

BY-LAWS

Maine Water Environment Association
~~Constitution and By-Laws~~
Revised September 12, 2019
Revised February 21, 2023

ARTICLE I – The name of this organization shall be Maine Water Environment Association.

ARTICLE II – MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is to support and enhance Maine’s water environment community. To achieve this, we will:

- Promote training opportunities for the water environment community;
- Support balanced environmental policy and practice;
- Promote education and collaboration with the public to protect and enhance Maine’s water resources;
- Foster a strong and resilient water environment community.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1- Membership may consist of five (5) classifications to be known as Active, Student, Life, Group and Corporate.

Section 2- Active members shall be any water professional (e.g., wastewater, drinking water, stormwater, biosolids management, environmental engineer or scientist) or: any person interested in water treatment in the State of Maine. Active members shall have the right to vote. An active member may hold an elected office.

Section 3- Student members shall be regularly enrolled in college or vocational school. Student members shall have the rights and privileges of active members except for voting or holding office. Student members may not retain this class of membership beyond the end of the calendar year in which they are enrolled as students.

Section 4- Life members shall be members in good standing for at least 20 years who have attained the age of 65 and retired from active work in the ~~field of~~ water ~~pollution control~~ industry and shall be exempt from further dues. Members over 65 years of age who have retired from active work in the field of water pollution control and who have paid dues for at least 20 years may be elected Life members by unanimous vote of the Executive Committee, based on their service to the Association. Life members shall be entitled to the same privileges as active members.

Section 5- Group members shall be two or more water professionals representing a nonprofit organization that is interested in water quality in the State of Maine. Group members have the right to vote. Group members may hold an elected office.

Section 6- Corporate members shall be of any business, company or firm which deals directly or is interested in water quality in the State of Maine. Corporate members shall have the right to vote. Corporate membership allows a business, company or firm to pay reduced rates for vendor registration at MEWEA conventions. Corporate members may hold an elected office.

Section 7- **AFFILIATION WITH THE MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION**

MEWEA AFFILIATION GOAL:

To provide Association membership the opportunity to strengthen its commitment to water quality through affiliation with other environmental focused organizations, and to benefit professionally from such a relationship.

CRITERIA FOR AFFILIATION:

Those professional organizations which are actively involved with and dedicated to the protection and preservation of water quality and other natural resources shall be considered for affiliation with the MEWEA.

COST OF AFFILIATION:

No fee shall be charged for affiliation with the MEWEA.

SERVICES AND AFFILIATE RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. The president or a designee of the affiliated organization shall serve on the Maine Water Environment Association Executive ~~Board-Committee~~ ~~in an advisory capacity only.~~
2. The affiliate group shall have access to the MEWEA membership mailing list in exchange for its own. The MEWEA membership mailing list will be provided for the sole use of the affiliated group.
3. Members of the affiliate groups shall be offered the privilege of attendance at the ~~spring and fall~~ MEWEA conventions at MEWEA membership rates. Attendance shall be coordinated through a duly authorized representative of the affiliate group.
4. MEWEA publications shall be provided at no charge, to the duly authorized representative of the affiliated group.

5. The affiliate group shall be offered the privilege of securing a display table, at no charge, at the annual ~~Spring~~ Convention sponsored by MEWEA. This is, however, contingent upon a reciprocal agreement with the affiliate group.
6. The affiliate group shall agree to offer MEWEA the opportunity to co-sponsor training seminars and/or activities serving the direct interests of its membership in exchange for the same privilege.

AFFILIATE DECISION:

Any group or organization interested in forming a professional affiliation with ~~the~~ MEWEA must submit a written request to the Executive Committee. Approval shall be determined through a formal voting procedure to take place at a scheduled Executive ~~Board~~ Committee meeting.

MEWEA reserves the right to relinquish or withdraw an affiliation agreement if such association is deemed detrimental or contrary to the goals and reputation of the organization.

ARTICLE IV – DUES

Section 1- The annual dues for active, student, group and corporate members shall be determined by the Executive Committee. These dues shall be payable in advance of the fiscal year, which shall begin January 1st and end on December 31st. No dues are payable in the case of members holding Life and Student Memberships.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

- Active Membership
- Student Membership
- Life Membership
- Group Membership
- Corporate Membership

Section 2- Membership of persons whose dues have not been paid on or before December 31st shall be terminated January 31st.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1- There shall be regular meetings of the Association held at least twice each year. The purpose of these meetings is expressed in the mission statement, article II. The location for the meeting shall be selected by the Executive Committee. Other meetings may be scheduled at other times of the year at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Section 2- A business meeting shall be a part of the regular meeting. Thirty days' notice of such meetings shall be given ~~by mail~~ to all members.

ARTICLE VI – ORGANIZATION

Section 1- The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by the members assembled at the regular meetings. Between regular meetings the work of the Association shall be carried on by an Executive Committee.

Section 2- The officers of the Association shall be a President, a ~~First Vice President~~ President Elect, a ~~Second Vice President~~ Vice President, 3 Council Directors, and a ~~Secretary~~ Treasurer.

Section 3- The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- A. The President
- B. The ~~President Elect~~ First Vice President
- C. The ~~Second~~ Vice President
- D. The Immediate Past President
- E. The ~~Secretary~~ Treasurer
- F. The Chairpersons of Appointed Committees (non-voting)
- G. Outreach Council Director
- H. Treatment Systems Operation Council Director
- I. Personnel Advancement Council Director
- ~~GJ.~~ The DEP Representative (Non-voting)
- ~~HL.~~ The ~~MMA-MWUA~~ Representative
- ~~IL.~~ The NEWEA Representative (State Director)
- ~~JM.~~ The JETCC Representative

Section 4- The term of office for the President, ~~First Vice President~~ President Elect and ~~Second Vice President~~ Vice President shall be one (1) year. Officers, with the exception of the ~~Secretary~~ Treasurer, shall be elected at the Fall meeting of the Association and will take office the following January 1st when the terms of President, ~~First Vice President~~ President Elect and ~~Second Vice President~~ Vice President expire. The ~~Secretary~~ Treasurer shall be selected and removed by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 5- The President, ~~First Vice President~~ President Elect and ~~Second Vice President~~ Vice President shall not serve more than two (2) years consecutively in the same office.

Section 6- A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of at least ~~eight-half of the~~ voting members. Except for the President, any member of the Executive Committee may designate a proxy to act for ~~him/her/them~~ if ~~he/she/they~~ is/are unable to attend a meeting. All such proxies shall be counted in determining a quorum. In no case shall any individual cast more than one vote.

ARTICLE VII – COUNCIL DIRECTORS

Section 1- Council Directors shall be elected at the fall convention for a term of 3 years with the following exception. For the purpose of continuity, the first Outreach Council Director shall serve a term of 4 years, the first Personnel Advancement Council Director shall serve a term of 3 years, and the first Treatment Systems Operation Council Director shall serve a term of 2 years. This will allow for the election of 1 Council Director each year thereafter. In the event that a Council Director resigns prior to the expiration of their term the Executive Committee may by a majority vote appoint a new council director until the next Fall Conference. At that time a membership vote must be taken to elect a new director for the remainder of that term. The council directors will be as follows:-

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a. Outreach Council Director: Government Affairs, Membership, Communications, Public Relations, and Ad hoc Committees (as created by the Executive Committee).

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b. Treatment Systems Operation Council Director: Laboratory, Treatment Plant Operations, Residuals Management, Collection Systems, Pretreatment, and Stormwater and Ad hoc Committees (as created by the Executive Committee).

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c. Personnel Advancement Council Director: New Professionals, Convention, Awards, Education, and Ad hoc Committees (as created by the Executive Committee).

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ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Section 1- In addition to the elected officers and council directors, there shall be several committees to carry on the technical and service affairs of the Association. The following committees with designated chairpersons shall be appointed by the Executive Committee except for the Nominating Committee President:

- A. Government Affairs Committee
- B. Membership Committee
- C. Communications Committee
- D. Public Relations Committee
- E. Laboratory Committee
- F. Treatment Plant Operations Committee
- G. Residuals Management Committee
- H. Collections Systems Committee
- I. Pretreatment Committee
- J. Stormwater Committee
- K. ~~Young-New~~ Professionals Committee
- L. Convention Committee
- M. Awards Committee
- N. ~~Professional Development~~ ~~Personnel Advancement~~ Committee

O. Nominating Committee

O. Safety Committee

- Section 2- The Government Affairs Committee shall focus on the promotion of legislation which is in the best interest of the Association members. It shall keep the membership informed of legislative changes which may affect their facility operation.
- Section 3- It shall be the assigned task of the Membership Committee to encourage and promote membership of the Association to qualified persons.
- Section 4- It shall be the responsibility of the Communications Committee to maintain the Association website, post relevant information to Association social media platforms, and to provide the MEWEA members with an informative and professional publication that reflects the environmental concerns of the Association of Maine.
- Section 5- It shall be the responsibility of the Public Relations Committee to publicize the activities and accomplishments of this Association and to further its goals as directed in the Mission Statement. This Committee shall be responsible for the Associations' display booth.
- Section 6- The Laboratory Committee shall serve to provide a forum for MEWEA members to meet and discuss current issues regarding laboratory analyses.
- Section 7- The Treatment Plant Operations Committee shall serve to provide a forum for MEWEA members to meet and discuss treatment plant operations. This includes identifying operator training needs as well as sharing expertise and technical service. The committee shall also promote the benefits of the Operations Challenge program by assisting the competitors and acting as a liaison where appropriate. (Vendors, MEWEA, NEWEA, travel etc.).
- Section 8- It shall be the responsibility of the Residuals Management Committee to work with and represent the portion of MEWEA membership involved in all areas of sludge disposal (i.e., landfilling, incineration, land application, composting, etc.).
- Section 9- It shall be the responsibility of the Collection Systems Committee to work with and represent the portion of MEWEA membership involved in the collection of wastewater.
- Section 10- The Pretreatment Committee shall exist to represent and work with issues related to the pretreatment of wastewater as it affects wastewater treatment systems and operations.

Section 11- The Stormwater Committee shall exist to advance understanding of how the implementation of stormwater infrastructure best management practices and policies contribute to the protection and restoration of water resources; to promote efficient and effective water resources protection strategies by integrating key common interest areas for stormwater and wastewater infrastructure management.

Section 12- The ~~Young-New~~ Professionals Committee shall exist to attract and engage new professionals in the Association by creating an active environment of learning, networking and leadership.

Section 13- The Convention Committee will serve to coordinate activities for each scheduled meeting of the Association. This includes the planning of technical sessions; arranging vendor display tables; and selecting the location of each convention, at minimum.

Section 14- The Awards Committee shall be responsible for the scheduling and coordination of awards to be given at the scheduled conventions of this Association.

Section 15- The ~~Personnel Advancement~~Professional Development Committee shall work with certification issues; provide training opportunities for the membership; and promote the Wastewater Treatment Operator as a professional so as to provide career opportunities for the members of the Association.

Section 16- ~~The Safety Committee shall review technical practices and emphasize detailed safety procedures.~~

Section 16- The Nominating Committee will nominate one or more candidates for election to each of the offices prescribed in Articles VI and VII of these Bylaws (and for appointment to important non-voting positions as appropriate), and obtain the consent of the nominees to serve, if elected.

Section 17- The Executive Committee may, when it deems necessary, establish an ad hoc committee to accomplish a task that may not fall within the established scope of an existing committee. An ad hoc committee may also be established to perform a task that is within the scope of a standing committee, but because of constraints, can perform the task in a more timely and/or effective manner. An ad hoc committee will enjoy the same privileges as all other committees. Upon completion of its task or at the direction of the Executive Committee, the ad hoc committee will be discharged.

ARTICE VIII – NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1- The ~~Executive~~Nominating Committee shall nominate one or more candidates for election to each of the officers prescribed in Article VI, Section 2, and [Article VII](#), and obtain the consent of the nominees to serve if elected. The nominations can be made and seconded from the floor during business meeting of the fall convention.

Section 2- Voting for the candidates shall be conducted by means of a written ballot or by a show of hands at the direction of the President. In instances of more than one candidate for an office, the candidate receiving the majority of votes shall be declared elected.

Section 3- In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the ~~First Vice President~~President Elect shall act in his/her place for the balance of the unexpired term. In the event of a vacancy in the offices of ~~First Vice President~~President Elect or ~~Second Vice President~~Vice Presidents, or Treasurer, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to appoint an interim replacement. This appointed person shall have the privilege of running for official nomination for election to office at the next scheduled meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE IX – PUBLICATIONS

Section 1- There shall be ~~published a publication or section of affiliate regular~~ publications which shall serve to disseminate items of interest to members of the Association.

Section 2- ~~The Association's publication shall be published not less than four times per year. The dates of publication shall be determined by the Executive Committee.~~

Section 23- The Communications Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the President.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Section 1- Upon petition of ten or more members, or upon the motion of the Executive Committee, amendments to the Articles of the Association By-laws may be made by an affirmative vote at regular meetings of a majority of the voting membership present, at least thirty days' notice having been given of the proposed amendments in the call for the meeting.

ARTICLE XI – DISPOSITION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION

Section 1- In the event of dissolution of the Association, the property and assets thereof, after providing for all obligations and liabilities of the Association, shall then be disposed of exclusively for purposes voted upon by a majority of the Executive Committee. The assets must be distributed to such an organization(s) exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

