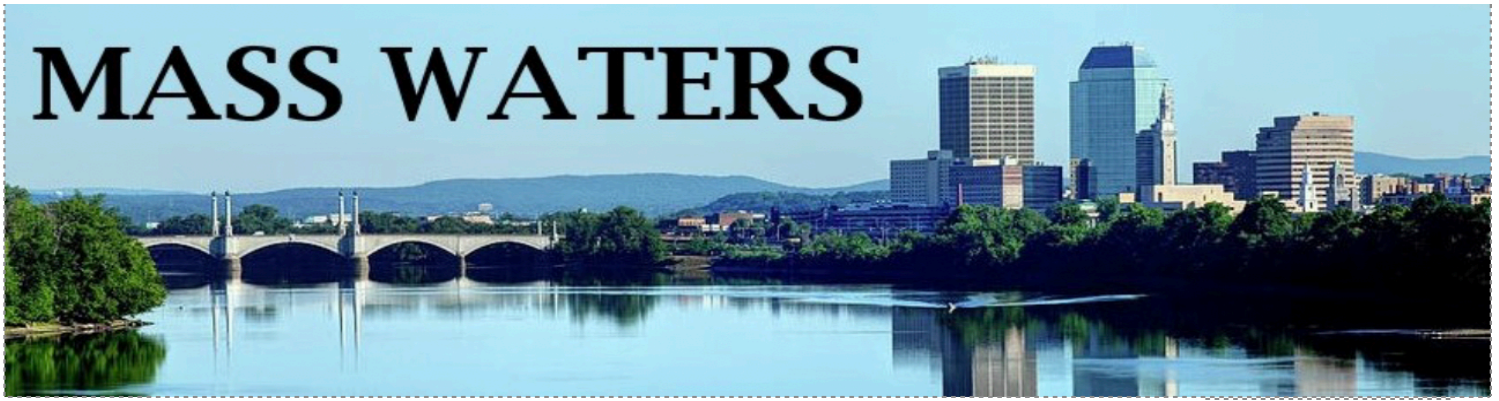




Trade Show Recap

By John Downey, MAWEA Board

Thank you to all attendees, presenters, vendors, and sponsors for making our annual tradeshow, which took place at Wachusett Mountain on May 29, a huge success!

Speakers from MAWEA, MA DEP, Tighe & Bond and Black Swan Lab delivered technical sessions on pending legislation; part 2 of the BioSolids Management Report; and the potential for energy capture at our own facilities for reuse.

President Elect Jay Waddington officially joined the Board of Directors, elected along with returning Director (and former President) Eric Smith. Directors Rob Delgado and John Digiacommo were also reelected. Thanks to all for serving.

Our Operations Challenge Team MASS CHAOS returned to conduct the pipe cutting competition and talk about the skill (and career) building opportunities this program offers.

We introduced our MAWEA Award winners Aimee Wendolowski and Sam Stephens and recognized Jim Barsanti for becoming a WEF Fellow. We were very pleased to welcome Tori and Alex Beloin, this year's exchange operators, from Vermont.

We'd like to thank our presenters:

- Mickey Nowak for the Biosolids Legislation Update
- Whitney Fenwick of the DEP, Bill Brower of Brown & Caldwell, and Chris Bone of Tighe & Bond for the Biosolids Report Part 2
- Audrey Shulman of Black Swan Lab for Capturing Thermal Energy
- and MASS CHAOS: Kelly Olanyk, Team Captain

Trade Show Recap Cont. on Page 2



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Trade Show Recap Cont. from Page 1

(Springfield); Justo Cabrera (Springfield);
Joanuel Claudio (Hudson); and Kyle
Schultzki (Holyoke)

Our sponsors:

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- Williamson Pump and Motor
- Wright-Pierce

and you, our members, for bringing value to all our gatherings.

If you'd like to be more involved in the program planning or logistics of the tradeshow, or any of our meetings, please email info@mawea.org with Events in the subject line; we're happy to hear your ideas and are always looking for extra hands.

Our next meeting will be hosted by Pare Corporation and include a 4 TCH technical session, breakfast and lunch, so please see the announcement in this issue and plan to join us October 20th in Foxborough. Space is limited, so make your reservations now, and we hope to see you there.



MASS CHAOS Members (from left to right): Kelly Olanyk, Matthew Moitoso, and Joanuel Claudio.

Whitney Fenwick, MA DEP, and Chris Bone, Tighe & Bond, present on part 2 of the Biosolids Report



HANDS-ON PUMP TRAINING



Design Considerations for Positive Displacement Pumps

October 20, 2026 - 7:30AM-12:15PM

10 Lincoln Road, Suite 210 Foxborough, MA 02035

The Massachusetts Water Environment Association (MAWEA) would like to welcome all operators, maintenance personnel, and other plant staff to learn about the design and workings of positive-displacement pumps at the Fall 2026 Training Event co-hosted by Pare Corporation.

Penn Valley Pump (PVP) with its local representative, New England Environmental Equipment (NE3), will describe pump concepts and will perform a live O&M demonstration on a PVP Double-Disc pump. Attendees will earn 4.0 TCHs approved by MassDEP for WWTPO licenses.

This event is co-sponsored by Pare Corporation, NE3 and PVP.



Space is limited

- ✓ Pump Technology Overview
- ✓ Positive Displacement (PD) & Benefits
- ✓ Reciprocating PD Pumps
- ✓ Application & System Design
- ✓ Approved for 4.0 TCH approval

REGISTER ONLINE

Member - \$40

Non Member - \$60 (incl. membership)

Registration includes coffee, donuts and lunch.

Cancellation Policy: Due to guarantees, no refunds will be granted after October 2, 2026. Any cancellations prior are subject to a 25% cancellation fee.

Note: Operators are responsible for checking in by 7:45 AM and signing out at the conclusion of the event. TCH certificates will be emailed a week after the event.



MAWEA, 10 Tower Office Park, Suite 601, Woburn, MA 01801
Tel: 781-939-0908 Fax: 781-939-0907 Email: info@mawea.org; www.mawea.org

NEIWPCC Learning Opportunities

By Daphne Short, NEIWPCC

New Self-Paced Courses - Free!

NEIWPCC has developed two new self-paced courses now available on our website:

- [Basic Municipal Wastewater Treatment - 20 TCHs \(https://bit.ly/basic-municipal\)](https://bit.ly/basic-municipal)
- [Wastewater Process, Troubleshooting, and Optimization - 8 TCHs \(https://bit.ly/48JAF6S\)](https://bit.ly/48JAF6S)

Courses are designed to present an overview of a general wastewater treatment plant from collection system to discharge and aid in recognizing, troubleshooting, and resolving process problems that can lead to non-compliance.

These courses are being offered free of charge under NEIWPCC's Training and Technical Assistance Program, supported by EPA Grant TW84064801.

Fall calendar is now updated on our site with some classes listed below:

In-Person Classes:

- Basic Wastewater Math I & II
- Intermediate Wastewater Math I & II
- Basic Industrial Wastewater
- Basic Municipal Wastewater (In-Person)

Offering Advanced Lab Classes:

- Laboratory Analyses - Bacteria
- Laboratory Analyses - Solids
- Advanced Lab - Procedures
- Advanced Lab - Introduction to Analytical Chemistry
- Advanced Lab - Quality Assurance in the Lab: The When, How and Why
- Advanced Lab - Nitrogen and Phosphorus
- Advanced Lab - Metals
- Advanced Lab - Organic Chemistry: VOCs, COD, and FOG

Visit Our Website for Our Full Live-Virtual Calendar: <https://payments.neiwpcc.org/>.

New Training and Technical Assistance Environmental Analyst

Julia Long holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Centre College and a MA Industrial Wastewater Operator Grade II certification. At



Practical Applications, she served as a field technician and a supervisor, as well as a training specialist. She provided water

sampling, permitting services, preventative

system maintenance and emergency technical assistance for a variety of industrial wastewater systems. She also interfaced with regulatory agencies, supervised a team of technicians, managed a laboratory and associated processes, and refined technical training and safety curriculum. Since her time there, she has pursued a master's degree in science and technology for innovation in global development from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Operator Certification Exams

All **Massachusetts Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator (WWTPO) exams** are administered through **PSI/AMP**. Before scheduling your exam:

- Review PSI's handbook (<https://bit.ly/maww-handbook>) and scheduling procedures (<https://bit.ly/maww-scheduling>).
- Explore PSI's resource page for practice exams, educational books, and training materials: www.psonlinestore.com/.

Additional Training & Resources

- WaterOperator.org – Free webinars, training materials, and a calendar of local

training events.

- US EPA's SCOWT – A searchable clearinghouse of wastewater technologies to keep professionals up to date (<https://bit.ly/3QSJvck>).

MAWEA members automatically receive 2 TCHs just for being members and can earn additional hours by attending quarterly meetings.

For details on renewal requirements, visit: bit.ly/neiwpcc-renewals.

NEIWPCC offers an online searchable database of wastewater operators (bit.ly/3YUJJku) along with other resources for Massachusetts wastewater professionals.

For questions about certification or renewal, please email Michelle Jenkins at mjenkins@neiwpcc.org.

For more information or questions about NEIWPCC or the MWOT program, please contact us at training@neiwpcc.org or (978) 323-7929.

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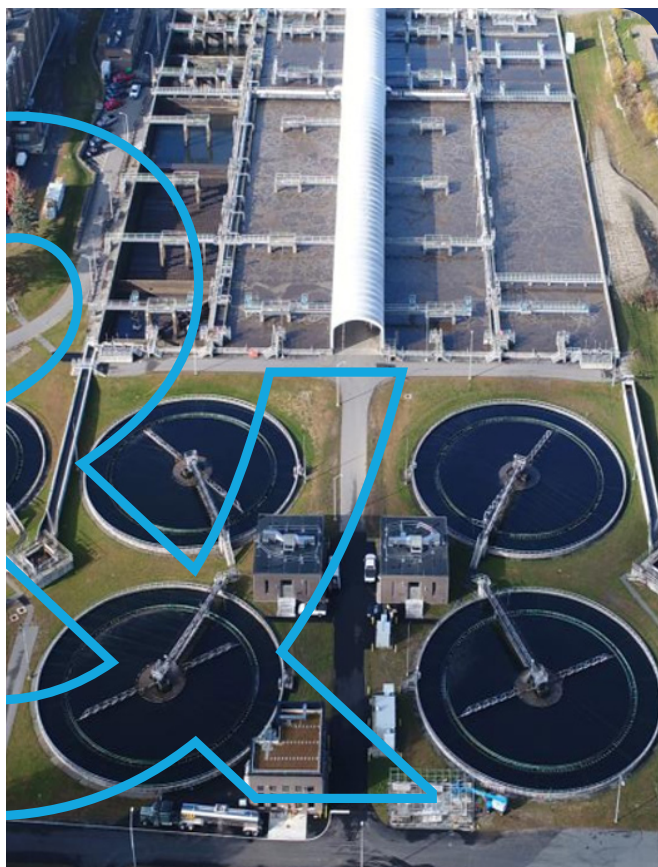
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Legislative Update

By Mickey Nowak, MAWEA Government Affairs Committee Chair

Mass Ready Act Provides Significant Funding for Water and Wastewater Projects

The Massachusetts environmental bond bill, also known as the Mass Ready Act, is a sweeping legislative package authorizing over \$3.5 billion in state borrowing for climate resilience, environmental protection, and infrastructure improvements. The bill is currently in a legislative conference committee where the House and Senate versions are being reconciled before a final bill is sent to Governor Maura Healey for her signature.

The legislation directs vital capital funding to local cities and towns, with major allocations including:

- **Water and PFAS:** Up to \$120 million dedicated to remediating PFAS ("forever chemicals") in public water supplies and private wells.
- **Clean Water Trust:** The creation of a Resilience Revolving Fund within the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-clean-water-trust) to provide low-interest loans for climate-resilient stormwater and wastewater infrastructure.
- **Nitrogen & Upgrades:** Specific investments targeting wastewater infrastructure and nitrogen pollution reduction.
- **Lead Remediation:** \$15 million for a dedicated grant program to install filtered water filling stations in schools.
- **Conservation:** \$120 million to fund land protection, open space, and brownfield remediation grant programs.

Key Policy Reforms: In addition to funding authorizations, the bill introduces significant policy provisions. Both chambers have debated measures like property flood-risk disclosures for home buyers, updates to state land management,

and expanded MassTrails (www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants) funding. The Senate version also included a ban on single-use plastic bags.

Draft Guidance for Reducing Risk from Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS) in Biosolids

On July 1, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released the memorandum Draft Guidance for Reducing Risk from PFOA and PFOS in Biosolids.

This EPA memorandum includes draft guidance that, if finalized, would provide recommendations that may be helpful to operators of wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). It provides voluntary recommendations for potential ways to mitigate risks from PFOA and PFOS when managing sewage sludge and biosolids.

The draft guidance is being released for a 60-day public comment period, which ends on October 5, 2026. The EPA also may use public comments filed to help inform any future agency actions.

- **Document:** Draft Guidance for Reducing Risk from PFOA and PFOS in Biosolids (pdf) (www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2026-06/draft-guidance-reducing-risk-pfoa-pfos-biosolids.pdf)
- **Federal Register Notice:** Draft Guidance for Reducing Risk From Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS) in Biosolids; Establishment of a Public Docket; Request for Feedback (www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/07/06/2026-13615/draft-guidance-for-reducing-risk-from-perfluorooctanoic-acid-pfoa-and-perfluorooctane-sulfonic-acid)

WorkStory

By John Downey, MAWEA Board

You operators are often referred to as the Subject Matter Experts, those most qualified to comment on proposed regulation governing treatment decisions and methods. This same status applies to the jobs you yourselves perform. You are the experts here.

The problem we currently face, and have recognized for over a decade, is the continuing loss of many of you to well-deserved retirements. We need to replace not just the numbers of those leaving, we need to replace the expertise that will leave, an expertise borne out of your energy and enthusiasm for the work.

I've enjoyed meeting our visiting exchange operators over the last 10 years. Many have shared the same story with me about their path into the field- conversation with a peer. Many also write about their exchange experiences, which, like Tori and Alex Beloin's, get published here for you.

It occurred to me that we can merge the two ideas to leverage that "conversation with a peer" path. I'd like to tap the resource of the Subject Matter Experts here- that's all of you- to write about your own experiences in the field. Topics could include why you are here, what your job looks like, what you like or find challenging about your day, a particular event you think is worth sharing, a goal you have for yourself or your family. Anything, really, that explains why you keep coming back.

Your writing would be collected into a new sort of job seeker's resource, one that is truly peer to peer. WorkStory will be published online and in the newsletter and hosted and updated by MAWEA. Submissions will be accepted through the info@mawea.org email, go through review and copyedit, and returned to you for final approval before inclusion.

We will update the collection with each new submission, and you'll be credited- by name, or name and position, or name, position, and facility/ employer (decentralized operators are welcome!) and time in service. Time in service is an important reference for folks new to the industry- hearing from new(er) folks can add reassurance that success

here is not only achieved after years or decades.

I want to start WorkStory with essays from past exchange operators; Tori and Alex have graciously consented to participate. I'm contacting our other guests but want to open this up to our members.

We'll update the collection as submissions are received. No one can take the place of your voice. So please consider adding that voice to WorkStory. You'll be doing the industry and your communities a great service.

Some of us have logged a lot of hours speaking at schools and conducting facility tours. This work creates much needed public awareness of and support for the essential and rewarding function we perform for our community. These also can be very powerful in person engagements, essential to recruitment, and have drawn many students to join us. I hope more of us can do one, the other, or both.

Still, we need additional ways to tell our story, to reach more candidates, more effectively, wherever they may be. One place we know they all can be found is the job market. Whether preparing to leave or newly out of school, contemplating a career change, or needing to replace income lost in a difficult economy, job seekers seek guidance. Trusted guidance- from someone who knows what they are talking about. That's YOU. Your voice on this subject matters to a lot of people, and some of them may be your best new hire.

2026 Operator Exchange - Vermont Visits Massachusetts

By Tori Beloin, Village of Bellows Falls, VT

On May 26th, we headed to Massachusetts to represent Vermont in the Operator Exchange Program with MAWEA. We were graciously met by John Downey, VEOLIA (Brockton), MAWEA Director. We met John for dinner and cannolis that evening sharing great experiences and challenges we have all dealt with in the industry.

On Wednesday, May 27th, with John as our host, we toured Northampton, Chicopee, and Springfield wastewater treatment facilities. At Northampton we were met by Rey Roman, Chief Operator of Northampton, and Carina Hart, owner and Engineer at Hart Consults. Northampton's plant was in the midst of upgrades. We were able to talk at length with Rey and Carina about the upgrades they were doing such as new Flygt pumps for the influent and revamping their clarifiers. Carina was able to give us great insight from the engineer point of view about the upgrades and what all went into the years of planning and now execution of the new plant. Rey was able to also show us the flood control system that they are responsible for.

From Northampton we arrived at Chicopee Water Pollution Control Facility. We were met by Rudy Schoonover, Senior Operator; operators Reed Martineau and Jake Peterson; Peter Lyons P.E, Woodard & Curran and MAWEA Director; and Quinn Lonczak, Project Supervisor. Our tour at Chicopee brought great awareness to aging infrastructure and the struggles that come with it.

Rudy showed great appreciation for his operators and a great job well done with what they have accomplished. Rudy, Reed, and Jake gave us a very in-depth tour highlighting some great aspects of their plant like their chemical feed systems, as well as their new pumps. They also highlighted some of the challenges they face with having a combined sewer overflow plant, which is something neither of us had experienced before.

From Chicopee we went to Springfield's Bondi Island Wastewater Treatment Facility, where we were met by Kelly Olanyk, Deputy Leader Veolia Springfield, and Denise Descheneau, P.E, Upper Blackstone Clean Water and President of MAWEA. Springfield's wastewater plant sits on 50 acres of land and has a current average flow of 40 MGD being the second largest plant in the state of Massachusetts. They have a model of the plant in their lobby that shows the sheer magnitude of their plant. Kelly shared that the plant also takes surrounding towns' sewer and has 2,500 miles of pipe in the collection system. Kelly showed us the different zones within their large aeration tanks that they have dialed in to provide the best treatment process in those tanks. Springfield uses chlorine gas for disinfection, which neither of us had experienced before.

On Thursday, May 28th Denise was our host as we visited two additional wastewater treatment plants. We started our day by touring Sturbridge Wastewater Treatment Facility operated and maintained by Veolia. We were met by Chief Operator Shane Moody and operator James Merchant. Sturbridge is a BioMag and CoMag facility which we were told is the first combined system in the country. We learned that the magnetite is a byproduct of coal production and how the plant uses large magnets to retrieve the magnetite out of the wastewater at multiple stages in their process.

Our last tour on Thursday was Upper Blackstone Clean Water. The tour was given by Joseph Parker, Plant Operations Manager. Upper Blackstone uses



a biofilter to control odor. We were told the process of the biofilter and how it uses mulch to filter/clean the air. Joseph brought us through each part of the plant process and explained the bioreactors and their specific sequences that they use at their plant. From there we toured their magnesium hydroxide building that has a garden roof and a solar door. We were amazed by the amount of green space at the plant. Upper Blackstone is one of only a few plants in Massachusetts that operates incinerators. Joseph brought us to the first incinerator that was down as they rotate every six months for maintenance service. Joseph explained how there are ten hearths in each incinerator and how the dry, burn, and cool all within a singular incinerator. We then were able to tour the incinerator that was in service seeing how the incinerator works and what the final ash product produced looks like.

Friday, May 29th was our last day of the exchange, which we spent at the MAWEA Spring Trade show at Wachusett Mountain. We were able to witness and participate in a pipe cutting contest put on by Mass Chaos, which is the Massachusetts Operations Challenge Team. Mass Chaos recently

placed in another competition and will be traveling to the WEFTEC Ops Challenge event in New Orleans on September 26 – 30th. Mass Chaos is led by team captain Kelly Olanyk, Deputy Leader Veolia Springfield.

We would like to give a very special thank you to John Downey, VEOLIA (Brockton), MAWEA Director; Kelly Olanyk, Deputy Leader, Veolia Springfield; Denise Descheneau P.E, Upper Blackstone Clean Water, President of MAWEA; Joseph Parker, Plant Operations Manager; Peter Lyons P.E, Woodard & Curran, MAWEA Director; Quinn Lonczak, Project Supervisor; Rudy Schoonover, Senior Operator; Operators Reed Martineau and Jake Peterson; Rey Roman, Chief Operator, North Hampton; Carina Hart, Owner/Engineer, Hart Consults; and Chief Operator Shane Moody and operator James Merchant. We could not recommend the operator exchange program enough! This program was fantastic, from the wonderful hospitality, great food, and great folks we met. We encourage any operator who is interested in the program to apply!

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Pictured: Fields Point WWTF



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2026 MAWEA Awards

By John Downey, MAWEA Board

We are pleased again this year to present the MAWEA Awards for the categories of Operator of the Year, Laboratory Excellence, and Service (the Charles W Tyler). This program returned in 2024 and we are grateful for your participation. We are sharing the winning nomination submissions, as these are as much an honor as the plaques themselves; the acknowledgment of our peers is perhaps the highest praise we can receive.

OPERATOR OF THE YEAR : Sam Stephens, Montague

The nominee shall be an individual who has exemplified outstanding service and achievement in the operation and maintenance of a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment plant and has made a significant contribution to the wastewater field. The nominee must be a Massachusetts Water Environment Association (MAWEA) member in good standing. Nominations for this award shall be submitted in writing on the Awards Nomination Form by any MAWEA member in good standing. Nominators shall fully set forth the basis upon which the nomination is made and shall sign the nomination. Each nomination shall be evaluated by the Awards Committee. This award may be given annually at the discretion of the Awards Committee at the Annual Trade Show and BBQ.

Criteria: One or more of the following areas should be discussed in the nomination form to serve as a basis for selection of the award recipient:

- Improvement to the Environment
- Cost Effective Operations
- Cost Effective Maintenance Procedures
- Innovative Process Controls
- Solids Handling and Disposal
- Training

Nominator, Chelsey Little:

I first met Sam in early 2019 when I assumed the

role of Chief Operator working at a small-town activated sludge facility. Sam had just started working as a part-time laborer/operator, new to the field of wastewater. In 2020, I transitioned to the position of Superintendent for the nearby Town of Montague, where a full-time operator position became available. Sam accepted the role, leaving his previous full-time position as a DPW laborer/operator.

Since then, Sam has consistently demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication as an operator. He is highly motivated, eager to learn, and continually seeks opportunities to challenge himself. Over the years, he has advanced steadily in both rank and licensure, ultimately earning the position of Foreman in the summer of 2025, and obtaining his grade 5C wastewater license.

During his tenure in Montague, Sam has played a critical role in both project management and permit compliance. Our department frequently serves as its own general contractor for equipment upgrades and capital projects, and Sam has proven to be an outstanding project leader. His contributions have resulted in significant cost savings to the enterprise fund, totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars over the last several years.

In addition to his technical expertise, Sam possesses a natural ability to lead. He effectively manages a team of six operators, fostering a collaborative environment while maintaining morale during high-pressure situations. His leadership style promotes teamwork, engagement, and resilience.

Sam has dedicated an extraordinary amount of time and energy to the facility, often going above and beyond in ways that require personal sacrifice. His integrity, professionalism, and work ethic set a standard that others in the wastewater field should strive to emulate.

For these reasons, I strongly recommend Sam Stevens for Operator of the Year.

Nominator, Isaac Goulding:

Sam is very knowledgeable, professional and a hard worker. He has been helping me out part time for the last 5 years and there is no job he can't handle. He handles everything from daily lab work and maintenance to on call and sewer backups.

His fulltime job is working for Montague WPCF as assistant superintendent. He also does a great job there.

He does it all!

LABORATORY ANALYST EXCELLENCE:
Aimee Wendolowski, Crane Paper

The nominee shall be an individual who has exemplified outstanding service and achievement in laboratory techniques and procedures and has made a significant contribution to the water quality analysis profession. The nominee must be a Massachusetts Water Environment Association (MAWEA) member in good standing. Nominations for this award shall be submitted in writing on the Awards Nomination Form by any MAWEA member in good standing. Nominators shall fully set forth the basis upon which the nomination is made and shall sign the nomination. Each nomination shall be evaluated by the Awards Committee. This award may be given annually at the discretion of the Awards Committee at the Annual Trade Show and BBQ.

Criteria: One or more of the following areas should be discussed in the nomination form to serve as a basis for selection of the award recipient:

- Outstanding efforts in the area of wastewater and environmental aquatic analyses. Including such items as innovative sampling techniques or solutions to a treatment, analytical or environmental problem.
- Contributions that have been beneficial to the nominee's facility
- Initiative or performance "beyond the call of duty"

Nominator, Daniel Hajdas:

Aimee deserves to be nominated for a few reasons. Our wastewater treatment plant solely gets effluent from pulp and paper processes. Her work on reducing nitrogen going out in our final effluent was the first thing that has been outstanding. Her lab work to identify nitrogen in our plant and sources coming from the paper mills involved testing hundreds of extra samples for all types of nitrogen. First urea addition at our plant was reduced as this was identified through nitrogen testing. This reduced 4,503 gallons of urea being added and 7,654 lbs. of nitrogen being added in 6 months. She also began doing TKN testing using a Hach test - TNT 880. This identified why we were seeing higher levels of ammonia a day after the paper mills shut down - ammonification. Testing of paper mill chemicals revealed high levels of TKN. Aimee's lab work on this has been amazing. Since these sources of nitrogen has been identified there has begun a project to reduce those chemicals. All this was accomplished while doing all process and permit required testing in our lab. Aimee will continue nitrogen testing until we are satisfied with the reduction of nitrogen. Our NPDES permit doesn't have a hard nitrogen number yet - we report. However we have to report yearly on efforts to reduce nitrogen. This effort on Aimee's part due to lab analysis is the first significant break through in accomplishing that. To proactively look at options to reduce nitrogen through lab testing is a testament to her excellence in lab analysis. Secondly Aimee received the Inspiring Woman of Wastewater award in December 2025. This award is presented by Aquafix. Aquafix provides wastewater services and products (<https://teamaquafix.com/women-of-wastewater/>). They yearly accept nominations of woman in the wastewater industry and they review all candidates and choose who best fits that award. Aimee has been in the wastewater field almost 8 years and the lab work she has done has been excellent not just in monitoring the effluent and plant samples for process control and yearly DMR QA studies, but her lab analysis for nitrogen will have a positive effect on the environment. All the lab work she has

MAWEA Awards Cont. on Page 12

done has led to better process control and a reduction in nitrogen going to the river in our effluent. Truly amazing work and certainly a lot of extra work. I hope you find that Aimee meets the requirements for the Laboratory Analyst Excellence award. She is truly deserving of it.

CHARLES W. TYLER SERVICE AWARD: John Downey, Veolia Brockton

The nominee will have rendered distinguished service to the Massachusetts Water Environment Association as related to the criteria below. The nominee must be a Massachusetts Water Environment Association (MAWEA) member in good standing. Nominations for this award shall be submitted in writing on the Awards Nomination Form by any MAWEA member in good standing. Nominators shall fully set forth the basis upon which the nomination is made and shall sign the nomination. Each nomination shall be evaluated by the Awards Committee. This award may be given annually at the discretion of the Awards Committee at the Annual Trade Show and BBQ.

Criteria: One or more of the following areas should be discussed in the nomination form to serve as a basis for selection of the award recipient:

- Organizational Leadership
- Administrative service
- Completion of Special Assignments
- Supporting Association Activities

Recipient: John Downey
It's not so much that it would be awkward to include John Digiacomio's humbling nomination of me here, as it is that I would like to use the space to thank the people who made it possible. You members, and the board of this association, welcomed me graciously into your company, and bore with me as my presidency and COVID arrived, hand in hand. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you in any capacity.

Charlie Tyler means a great deal to this

association, to NEWEA, to WEF, and to our fellowship of operators. Having served (and continuing to serve) us in many capacities, Charlie has always provided mentorship, and friendship. I have learned a lot talking with and observing him; I imagine many of us have. It is humbling to be mentioned in the same breath with someone who's contributed so much, so quietly, to the functioning of our community. Thank you, Charlie, for your service to us all.

We hope you will consider recognizing a coworker or colleague for the difference they make at your facility, or in our community. Recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of our coworkers encourages emulation and builds a stronger community.

The Awards Committee welcomes your nominations, and your ideas for additional award categories.



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Water Infrastructure Alliance

By John Downey, MAWEA Board

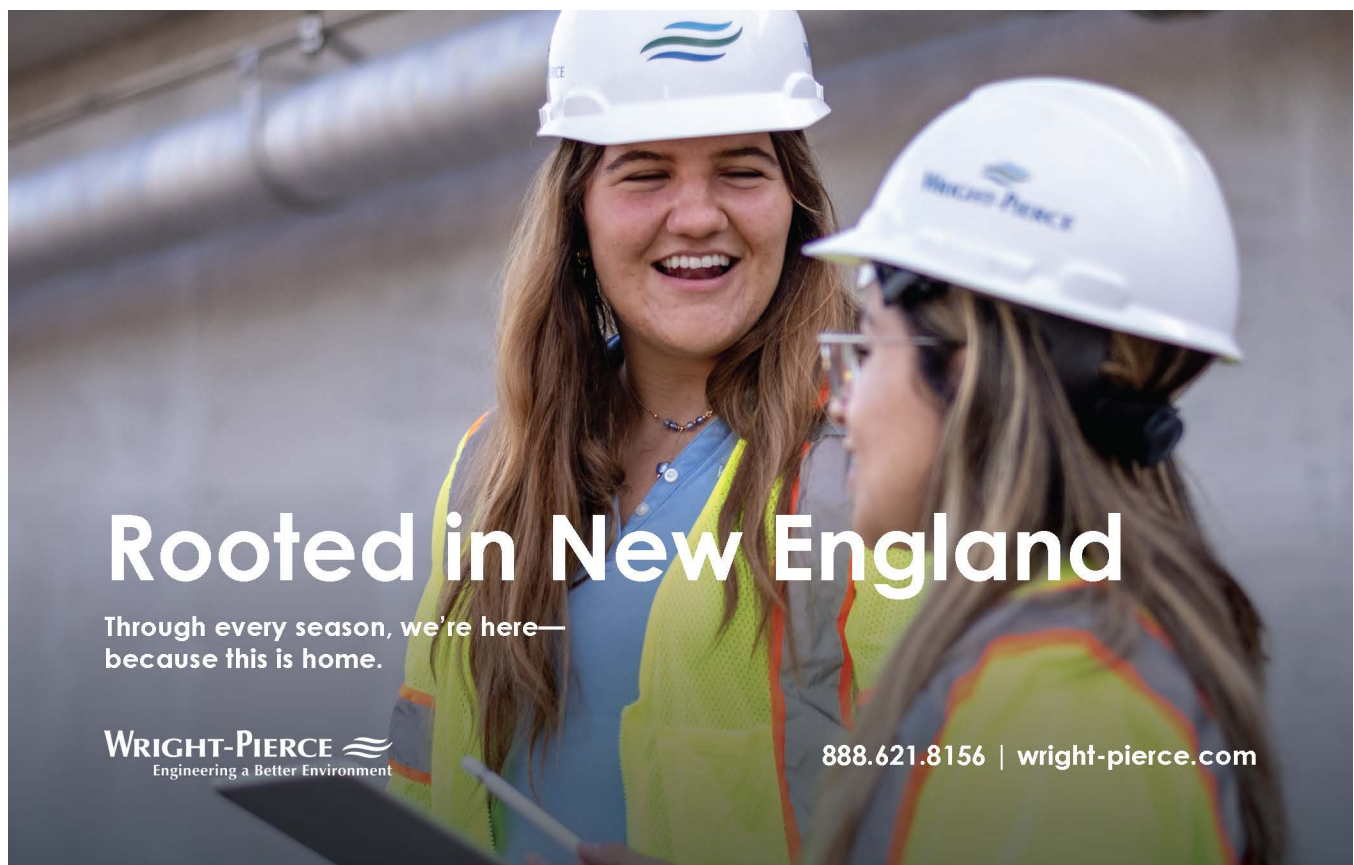
The Water Infrastructure Alliance brings together operators, engineers, contractors and environmental advocates to promote responsible stewardship of the Commonwealth's water resources. The Alliance's focus is to ensure the security and viability of these resources, which are nominally in the care of the individual communities they serve, but are ultimately our collective responsibility to protect. Doing this work requires you to have a voice in meeting that responsibility. Bill S.3064, An Act to build resilience for Massachusetts communities, includes a section that gives the us that voice.

S.3064 SECTION 15. Section 25 of chapter 21A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (a) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

(a) There shall be a water infrastructure advisory committee to review, monitor and evaluate measures to address: (i) the progress of closing the gap in funding for water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure; (ii) new sources of funding to be used for closing the gap in funding for

water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure; (iii) costs associated with remediation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water; (iv) costs associated with the removal of lead service lines; (v) costs associated with the elimination of combined sewer overflows; (vi) costs associated with the reduction of nutrients in effluent discharges, biosolids management and stormwater management as required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency permits and stormwater standards established by the department of environmental protection. The advisory committee shall meet not less than once every quarter or more frequently at the call of the secretary of energy and environmental affairs or a designee or upon the written request of not less than 2 members of the advisory committee.

The following letter has been submitted to the legislators of the conference committee in support of this section, to ensure that funding the sustainability of the resources you manage continues to be a proper focus of our legislators. Government in action is us in action.



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Water Infrastructure Alliance
c/o The Engineering Center
One Walnut Street
Boston, MA 02108

July 31, 2026

The Honorable Julian Cyr
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 111
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael J. Finn
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 39
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Peter J. Durant
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 520
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Christine P. Barber
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Rebecca L. Rausch
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 215
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Kenneth P. Sweezey
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street, Room 237
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Retain Section 15 (S. 3064) in An Act to build resilience for Massachusetts communities

Dear Senators Cyr, Durant, and Rausch, and Representatives Finn, Barber, and Sweezey:

On behalf of the Water Infrastructure Alliance (WIA)—a coalition of public drinking water and clean water organizations, environmental groups, engineering and construction associations, and municipal and regional advocacy organizations—we respectfully request that **Section 15 of Senate Bill 3064** be retained in the final conference committee version of *An Act to build resilience for Massachusetts communities*.

Chapter 259 of the Acts of 2014 established the Water Infrastructure Advisory Committee (WIAC) to assess and monitor the Commonwealth's water infrastructure funding needs. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is responsible for convening the committee, and many of our organizations serve as appointed members. The WIAC was designed to bring public and private stakeholders together to ensure that the Commonwealth's water infrastructure needs remain in the forefront.

Unfortunately, the WIAC did not meet between the end of 2018 and the end of 2024, when it was reconvened solely to discuss priorities for the Mass Ready Act. Given the unprecedented infrastructure and regulatory challenges now facing drinking water and wastewater utilities, this level of engagement is simply insufficient.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that Massachusetts faces **more than \$37 billion** in drinking water and clean water infrastructure needs over the next 20 years—before accounting for the costs of addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). At the same time, utilities are implementing major new regulatory requirements that did not exist when the WIAC was created in 2014, including PFAS treatment, lead service line replacement, and combined sewer overflow improvements. The City of Haverhill’s recent wastewater emergency, when a 1970s-era sewer force main cracked in two places, is just one example of the impact any failure of our water and wastewater systems can have.

Accordingly, Section 15 modernizes the WIAC by requiring EEA to convene the committee at least quarterly and updating its charge to reflect today's infrastructure and regulatory realities. Regular meetings will ensure the Commonwealth has an ongoing forum to identify funding priorities, evaluate emerging challenges, and provide policymakers with informed recommendations on the investments needed to protect public health and the environment.

We respectfully urge the Conference Committee to retain Section 15 of Senate Bill 3064 in the final legislation.

Should you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact WIA Co-Chairs Kevin O'Shea at koshea@engineers.org or Jennifer Pederson at jpederson@masswaterworks.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin O'Shea, Executive Director
American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts

Jennifer Pederson, Executive Director
Massachusetts Water Works Association

Denise Descheneau, President
Massachusetts Water Environment Association

Joseph Nolan, Executive Director
Utility Contractors' Association of New England, Inc.

David Melly, Senior Policy Director
Environmental League of Massachusetts

David McGlinchey, Executive Director
Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

Kirsten King, CEO
New England Water Works Association, Inc.

Richard A. Matson, PE, President

Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section – ASCE

Paul Niedzwiecki, CEO
Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce

Philip Guerin, Executive Director
Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship

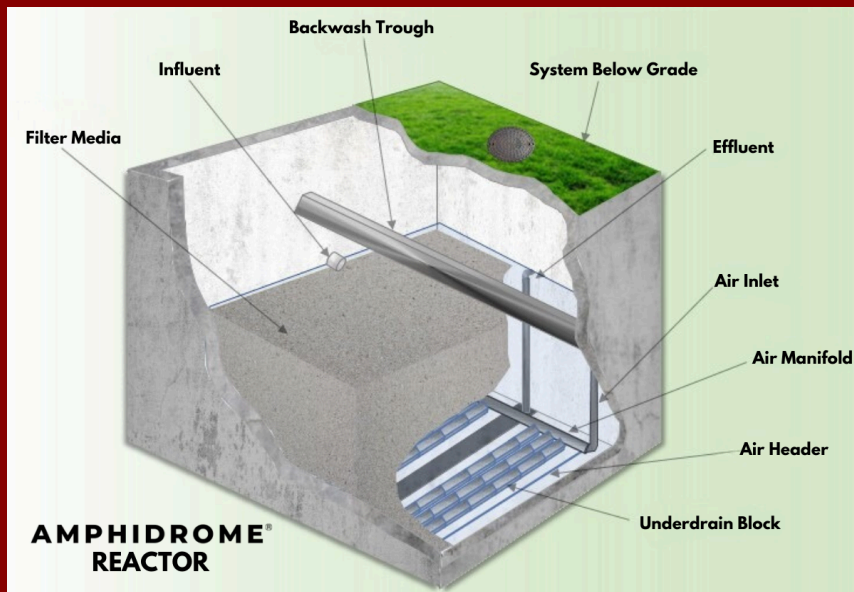
Matthew Romero, Executive Director
MWRA Advisory Board

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2026 MAWEA Golf Recap

By John Downey, MAWEA Board

Thanks to all of you who were able to join us on June 10th at Heritage Country Club for the annual golf outing. We enjoyed a beautiful day in Charlton, with 130 golfers, marking the highest turnout in recent memory.

Congratulations to our Winners:

Steve Morin's Group - 1st place

Matt Blake's Group - 2nd place

Seth Moran's Group - Last place

Men's longest drive - Jay Spooner

Women's longest drive - Denise Descheneau

Closest to the pin - John Digiacomo; Randy Komsii;

Mike Williams; Joe Fieta

And Thank You to our Sponsors:

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- Veolia
- Woodard & Curran

If you or your company would like to become a sponsor of next year's outing, we'd love to have you on board! Your sponsorship supports not just this outing, but the association's work throughout the year. It allows us to better serve our operators, and promotes your visibility. So let our operators know who is supporting them with continuing education and opportunities to share ideas and best practices.

Please email info@mawea.org with Golf in the subject line and we will send you information on the sponsorship program.



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MASS CHAOS Competes at Nationals, September 26-30 in New Orleans, LA

Following their successful participation in and qualification at the regional Operations Challenge competition, which took place at NEWEA's Spring Meeting, May 17-20 in North Falmouth, MA, MASS CHAOS will be moving on to compete at the national Operations Challenge competition! This event will take place as part of the Water Environment Federation's WEFTEC, September 26-30 in New Orleans, LA.

Not familiar with Operations Challenge? Operations Challenge, our “Wastewater Olympics”, allows teams of four members to demonstrate their excellence in operations, maintenance, laboratory, safety, and collection systems tasks. This is not an event for a few “specialists”; this is an opportunity for any operator to develop and improve skills, practice teamwork, and build their professional network. Operations Challenge is for operators who are serious about making the job a rewarding career.

Can't make WEFTEC? Check out photos from the Operations Challenge Training Day (www.flickr.com/photos/newea/albums/72177720332892879/), which allowed teams to conduct a practice run for the regionals and was hosted again this year by Westborough Wastewater; NEWEA's regional competition at the Spring Meeting (www.flickr.com/photos/newea/albums/72177720333870783/); and the Rhody Rumble, an invitational practice tune-up hosted by the Rhode Island Clean Water Association (www.flickr.com/photos/newea/albums/72177720335563206/).