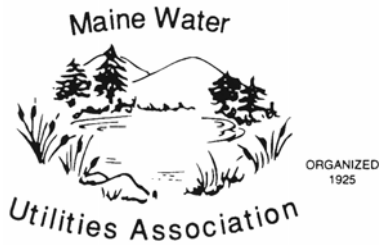


MAINE



WATER

NEWS

September 2005

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

Number 124

Stop and Celebrate *Judy Kelley, President*

A common flaw of high achievers, as we all are within the Maine water profession (!), is forgetting to stop and celebrate successes, and instead always focusing on the next hurdle, the next goal, the next project. Whether implicit or explicit, the message can come across as “What have you done for me lately?” when we forget to stop and acknowledge our achievements with those that helped.

By the time you are reading this, another successful annual clambake will have come and gone. That event is one way of celebrating MWUA and what we do as an organization. Yes, it is a “day off” and it costs money, but it represents one way to celebrate our profession, our camaraderie, and our achievements.

And we are making progress. Slowly, but surely, the Maine water utility profession is making headway on some very important fronts.

- Governor Baldacci signed a bond package bill on August 8th that includes \$3.5 million of state match for \$17.5 million of federal funds for the State Revolving Loan Fund. While still subject to voter approval, this was a very important, and hard fought, first step....again.
- The DEP has proposed a “sustainable yield” definition of allowed withdrawals for surface supplies used by public water utilities in the ongoing debate of rules governing water resource allocation.
- The MWUA is partnering with the George Mitchell Center in submitting a grant proposal for a research project that will result in a model to manage water supplies and resources that have multiples uses.
- A source water protection article, with our esteemed Executive Director as a co-author, will appear in the September, 2005 AWWA Journal.

These things can’t happen without MWUA and its members rallying around the issues that are important to us, and getting things done.

MWUA has developed other ways over the years to encourage us to stop and celebrate. There are five annual awards available to members who have positively impacted our profession throughout the year.

Excellence in Operations Award - recognizes a public water system that demonstrates outstanding performance with a team effort in areas of water quality, training and education of employees or the public or new research.

Jeff Nixon Distinguished Service Award - recognizes a MWUA member who demonstrates a career of service to a Maine water utility, to the MWUA and/or overall contribution to the water works profession.

Jim Doherty Excellence in Volunteerism Award - recognizes a past or present employee of a MWUA associate member who through time, expertise, materials, etc. has gone above and beyond in providing outstanding service, contribution or assistance.

President’s Award - recognizes an individual or organization that demonstrates extraordinary dedication and commitment to the Maine waterworks profession and MWUA.

Sid Anthony Award of Merit - recognizes a MWUA member who has demonstrated outstanding service to a Maine water utility, to other water utility personnel, or to the waterworks profession.

Nominations for any of these awards can be made by any member of MWUA, so what are you waiting for? The deadline for the Excellence in Operations is October 1st, and all other awards have deadlines of December 1st. Just contact Jeff or Becky at the MWUA office and they will get you the necessary nomination forms.

Now, I’d better go practice what I preach!

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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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The August Clambake

Five-hundred attendees feasted on meals consisting of lobsters, clams, steak or chicken with all the fixings at this year's clambake. Special additions to the menu included mooseburgers (compliments of association members) and grilled haddock. There was a shortage of lobsters this year, so many enjoyed the bonus of 1 ¼ pound lobsters in place of the usual one pounders. While the lobsters were bigger, the price to attend remained the same as last year.

A special thank you is extended to all who were involved with the coordination of the clambake. Once again the Brunswick and Topsham Water District provided the site and the tents, which makes for a great turnkey format. We are indeed very appreciative of that.

Sites Sought For 2006 Bimonthly Meeting

The association is seeking hosts for our 2006 April, June, October and December bimonthly meetings. The meetings provide an excellent opportunity for water systems to have a topic that is of particular interest to them. Generally, what is expected of the system is a brief introduction to the system and your community.

MWUA Program Committee members work with system contacts to develop the program for the meeting and to ensure that all meeting aspects are covered. If you are interested in hosting a meeting, contact the MWUA office.

SRF Bond Match Finally Sent to Voters

As is noted in President Kelley's column, the governor has signed a bond package bill that includes \$3.5 million dollars in state match for \$17.5 million dollars of federal funds for the State Revolving Loan Fund. This match will enable the Drinking Water Program to access both the 2005 and 2006 SRF Capitalization Grants.

This effort can best be described as long and arduous. Very early on, MWUA's Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee and the Directors recognized the need for a strategy to secure the match. LD 775 "An Act to Provide a Stable Source of Funding for the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund" was submitted by MWUA in an effort to place the SRF funding in the state's general fund for fiscal year 2005-2006 and fiscal year 2006-2007. The \$1.8 million requested for each fiscal year was reduced to \$1.0 million dollars per year. The bill has been carried over until the Second Session of the 122nd Maine Legislature.

As has been mentioned previously, the association was very active in communicating with legislators the need to report out a bond issue that would provide the required match. In addition, there were meetings with the Governor's staff on this matter. The end result is a bond referendum that still has to be approved by the voters in November. It should be noted that the drinking water portion of the environmental bond was, for the most part, untouched during this protracted, deliberative process. The efforts of the Drinking Water Program staff and the association's Directors and many members of the MWUA Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee seem to have paid off. It should be noted, however, that this bond referendum does not provide funding for years 2006-2007. A long term solution to this annually recurring state match requirement is certainly needed.

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In Memory of Douglas C. Brown

Douglas C. Brown, 81, passed away on July 12, 2005 at a Caribou hospital. He was born September 30, 1923 in New Brunswick, Canada, the son of George and Georgia (Brawn) Brown.

Doug served in the U.S. Army during World War II and worked as a plant operator at the Presque Isle Water District for 30 years.

He is survived by four sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren, four great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Florence (Kimball) Brown in April 2003.

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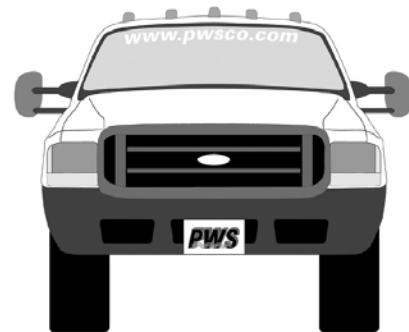
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Nominating Committee Recommends Slate

Nominations for Directors are presented at the October Meeting by the Nominating Committee or from the floor by any member. The By-Laws require that the membership be notified, in writing, of the committee's selections for the nomination of Directors at least ten days prior to the October meeting.

Nominating Committee Chair David Parent reports that the committee has selected the following as nominees for Directors for 3-year terms, starting in 2006:

- William Alexander, Jr. of Brunswick-Topsham Water District
- Gordon Johnson of Portland Water District
- A. Gregory Reed of Bangor Water District

There are three open seats to be filled on the Board. Printed ballots will be mailed to all eligible voting members in late October. The ballots will contain the nominations made by the Nominating Committee and such other nominations which are made from the floor at the October membership meeting.

Eligible candidates who can be nominated from the floor include Individual, Retired and Honorary Members of the association who are members in good standing. The ballots will also contain a biographical profile of each nominee.

Ballots are to be returned to the office and must be postmarked no later than 14 days from the mailing date. The envelope containing the ballot must be signed by the voting member.

Current Directors whose terms expire at the end of 2006 include Jeff LaCasse of Kennebec Water District and Brian Tarbuck of Augusta Water District.

Directors whose terms expire at the end of 2007 include Judy Kelley of Aqua Maine, Inc. and Michael Nadeau of South Berwick Water District.

Sustainable Water Use Deliberations Focusing on Definition

Deliberations on the water use standards rulemaking front are now focusing on a definition of sustainable yield for surface water supplies.

The association has been working from the position that these sources are renewable resources and, although there may be dry or even drought periods whereby supplies may not fully recover by the following summer, they do have the ability to be replenished naturally in wet years.

DEP staff are proposing a definition of yield that specifies that sustainable yield will be estimated to maintain an 80% likelihood of annual refill.

The potential quandary with this definition is the fact that there is limited data to actually determine what that might mean for water system operations. Those systems that perhaps might not be able to maintain current operations under the 80% confidence interval scenario should, obviously, be evaluating their situation and considering options. However, they need more just than an intuitive sense that they may be near such a threshold.

A monitoring program for the source, which tracks lake levels, inflows, outflows, withdrawals and other appropriate variables, would allow any system to develop a water budget. This information would provide the basis for the most effective operation and, if necessary, the implementation of long range planning efforts to develop additional sources of supply.

For rivers or streams, the sustainable yield concept being proposed at this time is that withdrawals be based on documented historic withdrawal, that a safe and adequate supply of water be maintained and that all other water quality standards downstream of the source be protected.

To say the least, it is an interesting ongoing discussion. MWUA is working with the DEP, the Drinking Water Program and the PUC in an effort to ensure that the rules not run ahead of our ability to assess the water system impacts.

The final proposed rule will go to hearing before the Board of Environmental Protection this fall. Because it is substantive rulemaking it will require final approval before the Maine Legislature.

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Regulatory Activities Follow Session

As was mentioned in the last issue of Maine Water News, the Maine Legislature enacted certain legislation that calls for studies to be conducted during the off season.

LD 1051, Resolve, Establishing a Study Commission to Examine Water District Fees Assessed for Fire Suppression would have established a study commission to examine whether the water fees assessed for fire protection are fair, the ramifications of altering them and whether the amount charged to municipalities should be limited by some means. The bill died, but not before the Utilities and Energy Committee directed the PUC to conduct an education program throughout the state to explain the purpose, basis and function of these fees.

That effort has started. This month the PUC has scheduled a meeting to discuss the nature and extent of such an educational effort. Those invited to participate include Maine Rural Water Association, the Maine Municipal Association and MWUA.

LD 1643, An Act to Clarify and Harmonize State Policy on Groundwater Management, directs the Land and Water Resources Council to undertake a study of current state law regarding regulation of withdrawal of groundwater. Agency personnel have already met to review the legislative charge and discuss the process to accomplish the same.

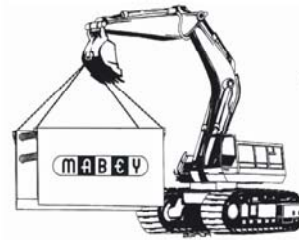
The study is to be carried out under the direction of the Land and Water Resources Council with work performed by a work group composed of a number of agency personnel, members of the public representing the water using community and legislators from various Joint Standing Committees. The schedule calls for presentation of a proposal to the Land & Water Resources Council in October of 2006 and a report to the Legislature in November.

LD 1265 An Act to Protect Aquifers had a title change. It is now known as Resolve Regarding Source Water Protection. It requires the Drinking Water Program and four other agencies to produce a report that addresses whether additional requirements are needed for source water protection in Maine and describe any recommended options to address those needs. Data are being collected, to aid that effort.

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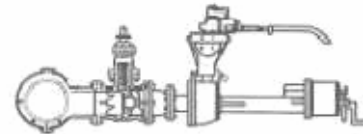
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August Golf Tournament

87 Golfers teed off at the Meadows Golf Club in Litchfield on August 10, 2005 for the 20th Annual MWUA Clambake Scramble Golf Tournament.

The Association would like to recognize the tournament sponsors: American Flow Control, Atlantic States Cast Iron Pipe, CDM, EJP, Earth Tech, Griffin Pipe Products Co., Natgun, Sensus Metering Systems, Ti-Sales, Verrill Dana, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Woodard & Curran and Wright-Pierce Engineers.

All involved would like to thank Steve Cox, of Aqua Maine, for coordinating the tournament.

Congratulations to the winners!

Longest Drive	Don Ladd
Closest to Pin	Phil Reed Bruce Stevens Bruce Berger Marcel Whitney
1st Place Team	Bill Dawson Peter Boccagna Don Tracy Mark Holt
2nd Place Team	Jason Chadwick Walter O'Leary Dewayne Taylor Bill Hopkins
3rd Place Team	Steve Clements Don Ladd Tom Holt Brian Mitchell
Red Jacket Winner	Bruce Berger



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Augusta Water & Sanitary Districts to Host October Meeting at Augusta Country Club

The Augusta Water & Sanitary Districts will host the October 13th Maine Water Utilities Association bimonthly meeting in Manchester. The featured topic will include the logistics of merging Augusta's water and wastewater operations. The discussion will also include bringing wells back on line and the status of the water treatment plant.

The business meeting will include the nominations of Maine Water Utilities Association Directors for 2006 and a presentation of the association's 2006 budget.

Much has transpired in the Capitol region over the past couple of years. Come hear what has happened and learn from the experiences of others. There is the opportunity to play golf after the meeting. If you are interested, contact the Augusta Country Club at (207) 623-962. You will need to mention that you are attending the MWUA conference.



Le Tour de France

The Bikers Against E-Coli shirts made their first appearance at the Tour de France. Mat Seaman models Maine’s BAEC attire on the Col De La Madeleine about 2 miles past the summit. The Col De La Madeleine is a 13 mile up hill ride at an average 6.3% grade.



Bikers Against E. coli Make it to Finish Line

Once again, Father’s Day weekend was a time for the Bikers Against E. coli to ride in the American Lung Association of Maine 3 day ride from the Mountains to the Sea.

Participants are shown above, from left to right: Mike Berube, Matt Reynolds, Nathaniel Reynolds, Mary Jane Dillingham, Andy Tolman, Jon Dillingham, Jim Ross, Daniel Reynolds, Brian Tarbuck, Kathy Tarbuck, Ric Leeds, Matt Seaman and Joel Tolman. Missing from the photo is Paul Fortier.

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MWUA Representatives Meet With New PUC Chairman

Back in July MWUA representatives met with new PUC Chairman Kurt Adams, to get acquainted and to discuss the water works business. Adams was appointed by Governor Baldacci to replace Chairman Tom Welch, whose term of office expired earlier this year.

Representing the association were Judy Kelley, President of Aqua Maine, Inc. and President of MWUA, David Parent, Assistant Superintendent of the Sanford Water District and Chair of the MWUA Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee, Norm Lamie, General Manager of Auburn Water District and President of NEWWA and MWUA Executive Director Jeff McNelly.

Also present for the commission were Commissioners Diamond and Reishus and staff members. Following a brief recap of the Maine water utility profession and the association, a number of issues were discussed including new regulations, the need for infrastructure replacement funding needs, (e.g. the State Revolving Loan Fund) and the constraints that LD 1 places on communities relative to rate increases. Sustainable water use rules, the steps that should be taken relative to changes in ownership or structure of a water utility and the Dig Safe program rounded out the agenda.

For the new Chairman it was a chance hear about the primary drivers impacting the water supply profession. For us it was good to meet Chairman Adams and commence what will hopefully be a long and a productive relationship.

PUC Sports New Website

The Maine Public Utilities Commission's website has a number of new enhancements. The site has a link for each industry segment (water, electric, gas and telephone). Included under the water section is a list of current water rates, utility contact information, links to water utility websites and other information. Systems are encouraged to check to make sure their most current information is available at <http://www.state.me.us/mpuc>.

2005 Clambake



The Feast



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