

Maine WasteWater NEWS



May 2012 • Spring

A Publication of the Maine WasteWater Control Association

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The President's Corner

By Jeff McBurnie, President, MWWCA

At a recent meeting I attended, the following statement was made: 'As a society we are more in contact, yet we are poorer as communicators.' Despite the explosion of options in communications technologies, there is often a failure to know when and/or how to communicate. In fact, technology has actually enhanced our ability to avoid interaction with our fellow human beings thanks to innovations like voicemail, caller ID, mail filtering, and call blocking. With the click of a button or the checking of a box, we can instantly build a wall between ourselves and those that need or want to communicate with us. But that's a rant for another day.

Many problems exist today because we don't communicate, often because we may mistakenly believe communication isn't necessary. "That's so obvious; I shouldn't have to tell someone that" and "I just assumed you (everyone) knew that" are just a couple of examples of, for lack of a better term, excuses for not communicating. Many a rift has been started - in politics, business, and every day family life - because of this type of thinking. I feel quite confident in saying the vast majority of us are not telepathic. Sometimes even the simplest conversation or communication can provide clarity, improve productivity, and help avoid misunderstandings or disputes.

Our hesitation to speak to or write to others often results from lack of comfort. We don't know how to express ourselves well, at least in our own minds, and therefore put off communicating or refuse to do it at all. With so many tools available to us, the only thing holding us back is ourselves. We just have to bear down and, to quote one of the greatest philosophers of our time, just 'Git 'er done!'

The point of the opening quote is that despite having devices that make it easier to communicate, we don't take advantage of the convenience and time savings of those devices in order to become better communicators. To put it in its simplest terms, communications, like any skill, can only go so far on natural ability. To advance and become an achiever, we have to commit to doing better, actually put some time into it, and most importantly, practice!

One last thought. Most of the best communicators are good listeners. We at Maine Wastewater are ready to listen to what you have to say. Practice your communication skills today by letting us know how we can improve **your** organization to better serve you and all our Association members.

Let's talk! 

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*For a complete Board Listing,
please visit the MWWCA website at:

www.mwwca.org

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

June 15 – 9:00 A.M.
Monthly Meeting – MMA

July 27 – 9:00 A.M.
Monthly Meeting – TBD

Update on Water Quality-Related Initiatives Which May Impact Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations

By Bill Taylor, Pierce Atwood

In 2009, Mac Richardson asked me to write a short article highlighting new water quality initiatives that had the potential to impact wastewater treatment plant operations. At that time, I focused on the recently proposed Atlantic salmon listing and Maine DEP's new DeTox Program. Those two regulatory initiatives are still important permitting factors and worthy of update. Since 2009, there have been many other water quality-related initiatives undertaken, two of which warrant discussion: the proposed nutrient rule for fresh waters and the arsenic and toxics rulemaking. A brief summary of each of these regulatory initiatives is provided below.

Endangered Species Listings

As I noted in my 2009 article, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fishery Service ("federal fisheries agencies") proposed, and ultimately listed Atlantic salmon as an endangered species on the upper Penobscot, Kennebec and Androscoggin Rivers. The July 2009 listing affected approximately 85 MPDES permittees in those watersheds. While the federal fisheries agencies' focus has been on hydropower and connectivity impacts, several meetings have been held to discuss whether Maine's water quality/MPDES permitting programs are sufficiently protective of Atlantic salmon.

Of particular concern may be discharges which are not regularly tested, including CSOs and other stormwater-related dischargers. The National Marine Fishery Service is also apparently conducting toxicity tests on Atlantic salmon to determine whether Maine's Brook Trout testing protocols are sufficiently protective. Gulf of Maine Atlantic sturgeon were listed as threatened in early 2012. Alewives and Blueback Herring are proposed for listing. It is expected

that because of these listings and proposed listings, dischargers will face additional scrutiny and it is likely that the federal fisheries agencies will focus on select MPDES permits in the future.

DEP DeTox Program and Metals Limits

In 2009, Maine DEP had begun to implement new procedures for calculating toxic pollutant limits in MPDES permit. The DEP's "DeTox" program has resulted in new toxics limits either based on reasonable potential to exceed a criterion or actual exceedances of a criterion. New DeTox assumptions and calculations include: use of 10% of the ambient water quality criteria as background and a 15% reserve for non-point source contributions and future growth. In addition, the remaining 75% of the water quality criteria is now allocated among all dischargers in the watershed.

As a result of feedback on the new program from several dischargers and their associations, including Maine Wastewater Control Association, DEP has agreed that the 15% reserve may be used where that use would eliminate a reasonable potential or exceedance. DEP is also about to begin a stakeholder process to look at options for developing site-specific criteria, primarily for metals. A key goal of this process is to allow dischargers having trouble meeting new toxics limits to develop new criteria based on local water chemistry. It will be important for municipal dischargers to be engaged in this stakeholder process.

Arsenic and other Water Quality Rulemakings

Many municipalities were concerned about the imposition of arsenic limitations either as a result of the application of the existing water quality criteria or sludge utilization standards.

There is no EPA approved test method for inorganic arsenic, the portion of arsenic that is regulated under state of Maine rules. DEP assumed one half of total arsenic was inorganic and required testing of total arsenic. Again, a group of dischargers, including Maine Wastewater Control Association, developed draft legislation to revise the inorganic arsenic criteria. After several meetings, the group gained the support of the Maine DEP and the state toxicologist. The legislature approved the changes in May of 2011 and Maine DEP began Chapter 584 rulemaking shortly thereafter. The proposed rule has gone through several iterations and is currently being finalized with EPA Region 1 which must approve the rule change. The prior inorganic arsenic criteria was 0.014 ppb. The new inorganic arsenic criteria is likely to be 1.2 ppb, an 80 fold increase despite a significant increase in the fish consumption rate for high consumers.

DEP is also proposing to amend Chapter 530 to eliminate concentration-based limits unless required by an effluent limitation guideline. This change should help several dischargers maintain compliance.

DEP's Proposed Nutrient Rule

As many of you will recall, DEP held a series of stakeholder meetings and two public hearings on proposed freshwater nutrient criteria (Chapter 583). The rulemaking process was stopped in its tracks when EPA Region 1 objected to the use of instream response variables for determining attainment status. Almost two years later, EPA has apparently reversed that decision and has indicated that DEP's rule does pass muster under the Clean Water Act. EPA has suggested a few changes to the rule. DEP has indicated that it will reconvene stakeholder discussions

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ON MAC'S SOAPBOX

By Aubrey Strause, Assistant Editor

To mix things up a bit, I asked Mac if I could commandeer his editorial column for this issue, and he kindly agreed, admitting that he could use some more time to replenish his vault of rants. I am taking the “soap box” opportunity to discuss the value of the Association to our members, and challenge or rebut some assumptions.

I've been fortunate enough to be involved with the Personnel Advancement Committee (PAC) since 2004. For those not familiar with the PAC, it is responsible for selecting topics and speakers for the technical sessions at our Spring Conference and Fall Convention. It is usually rewarding for me as PAC Chair to hear comments from conference attendees and to read the evaluations that we receive, but it can also be frustrating. Statements like “Not useful to me”, “Waste of time”, and “Doesn't relate to my job” are not helpful unless alternative suggestions are also provided. Vendors have often expressed disappointment at the limited face time with participants, and about lack of time dedicated for them to show off their products.

Mac and I hear people say that this newsletter has no value to them, although the same people admit to never actually opening it or reading it. Our many requests over the past years to get news from around the State have resulted in very little feedback. Members of our Executive Committee (EC) are sometimes told that MWWCA is “just for large utilities” or has nothing to offer non-municipal members, neither of which is accurate.

The challenge in front of the EC and several of its subcommittees right now is “How do we change these views?” This was a subject discussed at both Strategic Planning sessions in Orono on April 26, 2012, one aimed at increasing corporate membership and the other on improving public outreach. MWWCA has, in recent

years, expanded ways to let members know about the resources available to them. We have added more information to our website (www.mwwca.org), a tool that will be vastly improved after it is redesigned in the next few months. (Yes, really. We mean it.) We have recently started a feed on Twitter, which will go live as soon as it is working smoothly. Minutes from EC monthly meetings are posted on the website to improve the organization's transparency, and the EC encourages any interested member (or even non-member) to attend these meetings—we'll even do our best to enable you to call in if you're unable to travel.

This newsletter has substantially changed in the last two years, and has increased in size from just a few pages to as many as 15, and not just because we use a larger font. We have introduced new features, like those highlighting operators and members, incorporating JETCC announcements, noting milestone events, and describing projects being completed around the state. We are constantly expanding the newsletter's distribution list so we can get more members engaged in what's going on.

Technical sessions at conferences have expanded beyond O&M to include public relations, communications, administration, health & safety, asset management, climate change, and other topics too numerous to list, and we always hold multiple session tracks with the goal of having something for everyone. At the Fall 2012 Convention, our new Young Professionals Committee will pair up people who are new to the field with experienced mentors, to the benefit of both the member (for networking) and the Association (to develop the next generation of leaders). We'll be offering sessions, methods and tools to promote public outreach and the value of social media for our members and their organizations at our fall convention. Thanks to detailed feedback we've received from

champions within the vendor group, the Association has added more vendor Meet & Greet activities, time slots for these members to hold detailed demonstrations, and will develop training sessions aimed just at these participants.

However, our attempts to update and improve the service MWWCA provides to members will only be as successful as the response we get from those members. No, we can't possibly be all things to all members, but we can't make any course correction if we don't get the feedback to guide it.

This organization is FOR you, the member, because it is BY you, the member. Contact any member of the Executive Committee, <http://www.mwwca.org/execdir.htm>, to learn how you can get involved or to weigh in with the specific changes you want to see. Contact Mac (mrichardson@lawpca.org) and let him know what you want to read about in this newsletter. Contact me (astrause@tataandhoward.com) with suggestions for technical sessions that would be useful to you. Most importantly, get engaged one way or another with this fantastic organization, and take advantage of the talent, knowledge, and leadership available to you. ●

Update cont'd

within the next few months. Marine nutrient criteria are also being developed and a schedule for the stakeholder process was recently circulated by Maine DEP.

The Maine Wastewater Control Association and its members will be monitoring these initiatives closely and will be active participants in any stakeholder meetings. There will always be new water quality regulations affecting municipal dischargers, and if I can stay out of Mac's line of fire on the golf course, I would be happy to provide another update. ●

JETCC Founders Award Seeks Nominees

By Leeann Hanson, JETCC

Chief Operators! Superintendents! Managers! Trustees! Is there an operator or staff member who you can always count on? Who at your facility holds things together in your absence or in a crisis? Consider nominating him or her for the JETCC Founders Award in honor of Jerome "Frenchie" Guevremont.

This award was created to recognize an operator, maintenance worker or laboratory personnel working in a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment plant or system in Maine. It will be presented at the MWWCA Fall Convention at Sugarloaf, September 12-14. Nominations can be made by any superintendent, trustee or member of a governing board/management staff providing oversight to a wastewater system in Maine. For more details or to request a nomination form please contact:

JETCC Board of Directors
PO Box 487
Scarborough, ME 04070-0487
Phone: 207/253-8020 Fax: 207/771-9028
Email: jetcc@maine.rr.com

Deadline for nominations is June 15. The recipient will be presented the JETCC Founders Award at the MWWCA Fall Convention by a JETCC representative. ●



Staff from the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority participated in the First Annual Urban Runoff 5K in Portland on April 21, 2012. This 5-kilometer road race and Earth Day celebration at Deering High School raised money to support clean water education in Greater Portland and Saco schools. The event was organized by the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District. Many MWWCA members supported the event as sponsors, volunteers, runners, and organizers." Left to right: P. Drouin (LAWPCA), V. Matkivich (LAWPCA), F. Dillon (City of South Portland), C. Taylor (LAWPCA)

Pump Clogging SOP

By Aubrey Strause, Assistant Editor

Over the last year, MWWCA has been actively involved in addressing the impacts of non-woven fabric consumer products (i.e., wipes, and similar items) on sewer systems, including supporting legislation to require labeling and manufacturing changes on a national basis. While positive momentum has developed, the efforts have not been completely successful, based partially on limited written documentation of pump clog cause/effect relationship.

To address this need, MWWCA has developed a Pump Clogging Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) with input from the WEF Collection Systems Committee and other entities, nationally. Scott Firmin (Portland Water District) and Aubrey Strause (Tata & Howard) introduced this SOP at the MWWCA Spring Conference in Orono, ME. The objective of the SOP is to document the specific materials that are removed from clogged pumps and other sewer obstructions in order to develop a deeper understanding of the issue and a cause/effect relationship. The data collected will help support MWWCA discussions with manufacturers of the non-woven fabric consumer products and justify the changes that MWWCA and other groups are requesting.

MWWCA needs your help to build this database. The SOP is available on the MWWCA website at www.mwwca.org/PumpClogSOP.htm. It is already being implemented at several communities in Maine, California and New Jersey. Data will be managed by Scott Firmin for now, but the objective is that WEF will eventually provide this support. ●

Call for Abstracts for MWWCA Fall 2012 Convention

The Personnel Advancement Committee is planning technical sessions for the Fall 2012 Convention, to be held at Sugarloaf on September 12-14, 2012. The Convention theme will be "Resources at Your Fingertips", intended to connect members with knowledge, programs, services, and expertise available to them. If you have ideas for a speaker or a topic that fits this theme, please e-mail a brief description of the proposed session to Aubrey Strause at astrause@tataandhoward.com no later than **Friday, June 8**. Topics can have an operational, maintenance, planning, administration, funding, engineering, asset management, public relations, or any other focus that relates to the industry. Sessions and speakers will be contacted and finalized by the PAC shortly thereafter. ●

Young Professionals Committee Seeking Members and Mentors

By Paula Drouin, YP Committee Chair

At the spring conference the Young Professionals (YP) Committee became official and the response was extremely positive. Several people told me how important they feel a YP group is to the Association and one commented that "it's about time" one was formed. People also started signing up to be included in future activities and events. I am excited to be a part of this movement and feel fortunate to have others on board who share the same enthusiasm. The mission of the committee is to attract and engage new professionals by creating an active environment of learning, networking and leadership. The committee will serve as an interface between these new professionals and the association. We've been working hard to develop ideas to carry out this mission, and we're really getting the ball rolling!

One event currently being planned is a mentor/mentee program for the fall convention. At the convention, a young professional will be paired with a mentor who will guide them through the event. The YP will be shown where vendor areas and technical sessions are located. They will also have the opportunity to ask questions and gather knowledge from their mentor. This guidance will tremendously reduce any stress associated with being a new convention attendee; therefore, increase the value and impact the event will have.

The mentor/mentee program is going to be a fantastic kick off event for the YP group, and you can be a part of it! The committee is currently looking for YP members and mentors. Please contact me if you would like more information about getting involved. Email: pdrouin@lawpca.org or call 207-782-0917.

APWA Highway Congress to be Held in Skowhegan

By Leeann Hanson, JETCC

The Maine Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) welcomes water and wastewater operators to participate in the Annual Highway Congress on June 7 in Skowhegan! This is a fun annual event where you can interact with the public works personnel who are essential your own work. New this year are training activities for water and wastewater operators to receive continuing education credits. Visit the JETCC booth to learn about more educational resources available to you!

A registration form is available at <http://www.mcapwa.org/hc/2012/HighwCongr6-7-12.pdf> or by calling JETCC. For more information visit <http://www.mcapwa.org/hc/hwaycong.html>

Management Candidate School Updates

By Leeann Hanson, JETCC

Are you interested in management training? Our 4th Management Candidate School begins in October! Contact JETCC if you would like to participate!

Maine's third Management Candidate School with 19 water & wastewater operators will graduate at the Fall MWWCA Convention at Sugarloaf, September 12-14! This nationally recognized 12-month course is organized through JETCC has been co-sponsored by MWWCA, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Water Utilities Association (MWUA) and Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

UPCOMING 2012 EVENTS:

****JETCC "BOD, Metabolism, ORP and Sludge Production & Troubleshooting the Activated Sludge Process with a Microscope****

May 21, 2012 – Maine Municipal Association, Augusta, ME

****NEWEA Spring Meeting and Exhibit****

June 3-6, 2012 – Newport Marriott in Newport, RI

****Maine Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA)'s Annual Highway Congress****

June 7, 2012 – Skowhegan, ME

****United States Stockholm Jr. Water Prize Competition****

June 14-16, 2012 – Hilton Logan Airport Hotel, Boston, MA

****MWWCA Fall Convention****

September 12-14 – Sugarloaf USA, Carrabassett Valley, ME

****NEBRA/NEWEA Biosolids and Energy Conference****

September 23-24 – Amherst, MA

Emerging Pollutants of Concern

by Steve Clifton, Underwood Engineers and Mike Serard, Eastern Analytical, Inc.

There is a new group of chemicals that operators should be aware that have the potential to be included in future NPDES permit conditions. These chemicals are generally referred to as “contaminants of emerging concern” (CECs). You may have heard of them as pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs), steroids and hormones. These contaminants have been measured in receiving streams and WWTF effluents. Research has suggested that some of these contaminants may cause ecological harm. The EPA website indicates that to date, no evidence has been found of human health effects from PPCPs in the environment.

These pollutants, among others, are being investigated by EPA (<http://www.epa.gov/ppcp/>) in an orderly manner:

1. Strengthening scientific knowledge
2. Improving public understanding
3. Building partnerships for stewardship
4. Taking regulatory action when appropriate

Where do these pollutants come

from? EPA has listed several sources at <http://www.epa.gov/ppcp/pdf/drawing.pdf>, including:

- Human activity (washing, primping, and playing)
- Illicit drugs
- Veterinary drug use, especially antibiotics and steroids
- Commercial agriculture
- Residues from pharmaceutical manufacturing
- Residues from hospitals

As has been the case in the past, EPA generally has approached new limits such as these with a progressive escalation of enforcement. First a wastewater facility may be required to monitor or “report” these pollutants in their permit. Then when there is enough test information to make an informed decision, EPA can act on whether your effluent has reasonable potential to cause water quality violations.

Testing methods

The EPA has developed two new state-of-the-art analytical methods to identify and measure certain

contaminants of emerging concern, specifically; pharmaceuticals and, steroids and hormones in sewage influent, effluent and sludge.

1694 – Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in Water, Soil, Sediment, and Biosolids by HPLC/MS/MS

1698 – Steroids and Hormones in Water, Soil, Sediment, and Biosolids by HRGC/HRMS

These methods currently cover over 100 chemicals, (74 pharmaceuticals and personal care products and 27 steroids-hormones) for your influent, effluent and sludge samples.

It may not be necessary to test for all 74 PCPP’s and 27 steroids/hormones. In fact, a subset of 10 to 15 is suggested by EPA as being more representative for wastewater effluents for screening purposes.

These tests are new and most laboratories are not set up to run them yet, so there is a limited amount of information available. The cost is approximately \$1,200 to \$1,400 per sample per method. Certainly this would be a big impact to your budget since it may be an unplanned expense.

Table 1 - Methods, Containers, Preservation, and Holding Times

Method: Parameter	Matrix	Container	Preservation	Holding Time
1694: PPCPs	Aqueous	1 liter amber glass, Teflon lid	Cool to 4°C	2-7 days
1698: Steroids/Hormones	Aqueous	1 liter amber glass, Teflon lid	Cool to 4°C	2-7 days
1694: PPCPs	Biosolid	8 oz. glass, Teflon lid	Freeze	2-7 days
1698: Steroids/Hormones	Biosolid	8 oz. glass, Teflon lid	Freeze	2-7 days

Table 2 - Analytical Methods and Practical Quantitation Limits

Method: Parameter	Matrix	Practical Quantitation Limits
1694: PPCPs	Aqueous	2-10 ng/L (PPT)
1698: Steroids/Hormones	Aqueous	2-10 ng/L (PPT)
1694: PPCPs	Biosolid	0.1-100 µg/Kg (PPB)
1698: Steroids/Hormones	Biosolid	0.1-100 µg/Kg (PPB)

The following Tables 1 and 2 describe the method, the type of container, preservation and holding times. The practical quantitation limit is also shown for both methods.

The good news is that EPA has performed a literature review of the capability of existing wastewater treatment unit processes to remove some of these types of pollutants. Activated sludge has some success in removing some of the pollutants, with a typical range of 20

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MILESTONES

New Positions and Promotions

The **City of Bangor** Wastewater Treatment Facility recently added two new staff members. Jeremy Linscott has joined the Wastewater Treatment Department as a Sewer Maintenance Technician and Sean Currier will serve as a Sewer Maintenance Supervisor, both in the Collection System division of the department.

The **City of Bangor** also welcomes John Zachary, who has been hired as Mechanic/Operator.

The **Brunswick Sewer District** is pleased to announce several recent staff appointments, promotions, and certifications. Matthew Densmore has been promoted to the newly-created position of Chief of Plant Maintenance in the Treatment Division. Matthew began his career as a Plant Operator in November 1994. He is currently enrolled in the JETCC Management Candidate School program, from which Jennifer Nicholson (Treatment Division Laboratory Technician/Operator) just graduated. Daniel Munsey and Aaron Temple both recently earned Grade II Water Pollution Control Collection System Operator Certifications from NEWEA. Both men started with the District in July 2007 as Plant Operator and Collection and Pumping System Operator, respectively. Thomas Mason has earned a Grade V Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator Certification from Maine DEP. Thomas started with the District as a Plant Operator in June 2002. Lorraine Caron has been promoted to the position of Finance Manager. Lorraine started with the District in August 2009 as the Staff Accountant.

Dan Bicknell, a certified Class V Operator, was recently promoted to Chief Operator and Superintendent at the **Freeport Sewer District**. Dan hails from Windham and is in his seventh year of employment at Freeport's wastewater treatment plant. He has 16 years of wastewa-

ter experience, and spent ten years as Lead Mechanic for the City of Westbrook's Department of Public Works. As a slightly belated Milestone, Jon McCabe of Cumberland was hired in 2011 as an Operator and Safety Officer for the Freeport Sewer District. Jon trained for four years at the Yarmouth wastewater treatment plant before moving to Freeport. Jon recently married; his wife, Kara, is now expecting their first child.

Bret Ryan of Sidney, Maine started in the position of Maintenance Foreman at **Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District** on March 19, 2012. Bret brings a wealth of knowledge in diesel engines, electrical systems, heavy equipment, 3 phase power generation, fabrication and welding as a result of his previous ownership of Northeast Diesel Service and working at Milton Cat in Brewer. He also brings knowledge of budgeting and the personality to lead existing KSTD personnel.

James Galasyn has been awarded the position of lead environmental scientist at the **Portland Water District**.

Josh Cobb recently accepted the position as Superintendent for the **Richmond Utility District**, beginning there on April 17, 2012. Previously, Josh worked in consulting for Woodard & Curran and for SeptiTech, LLC, which manufactures onsite package wastewater treatment systems. He has experiences in wastewater, but this is the first time Josh has worked on the operations side of the industry. Mike Broadbent, formerly in this position, has joined the **Brunswick-Topsham Water District** as the Pumping & Treatment Manager. In this role, he oversees three separate water treatment facilities.

The **City of South Portland** welcomed two new employees recently. Doug Howard joined the City as its Director of Public Works in February 2012. He grew up in, and still lives in, South Portland, and previously worked for the Department for 19 years before

leaving the City to start his own business in 2002. Doug also worked for the City of Saco as Public Works General Superintendent and as Environmental Utilities Supervisor, and was the chair of the MWWCA Collections System Committee for more than two years before joining South Portland.

Paul Collins has also been brought on board with South Portland as the City's Water Resource Protection Department Treatment Systems Manager, replacing Jim Jones, who retired on February 3, 2012. Paul has responsibility for administration, operations, and maintenance of a 9.3 mgd treatment plant, 30 pump stations, and an Industrial Pretreatment Program. His experience includes collection systems operations at Scarborough Sanitary District, plant operation at the Falmouth Sewer Department and Portland Water District, and Chief Operator experience in Somersworth, NH and with the Augusta Sanitary District.

Anniversaries

Leland Arris, a lifelong Freeport resident who graduated with honors from Bowdoin College, is going on four years with the **Freeport Sewer District**. After a stint as Trustee Board Chairman, he was named Freeport Sewer District General Manager in the autumn of 2010. An unabashed environmentalist, Arris initiated several major improvement projects at the District, all of which are designed to protect the Harsseket River and its rich shellfish beds and to reduce the wastewater treatment plant's carbon footprint through energy efficiency projects.

The **Portland Water District** recent held its annual Service Award luncheon where twenty-eight employees were recognized for achieving milestone anniversaries at the District, with a total of 425 years combined at PWD! Congratulations to all of the following: 5 Years: Brian York, Jeff Haskell, Deena Malone-Collom, Re-

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Winterport Water District Operator Receives MWWCA Scholarship

By Aubrey Strause, Assistant Editor

The MWWCA Personnel Advancement Committee (PAC) is pleased to report that it has awarded a scholarship for \$250 to Greg Ireland of the Winterport Water District. Greg is using this scholarship toward the cost of a Basic Structural Welding course at Eastern Maine Community College. He holds a Grade 2 Wastewater License in Maine, and plans to use the welding skills he learns toward maintenance activities at the Winterport facility. Greg was honored for this accomplishment at the MWWCA Spring conference in Orono, Maine. He will be writing a summary of his course for an upcoming issue of this newsletter, so stay tuned!

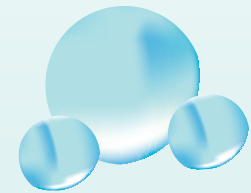
Are you interested in applying for this scholarship, or wondering if it could

defray some training costs at your district? The PAC accepts applications for scholarships on a rolling basis, and reviews applications quarterly. Recipients of the scholarship are reimbursed for up to 85% of the total cost of tuition, materials, registration and other related costs, up to a maximum of \$250 per request.

An individual selected for a scholarship must be a current and active member of the Association. Training programs can include JETCC, NEIETC, technical college courses, and similar offerings. Contact Aubrey Strause, PAC Chair, at astrause@tataandhoward.com to learn more about the scholarship program and eligibility requirements, or visit <http://www.mwwca.org/scholarship.htm> to download an application.

MWWCA E-Mail Database

All current members of MWWCA should receive periodic e-mails, which may include the most recent newsletter, conference and training announcements, or regulatory updates. If you haven't received any e-mails from the organization recently, you may wish to update your information in the distribution list by sending your current e-mail address to Joan Kiszely at jkiszely@memun.org. Don't miss out on the exciting networking and educational opportunities MWWCA provides!



This is your newsletter – if you have news you would like to pass along or an opinion to express that would be of interest to the membership of MWWCA we are always interested in receiving material and will make every effort to incorporate your submissions.

Table 3 - Top 10 CEC Removal Rate Estimates using Activated Sludge

Contaminant of Emerging Concern	Activated Sludge Removal Average (%)
Cephalexin	100
Estriol	99
Fenoprofen	99
Nalidixic Acid	98
Cefaclor	97
Sulfadiazine	97
Thymol	98
Amoxicillin	94
Ofloxacin	85
Celestolide	80
Monensin	80
Traseolide	80
Estrogenic Activity	82

Emerging Pollutants cont'd

to 80% removal rate taken from the database of information available. Table 3 shows the list of CEC's with the highest average removal rates using activated sludge as the unit process.

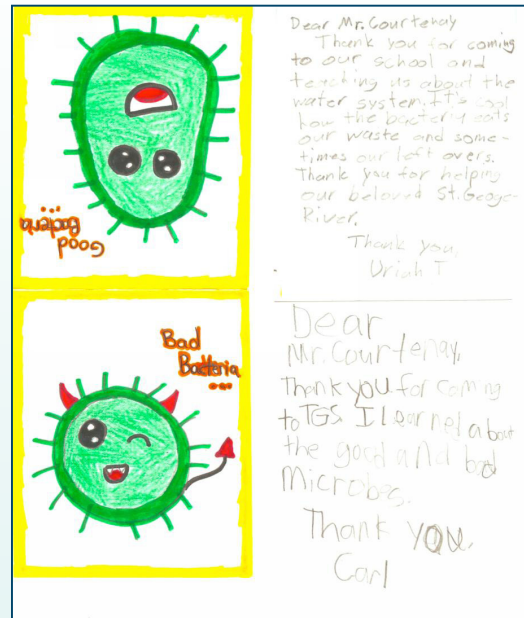
This subject will be of concern as WWTF's are upgraded for the next twenty year period and into the future. You can find more on this subject on the EPA web site for CEC's at: <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/ppcp/results.cfm>.

Thomaston Grammar School Fifth Graders Learn About Microbes

By Matt Timberlake, Public Relations Committee Chair

In late March, John Fancy (Superintendent of the Thomaston Water Pollution Control Facility) and Mike Courtenay (Plant Manager at Warren Sanitary District) went back to grammar school... Thomaston Grammar School, in particular! Here, they gave a presentation on microbes in wastewater treatment to the 5th grade class of Ms. Anne Pavalkis. Ms. Pavalkis teaches a science unit called "Microbe Hunters", in which she shows her class that many of kinds of people can be observers of nature.

After the presentation, Ms. Pavalkis sent a note to say the material was excellent, and that her class was very enthusiastic about the topic! The students were so motivated by John and Mike's talk that MWWCA received more than 20 posters for the Clean Water Week contest from this class, alone. Congratulations to John and Mike on their success, and thanks for reaching out to increase knowledge about the value of the profession! If you're interested in doing something similar in your community, reach out to me at matt@tedberrycompany.com to learn what resources are available to you. 🌊



Milestones cont'd

bekah Sirois, Kate Cole, Shana Lowe, Mary Taylor, Laurel Jackson, Donna Katsiaficas; 10 Years: Mike Baker, Scott Firmin, Gordon Johnson, Mike Espeaignette, John McGilp, Bill Savage, Tina Rowe; 15 Years: George McCallum; 20 Years: Jay Hewett; 25 Years: Skip Ingalls, Jeff McGill, Ned Pierce, Mike Burnham, Dick Graves, Tom Flanagan; 30 Years: Frank Schildroth, Charlie Green, Norman Twaddel; 35 Years: Walter Gillespie.

Retirements

Rodney Knox recently retired as a Mechanic-Operator from the **City of Bangor's** Wastewater Treatment Facility. He served in this position for 37 years, and his knowledge and experience will be missed.

The **City of Bangor** also says goodbye to Mike Perry, who has retired from the Bangor WWTP after 25 years as Sewer Maintenance Supervisor.

Don Thompson is retiring from the **Portland Water District** after 23 years of service. Don began his career with the District in 1989 as assistant chemist, and has spent the last six years as the environmental scientist lead chemist.

Enjoy your well-deserved retirements, Rodney, Mike and Don!

Loss to the Industry

It is sad and shocking to share the news that another member of our working community has passed. Robert W "Bobby" Studley of the **Greater Augusta Utility District** (GAUD) died suddenly and unexpectedly on May 5 at Maine Medical Center in Portland, after suffering a heart attack. Bobby was a 15-year employee of GAUD he was in customer service and was a meter reader. A graduate of Mesalonskee High School, Bobby was born in Augusta on October 5, 1969. He was a Registered Maine Guide and an avid hunter and fisherman, most often taking off from his camp in Jackman. He is survived by his parents, his sister, grandmothers, nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Most especially he will be missed by his daughter, Taylor Studley, of whom he was most proud. A celebration of Bobby's life was held on May 12. Only 42 years of age, Bobby was taken too soon.

Is there a Milestone event you'd like us to include in the Newsletter? Please e-mail the editors at mrichardson@lawpca.org or astrause@tataandhoward.com. 🌊

Portland Water District Elects New Board

By Michelle Clements, Portland Water District

At the Portland Water District Board of Trustees' annual March meeting, Wayne Ross was elected President and Guy Cote was elected vice president. David Kane was reconfirmed as treasurer and Donna Katsiaficas was reconfirmed as clerk.

Ross has been a member of the Board since 2009 and has served in various capacities, most recently as vice president. Ross is President Emeritus of the Southern Maine Community College, following 21 years as President. He represents South Portland and Cape Elizabeth on the Board.

Cote has been a member of the Board since 2009 and has previously served as chair of the operations committee. Cote is President of Sevee & Maher Engineers, where he has worked for the past 26 years. He represents Westbrook on the Board. 🌊

Life Goes On At KSTD

By Tim LeVasseur, Superintendent

I walked into the shop today and Dick told me that he got a CD for our new H7 VFD. We quickly reviewed our history of how much the VFDs have changed in size from the H3 and G3 and now to the H7s.

Then, the front office said our e-mail wasn't working. They thought it could be the DSL line or the IP address, but the problem ended up being that the network system was confused with the XP software program. They also found we were running on our backup CPU and one of the SCADA drives and the UPS battery was dead. MMC said they would have the webhost and IP /DSL solved within the hour. Our IT person was having a new UPS battery sent over night by the *other* UPS, along with the new SCADA drive, and CPU. I don't know why the UPS didn't work, but I do know that the invoice came to \$750, even then only after we debated the warranty items. These UPS sure do

bring me down.

Then, operations found that two CSO events had occurred last month, even though the Town of F.F. had removed several I/I points in their system. The DEP/KSTD CSO Master Plan has a pre-schedule meeting occurring soon, and I may have W-P help me with the annual DEP/CSO report. I kept confusing where CMOM and SSO involvement merges with the CSO's. Nevertheless, some say if we have not reviewed the SPCC plan and EPA new SOP (not standard operating procedures) that CMOM may not apply.

This does not matter because maintenance just told me the 1987 PLC at Scott Station is toasted. FYI, it's not manufactured anymore and even if we found a replacement, we don't have the software or hand-held controller to install the program, which doesn't have a backup anyway. However, the CPU is gone in the PLC

and it's no good and Dick said next time we should replace the old UPS with a Smart UPS. I wonder if it's smarter?

The new KSTD website development is a very slow process. I plan to use the same web host as KWD but they tell me that their host is even slower than our host. KWD says that the pictures will not come up when you visit their site. I am not sure KSTD wants to even launch a web site just to have more, but newer, problems.

Maybe I should launch all these computers and technology into the TWAST tank, hoist them on the belt press, and dewater them with the sludge from the GTs. Oh, and by the way, does anyone know what today's EFF, TSS and BOD are? I hear that the MCRT says the F/M has gone wacky and the 30 SS is sinking like a rock.

And yet- LGO (life goes on) at KSTD.

State Revolving Loan Funding Bond Goes to Governor

By Jeff McNelly

An amended version of LD 359, "An act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Wastewater and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds", was enacted by the Maine Legislature on May 16. In the Senate the vote was 33-2. In the House the first vote was 103-35 and the vote to enact was 107-32. A two thirds majority vote of both houses of the Legislature is necessary to send bonds to a referendum of the voters in November. All of the votes on May 16 met that threshold.

This bond measure for a total of \$7,925,000 is a part of a package of 5 bonds that were sent on to Governor LePage. It has been rumored that the Governor may veto any or all of the approved bonds. A veto of any of the bonds can move forward with a two thirds majority vote of both houses of the Legislature. Based upon the

above votes an override of a veto looks likely. The actual referendum language would be:

"Do you favor a \$7,925,000 bond issue to be expended over 2 years for revolving loan funds for drinking water systems and for wastewater treatment facilities, which will make the State eligible to secure \$390,625,000 in federal grants?"

MWWCA recommends that members keep up to date as any response from the Governor is received, so that calls can be made to local legislators if needed.

See how the representative in your District voted, click this link: <http://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/rollcall.asp?ID=280039481&chamber=House&serialnumber=362>



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MWWCA 2012 Spring Conference

By Gene Weeks, Blake Equipment

The 2012 Spring Conference was held Friday, April 27 at the Black Bear Inn in Orono, with a theme of "Being Prepared in a Changing World".

President Jeff McBurnie led off the breakfast and Welcome Session with a report on the year to date. Jeff also presented some awards:

- The Past President's Award, of course, went to Paul Rodriguez.
- The MWWCA Operator Scholarship went to Greg Ireland of the Winterport Water and Sewer District
- A MWWCA Recognition Award went to the Portland Water District for efforts in non-dispersibles research. Scott Firmin, Tom Hume, and Parker Worrey accepted for the PWD.

The keynote speaker was Marian Long from Gradient Planning, LLC. Gradient Planning is a Connecticut-based consulting firm that helps organizations and businesses with risk management, including: life safety; property protection; and operational performance. Ms. Long gave a very interesting presentation about how to plan for disasters like floods, power surges or outages, etc. What can a treatment plant do now to prevent damage from a 100-year flood event (or worse) at some time in the future? How do we have to adjust our thinking and actions to keep our plant up and running in a worst case scenario?

The conference had 12 technical sessions. Each of the 128 conference attendees could go to a maximum of four sessions. Among the highlights was the Legislative Update given by Dave Anderson (Portland Water District, retired) and Jeff McNelly (Maine Water Utilities Association, MWUA).

The Kennebunk Sewer District's Flood Mitigation Project session tied in very well with the keynote speech. The session was given by Jim Fitch of

Woodard & Curran and Willis Emmons of Kennebunk Sewer District (KSD). KSD had a plan in place to get through a 100-year flood event. However, in 2006 they had a 500-year flood event and had some damage. After they survived that, less than a year later, on Mother's Day of 2007, they had an event that exceeded a 500-year flood event that shut down the facility. How do you get back running in a minimum amount of time after a disaster like that? How do you get contractors on site now and get funding to pay them? How do you prioritize bringing the various parts of the plant back on line and do it safely? What is the long-term plan to rebuild and replace and how do you fund the plan? How do you deal with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)? Listeners got a lot to think about from this session.

After an excellent lunch we heard from Dan Bisson of CDM Smith. Dan is the President of the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA). Dan presented the following awards:

- William D. Hatfield Award for outstanding Performance and Professionalism in plant operations went to Howard Carter of Saco;
- The NEWEA Operator Award went to Mike Harris of the Ellsworth WWTF;
- The Alfred E. Peloquin Award for outstanding contributions to the wastewater field went to Mike Hanson of the Sanford Sewerage District.

The NEWEA Regional State Wastewater Association Award was presented by Jay Pimpare of US EPA to the MWWCA for its outstanding work at providing operator training opportunities and promoting and

advocating for the municipal wastewater profession. Jeff McBurnie, Paul Rodriguez, and Travis Peaslee accepted on behalf of all of us.

The MWWCA Pretreatment Award was presented by Pretreatment Committee Chairperson Tom Wiley (South Portland) to Monica Dube and Brian Grenier of Pat Jackson, Inc.

The MWUA President's Award was presented by Jeff McNelly, MWUA

Executive Director to MWWCA, with Paul Rodriguez and Jeff McBurnie accepting on behalf of the Association.

Throughout the meeting there were opportunities to catch up and network with friends old and new. Frequently individual

meeting highlights actually take place during breaks or over lunch and that was certainly the case at this meeting.

For those who hung on to the end another highlight was the presentation by Scott Firmin of Portland Water District and Aubrey Strause of Tata & Howard. Many of us have had issues with "ragging" and plugged pumps, and most of us have blamed the plugged pumps on wipes. MWWCA has become a national leader in encouraging the Maine Legislature to pass legislation requiring consistent marketing of wipes and other consumer products that are often flushed. So far no state has passed legislation to address this issue. Scott pointed out that we do not have good data proving that the wipes are the problem. Through MWWCA, he and Aubrey (with assistance from other states) have developed a Standard Operating Procedure for analyzing a clog and documenting the composition of the clog. What can you do? Visit www.mwwca.org/PumpClogSOP.htm to get a copy of the SOP. Start following the SOP to analyze your clogs, and report your data to Scott at sfirmin@pwd.org. Start helping to deal with a national problem right in your town.

MWWCA wishes to thank all presenters for their time and for sharing their knowledge with participants. It was, by all measures, an excellent conference.



Maine WasteWater NEWS

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please circulate and share with your colleagues



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