



The Obligate

Maine
Association of
Wetland
Scientists
www.maws.me



President's Message *Aleita "Lee" Burman*

Hello esteemed MAWS membership! I want to thank you for trusting me and the MAWS Executive Committee (EC) with steering the good ship MAWS for another turn around the sun. We have a really great group of volunteers who step up when needed to keep MAWS going in the right direction at the right times, and who go above and beyond for the MAWS cause. Thank you MAWS EC! (Volunteers welcome!)

And thank YOU the MAWS membership for staying with us through this, another year of the pandemic and associated challenges. We are a great assemblage of people, with such vast knowledge of our favorite subjects. I am always in awe of the conversations in the room when we do get together. We are truly a wonderful organization with excellent people. MAWS would not be what we are without you, the membership. Thank you!

And what a year it has been. Word on the street is that the majority of us were quite busy (busy as beavers or bees perhaps?) with work this year. The solar EXPLOSION, real estate EXPLOSION, and just regular old projects kept those of us in the private sector on our toes. And, of course, those with jobs at resource agencies experienced doubling or tripling of permit applications, reviews and site visits this year (so I hear), keeping those folks on their game as well. Science never sleeps, but with so much going on in our great State of Maine, we are all practicing our science with little sleep. Great work everyone! With nary time to breathe, we have now made it to winter, hopefully a time of relative rest for all of us. The founders of MAWS wisely set the annual meeting for early spring, with planning the winter before, so we can provide the best program ever each year.

On that note, the MAWS annual meeting and business meeting will be provided via on-line format again this year.

Again, we will be keeping the format to a few hours only, with on-line or in-person workshops offered throughout the year if at all possible. The Program Committee (PC) worked very hard on pulling together several on-line workshops this year, which were all interesting and well attended. The plan is to continue this format throughout 2022 as well. Thanks to the PC for their efforts!

This year will be a continued effort to combine forces with the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists (MAPSS) for at least the annual meeting, and perhaps future workshops. This is being done so that regulators and resource agencies can give updates to both groups only once, but also because we feel strongly that MAPSS fits well with our membership and are hoping they will continue to work with us and perhaps join with us in the future. ** See the next article in this Obligate newsletter by yours truly regarding the Maine Association of Natural Resource Scientists (MANRS)!

Discussions have been had regarding a summer in-person workshop at a beautiful outdoor venue with super interesting speakers and lots of catch-up time. While summers are hard schedule wise, I hope to see all of your faces there. It's past time to be together again!

Aside from the MANRS initiative, during my tenure I would like to see the Technical Committee (TC) (now the Vernal Pool Technical Committee [VPTC] but maybe we can change that name) work on a Wetlands of Special Significance (WOSS) protocol, similar to the Vernal Pool Protocol. It is past time for all to be classifying WOSS vs. Wetlands not of Special Significance (WNSS) correctly, comparably, and predictably while preparing plans and permits. During the annual meeting I will ask that we change the VPTC name to the TC, and that this committee work on a WOSS protocol. This, of course, will be requested with the TC's approval. (Again, volunteers are welcome!)



Again, I am truly honored to lead this amazing group of individuals that share the common interest of wetlands, natural resources and excellent science and work through the next year. Please feel free to contact me, or anyone on the EC with any questions, ideas and/or to put your name in the hat for a volunteer position.

Thank you,

Aleita “Lee” Burman, MAWS President (2021 – 2023)

If anyone would like to be part of the MAWS executive or other committees please contact Lee Burman (blburman@gmail.com) or any member of the EC.

MAWS to MANRS – A Special Request for Review from the MAWS President Aleita “Lee” Burman

It was one of those long summer evenings in Maine. I accepted an offer to go fishing with my significant other to one of his secret fishing spots. You know the place – no people and big fish. How could I say no? I don’t usually fish, just like to ride along and check it out. It was a warm and humid, calm and windless evening; just right for puttering up the wide river that would be our home for the next couple of hours. While my usual M.O. in the field is working, this was a great chance to observe and reflect. A Thoreau moment, if you may.

This river is within a large, topographically low area that includes bogs, marshes, and low upland ridges. The current is steady, but with a deep, smooth bottom. Not a ripple except where a fish jumps, a muskrat swims, or a turtle pokes its head out to see what we are doing (and, oh yes, a cast lure!). While I sometimes struggle with writing wetland functional assessments (yes, the function is there but is it a “primary” function?), this place leaves no doubt as to functions and values – it has them all and then some. And as the sun goes down, wildlife activity goes up significantly, and so does the fishing action (catch &

release only in this place!). I have so many questions! Why does wildlife activity increase at dusk, is it that the daytime critters are just finishing up as the nighttime critters are just getting started? Is it only this evening, this temperature, this wind direction and speed, this place? Is there a perfect height range for the kingfisher to hunt from? How does the recent dam project downstream affect hydrology here? Does the burr oak prefer well drained soils but only near waterways? What kind of fern is that? Mushroom? Insect? What about climate change? Hmmm, I wish I had more knowledge base and people to learn from at my fingertips. But wait, I do – MAWS!

Which brings me to the reason for this special request and the future direction I would like to see MAWS take. As a membership, we are diverse people with diverse interests and a diverse knowledge base. We are not only wetland scientists, as the name implies, but like myself, many of us are also soil scientists. We are wildlife biologists, botanists, geologists, hydrologists, fisheries biologists, climate change specialists, foresters, engineers, policymakers, planners, etc. We are natural resource scientists and consultants (and then some) truly.

At the next business meeting in March, I will be asking the MAWS membership to consider changing the name of the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists (MAWS) to the Maine Association of Natural Resource Scientists (MANRS). I feel strongly that the new name reflects who we already are as a group, who we have evolved to over the 30 years since MAWS was established, and who we want to be in the future. More than just a name change, being MANRS will allow us to expand our focus beyond just wetland science, to include other important protected natural resources such as rivers and streams, soil science, wetland-based wildlife ecology, and all of those areas most of us need to be proficient in to do our jobs. I feel that MANRS will be uniquely suited to provide opportunities for cross-discipline training and promotion of research in these other fields. We can accomplish training through our regular workshops, with an expansion of subject matter, and we can accomplish promotion of research through our regular stipend program. This change will allow opportunities to expand the content of our workshops, support and contribute to the expansion of protected



natural resource science, and promote policies that contribute to the sound stewardship of protected *natural resources* in Maine (as it is written for wetlands only in the MAWS constitution). I believe we will attract a larger membership and that we will all benefit from this greater diversity and knowledge base.

And we have already started working in this direction! We are currently collaborating with the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists (MAPSS) on our upcoming web workshop which will include regulatory updates as well as one or several talks on a subject that is of interest to both memberships. The general request of the membership at the next business meeting will be to approve forming a committee to look at the logistics of a name change (and asking for volunteers to be on this committee). This change has been talked about for a long time during MAWS executive committee meetings and there is no better time than the present to explore this to see if and how it will work for both the organization and the membership. I am positive that it will and look forward to leading the way towards this change.

If you have any comments or questions prior to the annual meeting, please contact me at blburman@gmail.com. Thank you and keep up the good work (and happy fishing too!). Lee Burman, MAWS President

Report of the Webmaster – Communications Subcommittee *Dave Brenneman & Lauren Leclerc*

The Communications Subcommittee works to utilize the web, social media and email to provide communication among the members and between the Executive Committee and the membership. As a reminder, you can connect with MAWS “virtually” at the following places:

- The MAWS website, <http://www.maws.me>;
- The MAWS Google Group email list, <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/maws-members>; and
- The “Maine Wetlands” Facebook Group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mainewetlands/>

As always, requests to post or update information, post to the jobs board, advertise for an event, or any other needs related to the website or email list can be sent to maws.webmaster@gmail.com. Requests are typically addressed within a day or two.

Table of Executive and Standing Committee Members

Aleita (Lee) Burman	President (2023)	blburman@gmail.com
Katelin Nickerson	President-Elect (2023)	katelin@flycatcherllc.com
Roger St. Amand	Treasurer (2023)	roger.stamand@gmail.com
Sarah Mitchell	Secretary (2022)	semitchell@hntb.com
Matt Kennedy	Program Chair (2022)	mkennu17@gmail.com
Rich Jordan	Legislative Chair (2023)	rich@flycatcherllc.com
Dave Brenneman	Membership Chair (2022)	dave@flycatcherllc.com
Kevin Ryan	Ethics Chair (2023)	kevinr@fbenvironmental.com
Dave Brenneman	Webmaster – Communications Subcommittee	dave@flycatcherllc.com
Lauren Leclerc	Obligate	lgleclerc@comcast.net
Roger St. Amand	Vernal Pool Technical Committee	roger.stamand@gmail.com

(year term expires)



MAWS Legislative Committee Update *Rich Jordan*

Maine Regulatory. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) provided a revised in-lieu-fee (ILF) schedule (Fact Sheet [here](#)). The WOSS multiplier and administration (e.g., The Nature Conservancy's management of the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP)) remain unchanged.

Also, on September 1, 2021, the MDEP released Guidance for Evaluating Wetland Conversion Impacts ([available here](#)). This was something that had been discussed for a while as a possibility (actually it was briefly discussed by MDEP at the 2021 MAWS Annual Meeting and again brought up as a “work-in-progress” by MDEP’s Jim Beyer during the *Solar Panel* that Dale Knapp MC’ed for MAWS March 2021). However, despite the hints of its inevitability, some people (particularly solar developers) have been taken aback by the recommendation of the Guidance and MDEP to provide 50% of the standard mitigation ratio or ILF fee for conversion impacts. Heretofore, the MDEP had not (in most cases) been requesting mitigation for conversion and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has generally required approximately 15% of the standard mitigation ratio for conversion impacts. In my discussions with MDEP, and as corroborated by the Guidance, 50% is the standard starting point. The final mitigation requirements will likely vary on a project-by-project and impact-type basis and be driven by the changes in, or loss of, functions and values before and after conversion. As always, applicants should work diligently to avoid wetland conversion (and other alterations) as much as practicable, and functional assessments are now perhaps more important than usual when it comes to reviewing these types of alterations.

Speaking of mitigation, in early 2022, the MNRCP doled out a record \$5.7 million of ILF funds to 24 conservation projects. The program will again be seeking applications in the spring/early summer of 2022 ([more information here](#)). According to Mainebiz, recipients this year include a project to restore eelgrass in Brunswick and Harpswell; salt marsh enhancement projects in Hancock, Georgetown and Wells; the removal of a dam in Freeport; a culvert upgrade in Hancock County; and preservation of high-value

wetlands at sites ranging from 16 acres to over 900 acres in 22 towns in 10 different Maine counties.

Maine 2022 Legislature. The Second Regular Session of the 130th Maine State Legislature convened on January 5, 2022 and is currently scheduled to adjourn on April 15, 2022. This is the “short session” during which the Legislature works through bills carried over from the first session and committees discuss and make determinations on so-called emergency legislation.

Here is a follow-up list to the list of then-known (*as of drafting the 2021 Obligate Legislative Update and published in the 2021 Obligate*) Legislative Documents (LDs) and Legislative Requests (LRs) of potential interest to MAWS that had been submitted before the 130th Maine State Legislature:

- **LD 390** Rep. Perry of Calais **Title:** An Act Regarding the Mapping of Shoreland Zones
 - Summary: This bill amends existing definitions and adds additional definitions related to the zoning of shoreland areas.
 - Status: DEAD. This bill died in the first session.
- **LD 69** Rep. Tucker of Brunswick **Title:** An Act To Reduce Duplicative Permitting Review for Projects under the Site Location of Development Laws
 - Summary: This bill changes the upper acreage limit from 7 acres to 10 acres.
 - Status: PASSED. [Printed language here.](#)
- **LD 88** Rep. Ordway of Standish **Title:** An Act To Amend Maine's Wildlife Laws Regarding Species of Special Concern
 - Summary: This bill reduces to one the number of public hearings required to make a change to the endangered species list or the threatened species list and defines "species of special concern" to mean a species that may become



endangered, threatened or extirpated. Referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW).

- Status: PASSED. [Printed language here.](#)
- [LD 101](#) Rep. Faulkingham of Winter Harbor (w/cosponsors) **Title:** An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development
 - Summary: This bill prohibits any department or agency of the State or any political subdivision of the State from permitting, approving or otherwise authorizing an offshore wind energy development project.
 - Status: DEAD. This bill died in the first session.
- [LD 163](#) Rep. Tucker of Brunswick **Title:** An Act To Revise Maine's Environmental Laws
 - This bill was a concept draft when I wrote the 2021 Obligate article; no language or specifics had been provided and it was referred to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee (ENR).
 - Status: PASSED. After debate and amendments, it became *An Act Concerning the Regulation of Air Emissions at Petroleum Storage Facilities.*
- [LD 260](#) Rep. Grohoski of Ellsworth **Title:** An Act to Clarify the Establishment, Collection and Use of Certain Fees for Nonwetland Habitat Mitigation Required by the Department of Environmental Protection for Project Permitting
 - This bill was a concept draft but according to the sponsor would propose to clarify how fees for habitat or species mitigation required by state agencies for project permitting are established, collected and spent to achieve appropriate mitigation goals outside the existing program established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 480-Z. It had been referred to the ENR as of the writing of the 2021 Obligate.
- Status: Out to withdraw (effectively, DEAD).
- LR 980 Sen. Keim of Oxford **Title:** An Act To Increase Economic Development by Expanding the Special Fee Application Review Process of the Department of Environmental Protection
 - Status: Became LD988 and is DEAD.
- LR 1653 Sen. Keim of Oxford **Title:** An Act Regarding Timelines for Permitting by the Department of Environmental Protection
 - Status: Became LD 678 and is DEAD.
- LR 1654 Sen. Keim of Oxford **Title:** An Act To Improve the Department of Environmental Protection Permitting Process
 - Status: can't find info, safely assume DEAD.
- LR 981 Sen. Keim of Oxford **Title:** An Act To Facilitate a Timely Revision Process in the Site Location of Development Laws
 - Status: Became LD 1038 and is DEAD.
- LR 982 Sen. Keim of Oxford **Title:** An Act To Ease Business Expansion by Increasing the Number and Applicability of Site Permit Exemptions
 - Status: Became LD 1028 "An Act To Ease Business Expansion by Increasing the Number and Applicability of Permit Exemptions under the Site Location of Development Laws" and PASSED ([bill text here](#))



- LR 983 Sen. Keim of Oxford **Title:** An Act To Increase Municipal Oversight in the Site Location of Development Laws
 - Status: DEAD
- LR 1652 Sen. Keim of Oxford **Title:** An Act To Redefine Development of State or Regional Significance That May Substantially Affect the Environment
 - Status: DEAD
- LR 524 Sen. Breen of Cumberland **Title:** An Act Regarding Minor Revisions to Existing Site Location Permits, Exemptions for Rerouting Storm Water and Exemptions for New Construction or Modification of Existing Development under the Site Location of Development Laws
 - Status: Became LD 1415 “Resolve, To Direct the Department of Environmental Protection To Determine Staffing Needs To More Efficiently and Effectively Issue Decisions on New, Amendment and Minor Revision Applications” and PASSED ([bill text here](#))
- LR 1010 Rep. O'Neil of Saco **Title:** An Act To Protect Natural Resources in Maine
 - Status: changed a bit during discussion, then returned by Governor and DEAD.
- LR 916 Rep. Riseman of Harrison **Title:** An Act To Minimize the Propagation of Invasive Aquatic Plants
 - Status: DEAD
- LR 869 Rep. McCreight of Harpswell **Title:** An Act To Restore Regular Eelgrass Mapping in the State
 - Status: became LD 593 “An Act To Restore Eelgrass Mapping and Enhance

Salt Marsh Vegetation Mapping in the State” and PASSED ([bill text here](#))

Federal: [Click here](#) for a list of all Executive Orders printed so far in the Federal Registrar.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is again poised to review and make changes for several species listed under the Endangered Species Act and there are indications the Service is working on new permitting (potential general permits or take permits) for processing project impacts under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. [Check here](#) for more news (updated daily) from USFWS.

Last year I wrote: “In summary, the current Waters of the US (WOTUS) definitions are the law of the land, but don’t get them laminated just yet as they are certainly subject to eventual change, either by court order or policy update. However, it is likely that the current rules are not going to be replaced in the short term (well, unless of course they are 😊).”

In a classic Groundhog Day scenario, the WOTUS rules that we were all just starting to understand have been repealed and replaced with new (*well, actually “old” and equally as confusing*) rules. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): “On December 7, 2021, the EPA and the Department of the Army (“the agencies”) announced a proposed rule to revise the definition of “waters of the United States.” This proposal marks a key milestone in the regulatory process announced in June, 2021. The agencies propose to put back into place the pre-2015 definition of “waters of the United States,” updated to reflect consideration of Supreme Court decisions. This familiar approach would support a stable implementation of “waters of the United States” while the agencies continue to consult with states, tribes, local governments, and a broad array of stakeholders in both the current implementation and future regulatory actions. The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register. The public comment period closed on February 7, 2022.”

Ethics Update Kevin Ryan

Hello readers of the Obligate! It’s that time of year again - the MAWS EC wants to make sure that the 2022 MAWS wetland research stipend announcement reaches everyone



who is eligible to apply, which is anyone studying Maine wetlands. Please do help us spread the word far and wide and let any potentially interested students, professors, and institutions know that we offer annual wetlands research stipends of up to \$2,000. The application form is available at www.mainewetlands.org, and applications are due March 1, 2022. Funds will be awarded by April.

The applications for the 2021 stipend were so strong, we ended up with two winners - Jennifer Larson and Zoe Read. Jennifer is a senior in the Earth and Environmental Sciences program at the University of Maine at Farmington. Her research involves wetland plant succession patterns in riparian habitats following removal of the Walton's Mill Dam in Farmington. Zoe is pursuing a Master of Science in Forest Resources at the University of Maine in Orono. Her research examines methane and carbon dioxide fluxes from deadwood in forested wetlands. The project is taking place at the Howland Research Forest, a forest ecosystem research site in Penobscot County. We look forward to welcoming Jennifer and Zoe and hearing about the research they conducted during their stipend year.

Past stipend winners have had the opportunity to present their wetlands research at the MAWS annual conference, which looks great on a resume (as does the award of the stipend itself). We are all looking forward to the day when we can return to an in-person meeting, but MAWS 2022 will follow a condensed, virtual format. With MAWS 2020 and 2021 in-person meetings not being feasible, the EC is working on an online format for recent stipend winners to present their research - so, stay tuned for updates!

My last update is that MAWS is looking for issues and stories that could be the subject of a future workshop on wetland science ethics. Maine is fortunate to have such a strong community of high-quality wetland consultants. Speaking to my own experience, the wetland scientists I have worked with since I started delineating wetlands professionally in 2013 (you know who you are) have been extremely knowledgeable and demonstrated a high level of professionalism when encountering difficult ethical questions. How many of us have experienced wetlands-related ethical conundrums that have given us valuable lessons that that could benefit others? If you have an

ethics-related topic that you think would be a great discussion topic for a future workshop, we want to know about it! Please feel free to email me a kevinr@fbenvironmental.com if you have suggestions for topics.

Membership Update *David Brenneman*

MAWS welcomed 10 new members to our rolls in 2021. This is the largest increase in new membership since 2014. Please join me in welcoming these folks to MAWS!

Name	Status
Doug Suitor	Active
Erik Phenix	Affiliate
Jessie Hutchinson	Affiliate
Lucien Langlois	Active
Maxwell Martin	Affiliate
Merrill Read	Active
Mike Jakubowski	Active
Nick Gabuzda	Affiliate
RoseErin Moylan	Affiliate
Sarah Weatherbee	Active

This increase in members is a welcome change as enrollment has been declining in recent years. In addition, we offer membership to students free of charge, but this opportunity is not being taken advantage of. The EC continues to engage with students in a variety of ways, most notably through the annual research stipend, but enrollment of students continues to be very low.

In other membership news, Jessie Hutchinson joined the Membership Subcommittee in 2021 and has assisted with updating the member rolls from the last several years. Welcome to the committee Jessie! If anyone would like to join the membership committee and support membership outreach, please contact me.

To end, I will make my annual appeal to encourage your new and existing colleagues to join MAWS. Membership is a great way to network with other professionals and support the educational programs and advocacy efforts of the organization. Membership dues continue to be low and entitle you to reduced rates at events, which easily "pays"



the annual dues fee and then some. Annual dues for 2022 remain at the same as past years.

Active Membership - \$25.00 annually
Affiliate Membership - \$15.00 annually
Student Membership - \$10.00 annually
(Fee currently waived for students)

Dues are paid online or by mail and instructions are available at <http://www.maws.me/store/annual-membership-dues>. Feel free to email me at dave@flycatcherllc.com with any questions about the membership process or dues status.

Program Chair Update *Matt Kennedy*

Similar to how hydrophytic plants survive in the anaerobic and unstable conditions of their waterlogged environment, MAWS Programming has had to adapt to the ever-changing world brought on by the pandemic. In early 2021, MAWS purchased a Zoom license that provided the ability to host a series of virtual trainings and webinars. In February 2021, we hosted a discussion that covered the topic of GPS and GIS technology within the wetland science industry. Experts from several local consulting firms including Bill McCloy of Normandeau Associates, Kurt Howard of Stantec, Nicc Johnson of Tetra Tech, and Rachel Jordan of TRC, discussed how they use these technologies to analyze, map, and manage natural resource survey data. In March, Kristen Anderson of Associated Environmental Consultants in Edmonton, Alberta presented on innovative soil bioengineering techniques she has used for several projects. Some of these unique stabilization techniques included live staking with poplar cuttings, installing wattle fencing on steep slopes, and burying live pole drains in gullies prone to erosion. In this same month, we held the annual meeting in a virtual format for the very first time. Also, in August, we hosted a webinar on the New England Wetland Functional Assessment, a document authored by Paul Minkin of the USACE and Erica Sachs with the EPA. Paul and Erica discussed the history behind the creation of this assessment method, the numerous variables associated with the method, and walked through some examples on its application.

This year's annual meeting will be like last year's and will take place on Tuesday, March 15th via Zoom. Out of respect for the busy schedules of both our members and those of the state and federal agency representatives, the EC of both MAWS and MAPSS have decided to jointly host our Annual Meetings together in 2022. The MAWS/MAPSS Winter Conference and Annual Meeting will take place from 11AM to 4:30PM with several breaks interspersed throughout. The conference will begin with the MAPSS Annual Business Meeting followed by a break for lunch. Afterward, representatives from the MDEP, USACE, the Maine Land Use Planning Commission, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and the USFWS will provide regulatory updates to the membership. Afterward, a special guest will present on the current topic of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) soil and groundwater contamination caused by past spreading of municipal wastewater sludge across Maine. This is a relevant topic that both MAWS and MAPSS memberships have interest in and there will be opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

We will finish up with the MAWS Annual Business Meeting, which all active MAWS members are highly encouraged to attend. As usual, we are seeking approval for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for the MAWS Winter Conference and Annual Meeting from the State Site Evaluators for the Subsurface Wastewater Program and the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development Code Enforcement Officers (CEO) Program. To all those who register, we will be providing CEUs and a weblink to a recording of the meeting. Registration for the Winter Conference is \$15 for active MAWS members (not including annual dues); \$25 for non-members, and free for students.

Moving forward, I will not be seeking re-election as the Chair of the Programming Committee for MAWS after this year's annual meeting. It has been my utmost pleasure getting to know many of you over the past four years in this role and I look forward to many more years of active membership within this organization. I hope to remain involved in the Programming Committee, so if you have any interest in this open position as Programming Committee Chair, please do not hesitate to reach out!



Maine Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Business Meeting

Minutes of 2021 Meeting

Date/Time: 3/24/2021, 4PM

Location: Zoom On-line

Secretary: Sarah Mitchell

1. President's Introduction and Update: Bryan Emerson introduced the meeting and thanked members for joining.
2. Motion for Approval of Minutes: 2020 Business Meeting minutes unanimously approved.
3. Program Chair Update: Matt Kennedy shared recent success with zoom-based lunch time webinars. Even as pandemic restrictions may be lifted this year, Matt sees the zoom webinars continuing to be a part of MAWS programming. Matt is hopeful that MAWS could host some field-based and gathering restriction-compliant events by late summer or early fall.

David Rocque shared that the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists is planning an event on September 8th, 2021. This event will be focused on best practices to describe soils in disturbed or problematic areas.

4. Legislative Chair Update: Rich Jordan shared that there had been some delays in legislation due to the ongoing pandemic. However, there are several bills of note to update the group on.

The first bill Rich described was LD 390, An Act Regarding the Mapping of Shoreland Zones. This bill would have changed Shoreland Zoning to rely more heavily on the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). Although many use NWI for preliminary desktop screening, MAWS had some concerns about increasing reliance on NWI. MAWS provided testimony against the bill. The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (ENR Committee) voted the bill ought not pass. Although discussions on how best to support municipalities with Shoreland Zoning regulations are likely to continue, MAWS does not anticipate any further action on this specific bill.

Rich also shared information about LD 69. This bill would change the upper limit of the structure threshold for review by a municipality with delegated authority under Site Law from 7 acres to 10 acres. On March 18, 2021 the ENR Committee voted out to pass on LD 69.

5. Treasurers Update: Roger St. Amand shared that MAWS began 2020 with approx. \$9,200 and ended the year with approx. \$7,600. This loss was due to the cancellation of the 2020 Annual Meeting and the subsequent refund of most meeting registrations. In 2021, MAWS has gotten better footing. Membership fees and reduced annual meeting costs have helped recoup some of the lost funds. The budget was unanimously approved. Roger shared his screen with the table below during the meeting.

6. Membership Update: Dave Brenneman reported that new members in 2020 were down when compared against past years. 2021 is looking brighter with 5 new members already. Dave noted that dues payments are up too, which is likely due to the increased engagement from webinars.

Dave will update membership lists soon. Bryan asked if any of the new members were students taking advantage of the free student membership opportunity. None of the new members were students. MAWS currently has approximately 150 Active and Affiliate members.



Matt Kennedy asked if there is a more efficient way to send out the zoom information for virtual meetings. Dave said this could be explored further. Dale Knapp added that he recently developed a custom system to automate this process and take payment. Dave added that while we're thinking about website updates, we could also think about allowing people to purchase merchandise online.

7. Ethics Update: Kevin Ryan gave the Ethics Committee update. Hannah Middlestep of UMaine was our previous research stipend winner, but her work has been delayed due to COVID. She may still present her work in the future. MAWS has received three applications for the stipend funds and these applications are currently being reviewed by committee members.

Cole Peters added that Society of Wetland Scientists New England just sent out information about funding for wetland research work as well.

8. Subcommittees:

- Education/Student Outreach: No update
- Vernal Pool Technical Committee: Roger shared that updated vernal pool survey protocols are on the horizon. The current protocols were last updated in 2014.
- Outreach Committee: Lauren Leclerc shared that she has been keeping Facebook updated, and people can send things to her directly if they would like them posted on the MAWS FB page.

Cole Peters shared that May is Wetlands Month, and in the past MAWS has written an editorial for the Portland Press Herald and held workshops for the public.

Bryan asked what kind of content on the MAWS Facebook page gets the most engagement. Lauren wasn't sure, but offered to look into it further.

- Research Committee: No update

9. Elections: Bryan listed the people up for election. Katelin Nickerson offered to take the position of President Elect. The incumbents Roger St. Amand (Treasurer), Rich Jordan (Legislative Chair), Kevin Ryan (Ethics Chair) were also running. Motion to vote on the slate of candidates was seconded, and all candidates were unanimously elected.

10. Stipend: Because applications are currently under review, this item will be discussed at a later date.

11. Envirothon: No amount was requested this year. Dave made a motion to donate \$1,000 to the Envirothon. Unanimous approval. The 2021 Envirothon will be virtual.

12. Open Floor Discussion: Johanna Szillery suggested MAWS should host a training on functional assessments. Many members also expressed an interest in this training.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm.



MAWS Financial Statement - 2021	
From January 01, 2021 - December 31, 2021	
Respectfully Submitted to the MAWS Membership, FEBRUARY, 2022, by Roger StAmant, Treasurer	
Beginning Balance 01/01/21	\$ 7,661.25
Ending Balance 12/31/21	\$ 11,200.35
2021 Gain	\$3,539.10
INCOME	
1 Annual Meeting (Virtual)	\$ 1,845.00
2 Membership Dues	\$ 2,640.00
3 Business Donations	\$ 1,400.00
4 MAWS Workshop (2020 Reid Workshop deposit in 2021)	\$ 1,440.00
(A) TOTAL INCOME	\$ 7,325.00
EXPENDITURES	
1 Annual Meeting Zoom Sub	\$ (549.90)
2 MAWS Workshop	\$ -
3 Envirothon Grant	\$ (1,000.00)
4 Student Research Stipend Awards (2)	\$ (2,000.00)
5 Website	\$ -
6 Bank Fees, Stripe & Squarespace Fees, Misc.	\$ (268.92)
(B) TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ (3,818.82)
2021 Gain (A-B)	\$ 3,506.18
GAIN / LOSS	
1 Annual Meeting	\$ 1,295.10
2 Membership Dues	\$ 2,640.00
3 Business Donations	\$ 1,400.00
4 Workshops	\$ 1,440.00
5 Envirothon Grant / Student Stipends	\$ (3,000.00)
6 Other Expenses	\$ (268.92)
2020 gain	\$ 3,506.18
	\$11,167.43



MAWS Business Meeting Agenda
2022 Annual Meeting - March 15, 2022, 3:30 – 5:00pm, On-Line VIA Zoom

1. President’s Introduction and Update – Aleita Burman
2. Executive & Standing Committee Updates
 - a. Secretary Update (approval of minutes from 2021 annual meeting) – Sarah Mitchell
 - b. Program Chair Update – Matt Kennedy
 - c. Legislative Chair Update – Rich Jordan
 - d. Treasurer Update – Roger St. Amand
 - e. Membership Chair Update – Dave Brenneman
 - f. Ethics Chair Update – Kevin Ryan
 - g. Ad-hoc Subcommittees: Education/Student Outreach Committee –
 - i. Vernal Pool Technical Committee – Roger St. Amand
 - ii. Outreach Committee (maws.me & Obligate) – David Brenneman & Lauren Leclerc
 - iii. Research Committee – Rich Jordan
3. Executive Committee Elections (2-year terms); Nominating Committee Chair – Katelin Nickerson

<u>Incumbents and Term</u>	<u>Name</u>
President	Aleita Burman (to 2023) *
President Elect	Katelin Nickerson (to 2023) *
Treasurer	Roger St. Amand (to 2023)**
Ethics	Kevin Ryan (to 2023)

* One two-year term maximum; ** Two two-year terms maximum

<u>Open Committee Chair Position</u>	<u>Nominees (<i>nominations will also be accepted from the floor</i>)</u>
Secretary	Emmy Irvin**
Legislative	Dale Knapp **
Program	Rich Jordan **
Membership	David Brenneman

4. MAWS to MANRS Discussion and Vote to Form Committee
5. VPTC to TC and WOSS Discussion
6. Norman C. Famous Wetland Research Stipend Discussion and Award Vote
7. Envirothon Donation - Discussion and Award Vote
8. Open Floor Discussion
9. President’s Closing Message, Meeting Adjourns



**Maine Association of Wetland Scientists
Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists
Joint Winter Conference & Annual Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 2022
Via Zoom Webinar**



AGENDA

- 11:00 – 11:05 **Welcome from MAPSS President**, Chris Dorion
11:05 – 12:35 **MAPSS Annual Business Meeting**
12:35 – 1:00 **Break**
1:00 – 1:05 **Welcome from MAWS President**, Lee Burman
1:05 – 1:20 **MDEP Regulatory Update**, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
1:20 – 1:35 **USACE Regulatory Update**, Colin Greenan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
1:35 – 1:50 **LUPC Regulatory Update**, Corrine Michaud-LeBlanc, Maine Land Use Planning Commission
1:50 – 2:05 **MDIFW Regulatory Update**, Bob Stratton, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
2:05 – 2:20 **USFWS Regulatory Update**, Patrick Dockens, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2:20 – 2:30 **Break**
2:30 – 3:20 **PFAS Contamination in Maine**, Special Guest Speaker TBD
3:20 – 3:30 **Break**
3:30 – 5:00 **MAWS Annual Business Meeting**

Certificates of Attendance for 1.5 hours of contact time for the conference and 1.5 hour for either of the annual business meetings will be sent to all registered attendees via email.

Register online at: <http://mainewetlands.org/store/>

\$15 for active MAWS and MAPSS members
\$25 for non-members
Free for Students

For those that prefer, you may register online, and send payment to:
Roger St. Amand, MAWS Treasurer
P.O. Box 76
Bass Harbor, ME 04653

Any questions, please feel free to call or email Matt Kennedy,
MAWS Program Chair, Phone: 207-400-5757, Email: mkenn117@gmail.com

No Refunds for Cancellations