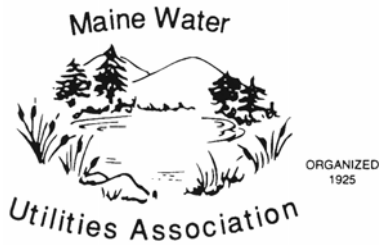


MAINE



WATER

NEWS

Sept 2006

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

Number 129

Back to the Future

Brian Tarbuck, President

In the process of repairing an old storage room, we removed several musty boxes of old letters and files. Many files were not of any value. Others were moldy and were summarily discarded. But we happened upon a couple of interesting documents.

One clump of documents that made me chuckle was a bunch of accident reports from the 1930's when one of the river crossings was installed. "Employee hit in leg by boulder. Returned to work in afternoon." Osha was only a town in Wisconsin back then.

Another was a copy of a paper that Sid Anthony presented to the American Society of Civil Engineers up in Orono on May 5, 1954 titled, "Look to the Future". Since we're living in Sid's future, I figured it would be worth a review to see whether or not any of the issues he was concerned about then are still relevant today.

Mr. Anthony wrote, "With all the lakes in Maine, it is not always easy to find one suitable for a water supply." Sid would probably disagree with recent assertions at the DEP Chapter 587 hearing that seem to indicate that potential water supplies are abundant 50 years later.

"The day approaches, fifty years later, when an additional supply and transmission facilities are needed." On April 1, 2004, Augusta Water placed its three groundwater wells on primary supply, but not for the reason Sid had projected. In fact, water consumption in the utility had dropped to levels documented in 1892. Sid had projected that the growth that he had seen would continue and it did, but it wasn't the water intensive industrial growth he had anticipated. Sid was selling about 4 MGD in the Fifties. Consumption is about 1.5 to 1.6 MGD now.

Regarding additional sources, in this case, the wells, "These are in the survey and design stage now. I

hope they will be good for another fifty years. I don't expect to know the answer to that one." Even though he isn't here to see it, an inspection in 2006 showed that one of the wells installed in 1955 remains in great condition requiring only a new pump for continued service.

"...twenty to fifty years ago, who could visualize the increasing trend toward suburban living..." In 1954, that passed for what planners call "sprawl" today. In this area of the state, most residential growth continues to happen away from urban centers.

The folks in "the other Maine" will love this one. "The Maine Turnpike will make it easier for vacationers to get further into Maine..." Sid's concern here is a little misdirected. He was concerned that increased tourism would create additional demand for water. In fact, the loss of industry, higher cost of water and improved technology for fighting fires, making pipes, sampling water and flushing toilets has reduced per capita demand for water. He should have been more worried about whether or not vacationers would leave!

"We must consider, besides more gallons of water, better quality of water." I didn't add the underlines; he did. Raw water quality is still a prime consideration in delivering safe drinking water today. "In the early 20th century, if water was clear and tasteless it must be good water. Perhaps it was but the Kennebec River proved not so." A few hundred typhoid victims would have agreed and been happy that the river was abandoned in 1905 / 1906.

"Chlorine... became a necessity removing all danger of... chemical and organic substances detrimental to water quality." Not true given the focus on Trihalomethanes and other chlorinated disinfection by-products. But very true given the choice between cholera or no cholera. What do you suppose is in the water that we're not concerned about today that will be an "issue" 50 years from now?

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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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(Continued from page 1)

Regarding new technology, "The more elaborate the plant, the more costly to build and operate. Operating costs may range up to 40% of the gross revenue of the system." This is very close to the bonded indebtedness of the Augusta Water District today, a prediction we wish hadn't been so accurate.

Are you looking 50 years into the future too? Are we doing the right things today? How will history judge our actions at the turn of this century? Interesting stuff. Read Mr. Anthony's full account at: <http://www.augustawater.org/history.htm>.

DEP Hearing Draws Large Crowd

August 3rd was the date of the Maine Board of Environmental Protection hearing on DEP's In Stream Flow and Water Level Standards. Water system managers served their customers very well, as a number of them showed up to testify and subsequently offered follow up comments. In addition, system managers who were not able to make the hearing took the opportunity to submit written comments. There was solid support in opposition to the rule, from all areas of the state.

While there are a number of aspects of the proposed rule that are of concern to water utilities, they can best be characterized by two words: unacceptable risks.

As proposed the rules would become part of Maine's water quality laws. This regulatory approach would expose water utilities to the full complexity and risk of Clean Water Act regulation, including citizen suits and uncertainty regarding changes to water quality standards. In essence, EPA would have the final word on water withdrawal from Maine's surface waters, including those used as public water supplies.

The intent of the rule is to incorporate water quality standards into the planning process of each community water system. The stated goal is that "over time water quality will improve and eventually attain standards". The only way to actually meet these goals would be to reduce seasonal drawdowns and/or maintain more in the way of flow in the outlet streams. Either scenario equates to reduced water withdrawal.

EPA submitted 11 pages of written comments. Among other things they suggested that the rule be clear in stating that flow must be provided to protect all water quality standards applicable to downstream waters. They also took issue with the proposed five year implementation period for community water systems, stating that: "we recommend this section state explicitly that it applies only to community water systems that cannot immediately comply with the flow standards in the rule."

In conversations the association had with Region One EPA officials several months ago, they stated that the DEP is not compelled to adopt these rules under their water quality standards.

The financial impact of the rule, the extent that water utilities would be allowed to utilize their existing sources of supply to meet future demands and other problematic aspects of the regulation are all areas that MWUA will continue to bring to the attention of decision makers.

On a related front, the Maine Rural Water Association has petitioned the Public Utilities Commission to initiate an Inquiry, and/or Investigation, in order to determine the impact of the proposed rule.

MWUA has submitted a letter in support of that petition, emphasizing the fact that, while the economic impact of the rule is a primary consideration, it is important to not lose sight of the public health implications if this rule were to short circuit a water utility's plans to utilize sources they have developed and protected.

The BEP's tentative schedule is to hold a work session with staff on October 5th, by which time staff will have responded to comments. Following that meeting, staff will develop a provisional rule for consideration at the Board's November meeting (perhaps on the 16th). Any rule that is adopted by the Board is provisional and is still subject to legislative review.



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Free Operator Forums to be Held

The Education & Operations Committee's Operator Forum focusing on meter change out and backflow installation is being held September 27th in Ellsworth, September 28th in Gardiner and November 16th in Caribou. 3 Training Contact Hours will be issued for attendance. There is no fee to attend, however pre-registration is required. Registration forms are available by calling the MWUA office at (207) 832-2263 and are also available online at: www.mwua.org/calendar.htm.

Excel Classes Scheduled

A two day Basic/Intermediate Excel class is scheduled for October 24th and 25th at NMCC in Presque Isle and at TECCME in Augusta. Following this instruction, an Intermediate/Advanced Excel class will be offered on November 7th and 8th at the same locations. The training will include applications specific for water works personnel, i.e. monthly operating reports, tracking expenses and revenues, comparing current and historical

data and graphing. The classes are designed for those who possess basic Excel skills.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Beth and Jon Pratte on the birth of their daughter Minna Eleanor Pratte. Baby Pratte was born on August 15th and weighed 7lbs 12 oz.



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Great Day for 21st Annual Clambake Scramble

One-hundred golfers teed off on August 9th for MWUA's 21st annual Clambake Scramble Golf Tournament. A big, "Thank you" goes out to this year's tournament sponsors: AMCO Water Metering Systems, Atlantic States Cast Iron Pipe Company, Camp, Dresser & McKee, E.J. Prescott Company, Ferguson Waterworks, Ford Meter Box Company, Natgun Corporation, Sensus Metering Systems, Ti-Sales, Verrill Dana, LLP, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Woodard & Curran and Wright-Pierce Engineers.

First place team members include Rick & Kyle Knowlton, Chris Hodgson and Brad Leighton. The Lady's Long Drive was hit by Terri Brown and the Men's Long Drive was hit by Kyle Knowlton. Rick Knowlton's luck was in full swing as he walked away with the Service Box Putter. Brian Tarbuck is now wearing the prestigious Red Jacket.

Through donations received by the benefit casino hole and long drive hole, a \$500 donation was sent to Water for People.

Maine Supreme Court Rules in Favor of PWD

In the March issue of Maine Water News it was reported that the Town of Standish had appealed a Superior Court decision concerning a dispute between the Town and the Portland Water District over public access to a portion of PWD's watershed property. In that ruling the town lost in its argument that the public had secured the right to use the property as the result of continuous use of the property for more than 20 years.

Standish appealed the decision to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. Maine Water Utilities Association, the Maine Wastewater Control Association and the Southern Maine Regional Water Council joined the deliberations by filing an amicus (friend of the court) brief.

On August 28th the Supreme Court issued its decision, finding that adverse possession and prescription cannot run against a quasi-municipal public water district. This is the first time the Court has decided that the doctrine of *nullum tempus occurrit regi*, which historically has protected municipalities, also applies to legislatively created public water districts.

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North Country Rivers is Venue for October Meeting

North Country Rivers on the Kennebec River in Bingham has been selected as the facility for the association's October 12th bimonthly meeting. Discussion will focus on the Taxpayer Bill of Rights and LD 1. Terren Bragdon, of the Maine Heritage Policy Center, will present on the benefits of TABOR and its impact on water utilities. Mike Starn, of the Maine Municipal Association, will present on MMA concerns with TABOR and comment on LD 1. Following the TABOR discussion, will be an update of DEP's proposed Chapter 587, In-Stream Flow and Water Level Standards.

selections for the nomination of Directors at least ten days prior to the October meeting.

There are three open seats to be filled on the Board. Two of those are for 3-year terms which expire at the end of 2009 and the other is for the remainder of a 3 year term that expires at the end of 2008. John Storer, who was appointed to fill that vacancy which occurred in 2006, shall serve until the next annual meeting of the Directors.

Nominating Committee Chair David Parent reports that the committee has selected the following as nominees for Directors:

Jeffrey LaCasse - Kennebec Water District
John Storer – Auburn Water District
Daniel Wells – Winthrop Utilities District

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 Jeffrey LaCasse of the Kennebec Water District and Brian Tarbuck of the Augusta Water District. Tarbuck has opted to serve one additional year as a Director on the Board in the role of Past President, as provided for in section 4.5.1 of the bylaws.

Directors whose terms expire at the end of 2007 include Judy Kelley of Aqua Maine, Inc. and Michael Nadeau of South Berwick Water District. The terms of Gordon Johnson, of Portland Water District and William Alexander of the Brunswick Topsham Water District, expire at the end of 2008.

Free Grant Writing Workshop Offered

The Maine State Archives is offering free grant writing workshops on September 14, October 12, November 16 and December 7. To register for the training contact Janet Roberts by email at: janet.roberts@maine.gov or call (207) 287-5791.



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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



Clambake Draws Great Crowd

Fair winds and sunshine highlighted this year's clambake. Over five-hundred clambake meals were enjoyed by water works personnel, friends and colleagues.

A "thank you" goes out to MWUA vendors who continue to support this event each year.

Special kudos are in order for the Brunswick-Topsham Water District who provides the site and does an awful lot to make for a great day.

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Farewell to Friends

Jerry Healey

Jerome J. Healey of Phippsburg, Maine died on July 8, 2006 at the age of sixty-three. Jerry is survived by his wife Camilla (Glynn) Healey and children: Terence, Jeremy, Maura, Caitlin and Tara.

Mr. Healey was a Captain in the U.S. Navy and served for thirty years in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Jerry joined New England Water Works Association in 1973 and served the Association on numerous committees and in many positions including: Treasurer first of the New England Section 1985-1987 and then after the NEWWA / AWWA affiliation he was treasurer from 1988-1994, NEWWA President 1996-1997 and AWWA Director 1998-2001.

He was a life member and honorary member. He received the George Warren Fuller Award in 1992.

Bob Peterson

Submitted by the Drinking Water Program

Robert (Bob) Peterson, a highly regarded and valued staff member of the Drinking Water Program died on July 7, 2006.

Bob Peterson dedicated his professional life to protecting the public health of Maine people and visitors. Bob began state service in 1974 in the childhood lead program and transferred to the Drinking Water Program in 1975. For ten years Bob worked with water utilities in those early years of the Safe Drinking Water Act. In 1985 Bob transferred to the Eating & Lodging Program and soon after took over as the head of that program. Bob held that position for fifteen years and returned to the Drinking Water Program in 2000 as the Database Administrator.

Bob was a quiet, humble person who worked tirelessly to perfect our Safe Drinking Water Information System – a formidable task. Nationally, Bob was well respected and regarded in his field. Only during his illness did we learn about the many instances when he helped other states create or improve their data systems. Bob was always willing to listen and help with any problem, large or small.


All at the Drinking Water Program and in the Division of Environmental Health miss Bob. We hope to honor his life by modeling his superior work ethic and kind, good heart.

Lab Certification Revoked


On August 16, 2006 the Maine Drinking Water Program revoked certification for McFarland Associates Laboratory (located in Windham, Maine) for drinking water compliance purposes.

Laboratory Certification Officer Matt Sica took the action due to the lack of Quality Assurance/Quality Control procedures. DWP officials stated that this issue had been identified as a concern in a 2004 inspection.

In a letter to their customers McFarland indicated that they made the decision to retire the business. The lab had been in business since 1973.



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Save the Date

The December 14th bimonthly meeting will be held at the Martindale Country Club in Auburn. The meeting agenda will consist of annual committee reports, a Lewiston-Auburn system update, strategy for the 123rd Maine Legislature and a technical session.

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Cross Connection Class Scheduled

New England Water Works together with Maine Water Utilities Association are facilitating a full day training session, "Introduction to Cross Connection Control Surveying" on October 18th at the Jeff Nixon Center located at the Portland Water District and again on October 19th at the Hampton Inn in Waterville. For

additional information and/or to register contact New England Water Works Association at (508) 893-7979.

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Distribution System O & M Class Set For December

New England Water Works Association, together with Maine Water Utilities Association, are facilitating a training session, "How to Successfully Operate and Maintain Your Distribution System" at the three different locations in December.

The first session will take place on December 5th in Caribou. The second session will be held on December 6th at the Comfort Inn located on Route One in Belfast. If you will be traveling to attend the session and require overnight accommodations, the Comfort Inn is offering attendees a special discounted group rate of \$67.99 plus tax; mention MWUA when booking the room. The third session will take place on December 7th at the Jeff Nixon Center located at the Portland Water District.

To register for the training call New England Water Works Association at (508) 893-7979.

Operation Keep ME Warm Needs Volunteers

In 2005, the Keep ME Warm initiative (in its third year) came very close to winterizing the home of every senior citizen enrolled in the project; but there were not enough volunteers to reach all of them. This year, the challenge is to assist every single elderly or disabled homeowner who needs to winterize their house.

Volunteers are needed the week of October 19-22 in all sixteen Maine counties. Counties needing extra help are: Washington, Hancock, Aroostook, Piscataquis, northern Penobscot, Somerset, Oxford and Franklin.

For additional information on registering as a volunteer log onto: www.volunteermaine.org.

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From Southern Maine: I-95 North to I-295 North in Portland, I-295 North to I-95 North in Gardiner/Augusta, I-95 North to Exit 133 (36) in Waterville/Fairfield, Rt. 201 North to Bingham, we are located on the left side of Rt. 201 in Bingham. Drive Times Portland (2.5 hours); Augusta (1.5 hours); Waterville (1 hour); Skowhegan (30 minutes).

From Points North and Bangor: I-95 South to Exit 157 (39) in Newport, Rt. 2 West to Skowhegan, Rt. 201 North to Bingham, we are located on the left side of Rt. 201 in Bingham. Drive Times Bangor (1.5 hours); Newport (1 hour); Skowhegan (30 minutes).

PROGRAM

- 8:30AM - 9:00AM Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00AM - 9:15AM Introduction Brian Tarbuck, President of MWUA
9:15AM - 9:30AM Welcome to the Bingham and Moscow Water Districts Bingham Water District Representative
9:30AM - 10:00AM Regulatory Update Maine Drinking Water Program Representative

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

- 10:00AM - 11:30AM Presentations on TABOR and LD 1
a. Terren Bragdon, Maine Heritage Policy Center, will present on the benefits of TABOR and its impact on water utilities
b. Mike Starn, Maine Municipal Association, will present on MMA concerns with TABOR and comment on LD1

11:30AM - 12:00PM Update on In-Stream Flow Rule

12:00PM Lunch

Brian Tarbuck President

Ben Mosher, Greg Cataldo, Beth Pratte Program Coordinators

2.0 Training Contact Training Hours will be granted for this session. PLEASE RETURN RESERVATIONS BY Wednesday, October 4, 2006 PREPAYMENT IS APPRECIATED. RESERVATIONS MUST BE HONORED. (Informal Attire Required)

Registration form for MWUA October 12, 2006 Membership Meeting

Name: _____ Company Name _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Table with 2 columns: Register by Oct. 4, Registrations Received After Oct. 4

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