conference:

1. Status: Tom Wiley reported that as of this morning, there were 60 registrants. He noted that last year there were 140 registrants. Numbers are down, but there are still three weeks until the registration deadline. Session E & F will not be credited for water treatment operator training credit. Water treatment operators will be able to obtain a total of 3.5 credits, compared to 4.5 hours for wastewater operators. Janet will email information about available training credits to her email lists. Tom's committee has worked out the room logistics and the AV equipment is lined up. Al noted that the Clean Water Week poster winners have been chosen and the finalist posters will be displayed at the Spring Conference. Janet noted that the Maine Water Utilities Association may place a reminder regarding MWWCA's Spring Conference on their website, and also advise on the credit information. Tom Wiley reviewed the planned lunch menu with the Committee. Tom noted that there is a Pretreatment Committee meeting at MMA on April 3rd and they can assist in getting items up to Brewer for Friday's general meeting. Janet noted that there are moderators for all sessions. She will provide a list to Joan Kiszely. It was noted that Bruce Berger is leaving Wright -Pierce and going into business for himself. Janet advised Jeff Pinnette that Wright- Pierce might want to keep a representative on the Personnel Advancement Committee. Jeff will take that information back to Wright Pierce. Jeff noted that Wright Pierce would continue to provide the signs for the Fall Convention.

2. Award Recipients: Mary Waring noted that four EPA award recipients have been invited to the Conference. Mary asked about the free lunch/registration deduction for award receipts. She has already OK'd a \$20 deduction for Skip Clough. WEF/NEWEA award winners will also be invited. Greg Cataldo will provide a list to MMA as to who is eligible for a free lunch/registration reduction. Mary wanted the Executive Committee to provide direction on what to do with WEF/NEWEA Quarter Century Club members who were elected this year. A Motion to extend an invitation to the Life Member, Quarter Century Award and WEF and other national award recipients to the Spring Conference for a reduced

registration was made by Al Jellison. Mary Waring seconded the motion. 0 yes votes, 10 no votes, 2 abstain. Motion did not carry.

Further discussion took place on award recipients and free lunch/registration deductions. Mary Waring read the current policy for registration reductions for award recipients.

Mary Waring made a motion not to re-present the life member and quarter century club WEF/NEWEA awards to the respective recipients at the Spring Conference. Vivian Matkivich seconded the motion. 10 yes votes, 2 abstained. Motion carried.

B. Marine D.O. Standard Update. It appears that DEP does not know what direction they are going to go with this, but they hope to have resolution on this matter by October. Stakeholders have been discussing a variety of topics. One proposal of concern to wastewater operators would require operators to monitor receiving waters for D.O. in the winter as well as other seasons. Janet Abrahamson noted that DEP has already sent a proposal to the legislature about regulation of phosphorous in impoundments. Al Jellison noted that a small stakeholders group has formed to discuss this matter. Howard Carter noted that the larger marine stakeholders group would meet once a month for the time being.

D. Legislative status: Jeff Pinnette reported on two anti-sludge recycling bills that were introduced at the beginning of February. There was a great turnout of treatment plant operators who testified against the two bills. One bill was dropped and the other was revised to the point where landspreading and composting programs should not be greatly affected. The amendment will drop License By Rule for out of state compost sales (Class A Biosolids). He believed that the resulting legislation was slotted to be voted on this week. He noted that it was a great effort on the part of a great many people. Al Jellison congratulated Jeff on the work he accomplished. Al noted that he was surprised with the negative talk about MWWCA when he attended the hearings on the sludge bills. Mary Waring asked Jeff Pinnette if changes were going to be made on DEP Chapter 419 rules in order for the amendment to be promulgated. Will the rule have to be re-opened? Jeff noted that the Legislature was amending the Maine State Regulations, not Chapter 419. However, how DEP chooses to implement the revised law could mean re-opening the rule.

Vivian Matkivich reported that LD 134, MWWCA's proposal to require dental amalgam separators and Maine Dental Association's similar bill went to joint public hearing last Wednesday. The Natural Resources Committee will amend the Maine Dental Association bill and move it forward. Andy Rudzinski and Ron LeTarte met with DEP and the Maine Dental Association this week to work out

compromise language on the bill. Al Jellison distributed an e-mail from Ron LeTarte on how the amended LD will look.

Janet asked if anyone had comments on LD 437, which allows leasing of sewer districts property. Mac noted that seeing how we did not have any real information on the bill it was not worth the negative impact to fight it.

VII. Committee Reports:

- a. **Awards:** Mary Waring reported that the Clean Water Week posters have been framed. Mary recommended that MWWCA go to a standard poster frame size because the cost of framing has significantly increased. Costs exceeded \$100 each this year.

The awards for the Spring Conference will be ready on March 25th. Mary looked into creating a life member award plaque. It will cost \$150 for room for 36 names and engraving for the current twelve members. The Past President's plaque is full and a new one will have to be ordered. She reviewed the prices with the Committee. Mac Richardson made a motion that Mary be allowed to order the plaques. Lenny Blanchette seconded the motion. All approved. It was the consensus that the new Past President's Plaque will have enough space for 48 names that will have black plates to match the life member plaque. Mary noted that the awards budget is over budget. .

- b. **First Vice President:** Darold Wooley reported that no applications have been submitted from Maine students for the Stockholm Jr. Water Prize. Darold suggested that we try again next year. We may possibly do a second mailing as a reminder. It was suggested that it might be better to target the science teachers for next year's mailing.

Darold further reported that at the last meeting on the electronic reporting, it looks like DEP will address the issues of the ease of reporting. The only thing they will not address is taking the information directly from spreadsheets, rather than requiring entries into a database. Discussion took place regarding DEP's data reporting plans.

- d. **NEWEA:** Greg Cataldo distributed a brochure for the NEWEA Operations Challenge Training Day 03, which will take place on April 26, 2003 in Franklin, New Hampshire. Greg also distributed the proposed position paper brochure for the Committee to review. Darold Wooley added a bullet item to the position paper on mercury air pollution and asked Greg to add it to the final version of the brochure.
- e. **JETCC:** Scott Clukey was not present - no report.
- f. **Convention:** Tom Wiley had nothing further to report.

- f. **Past President:** No report.
- g. **Residuals Management:** Jeff Pinnette reported that there have been two meetings this year. Jeff alerted the committee of the formation of the Maine Sludge Alliance. The group seems to have been precipitated out of the Whitefield issue. Their web address is www.mainesludgealliance.org. The Residuals Management Committee will audit it.

The Committee has completed its written response to the Toxics Action Coalition white paper. This response is on MWWCA's website. Mac noted that it is intended to give operators information on how to respond to specific questions during public hearings, etc. Jeff noted that there are many people on the Committee that contributed to that issue

Jeff reported that the biosolids stockpile study is under way. John Peckenham of the George Mitchell Center is the lead investigator. Jim Nadeau is the graduate student specifically doing the research. Jeff noted that what DEP will do with the results is the big uncertainty now that the stockpiling rule deadline has passed.

Jeff explained that a lot of the anti-sludge recycling sentiment in Maine has to do with some material from Massachusetts that was brought in. The issue has focused discussion on Class A (compost) where before most opposition was to Class B (landspreading). Discussion on these matters took place.

Jeff spoke about his committee's goals for the year. Their first priority will be to help facilitate a white paper by the George Mitchell Center. The working title of the paper is "Wastewater Treatment Residuals: Options for Public Policy." John Peckenham has hopes to obtain grant funding to cover most of the expenses. Consensus of the Executive committee was that MWWCA might also provide some funding for this project.

Another goal of the Committee is to monitor anti-sludge legislation. This has required quite an effort over the last two months. He further reported that Ned Beecher of NEBRA is working on a biosolids project and a technical session for the Fall Convention.

Jeff reported that the committee hopes to meet with the Maine Organic Growers and Farmers Association (MOGFA) to review past issues that led MWWCA to stop participating in the Common Ground Fair. He hopes we can develop a positive rather than negative association.

- h. **Communications:** Mac Richardson reported that the MWWCA paper is all set for next month. He reviewed articles to be included in the issue. He also noted that for the deadline for the following issue is May 10. There will be an update on river watershed permitting. Mac wanted to get input from the Executive

Committee on his opinion pieces entitled, “On My Soap Box .” He is considering writing an editorial called “Dear Commissioner. ” It would point out things that he would like DEP to focus on this year. He described some of the items and the Committee did not express any opinions to the negative. Tom Wiley noted that the letter in the last issue on JETCC was very good. Al Jellison noted that MWWCA officers would be meeting with the Commissioner to discuss some of MWWCA’s issues.

- i. **Laboratory**: David Anderson reported that his committee had a meeting with Malcolm Burson regarding the Maine DEP’s proposed Performance Standards for Laboratory Work. They found out that DEP has been prompted to do this because the U.S. EPA requires that all states have a quality management plan for their whole environmental process. DEP will first concentrate on laboratory data submitted to them. David provided the minutes to the meeting to those who were interested. DEP will require all wastewater treatment facilities to have laboratory procedure SOPs and a written Quality Assurance Plan. There was further discussion on procedures for writing quality assurance plans. Al Jellison noted that DEP wants enough documentation so that any test result can stand up in court. David noted that Malcolm has acted on some issues that were brought up during the meeting. Janet gave several examples. Dr. Burson suggested the formation of a lab stakeholders group consisting of Maine Rural Water Association, AMEL, MWWCA, and DEP. They will probably meet some time in the fall. Dave noted that he submitted a draft of the meeting minutes to Dr. Burson and Malcolm had his comments back to him within a half hour. It made the committee realize that DEP is committed to this project.

The Lab Committee will review the MWWCA lab manual for use by member plants that need written SOPs for their labs.

Janet noted that it is EPA that is pushing this matter. Janet shared information given to her by Phyllis Rand about an EPA website that lists test procedures and SOPs.

- j. **Personnel Advancement**: Janet Abrahamson reviewed current plans for technical sessions during the Spring Conference report.
- k. **Operations Challenge**: Vivian Matkivich reported on an organization meeting planned for next week. She reported that they would probably have a four-person team.
- l. **2nd Vice President**: Vivian Matkivich had no report.
- m. **Membership**: Paul Wintle was not present. Al Jellison reported that as of March 21st, there are 586 members for a total membership dues intake of \$25,075.

- n. **Legislative Update:** Karen Brown-Mohr reported on the mercury bills work session held yesterday by the Natural Resources Committee. The legislature has directed DEP to list available dental amalgam separator vendors on their website. The legislature will vote on LD 697 rather than MWWCA's proposal.

Vivian Matkivich inquired about the Sanitary District Bill (LD 437). Karen has contacted the attorney who wrote it. He advised Karen that it was about leasing equipment to a group of districts. The attorney refused to say who is behind the bill. The Executive Committee would like Karen to find out more about this bill. Otherwise, if asked, she is to say that we oppose it.

- o. **Collection Systems:** Leonard Blanchette had no report.
- p. **Public Relations:** Brad Moore was not present – no report.
- q. **Safety:** Andy Rudzinski was not present – no report.
- r. **Web Master:** Steve Lane was not present – no report.
- s. **Industrial Representative:** Mike Barden was absent – no report.
- t. **Pretreatment:** Ron LeTarte was not present – no report.
- u. **Government Affairs:** Mike Farmer was not present – no report.

VIII. Other Business:

Al Jellison reported that the DEP can no longer print four-part DMRs, therefore you need to make three copies. Keep one and submit the rest.

MMA Contract: Al reported that MWWCA has received a new MMA Purchase of Service Agreement. At the time the budget was set, we expected a \$200 increase. The actual figure of the new contract is \$8,322.50 vs. the \$8,200.00 in the budget. Al noted that there is more money under the MMA Services line item, and this could help cover the \$122.50 increase. Al has the next two year's proposed contracts as well. Joan discussed the new contract structure. Darold Wooley made a motion to accept the MMA contract for 2003. Tom Wiley seconded the motion. All approved.

Other:

Al noted that the next Executive Committee meeting would be in May. He hopes to see everyone at the Spring Conference.

Al and Darold will prepare a list of the best MWWCA mottoes proposed so far and bring those mottoes to the Fall Convention for the membership to see.

Adjourn: Howard Carter made a motion to adjourn. Tom Wiley seconded the motion. All approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.