



The Obligate

Maine
Association of
Wetland
Scientists
www.maws.me

c/o Lauren Leclerc
lgleclerc@comcast.net



President's Message *Bryan Emerson*

Hello MAWS Members,

So, 2020. What is there say? I could take up several pages trying to sum up this past year, or I can just say what I think sums it up the best. It was 2020.

Moving forward, it's really hard to know what to expect in the rest of 2021. I'm comforted to know that MAWS, at least, is still hanging in there. It's funny, when I took over as President two years ago, I jokingly said to someone that I would consider my presidency a success if after my two years as President, MAWS was still a functioning organization. Little did I know how true that would come to be. Usually this article is a chance for the outgoing President to look back on their goals from past years and spend several paragraphs listing their accomplishments. A victory lap, you might say. Well, that doesn't seem quite appropriate this year. I really am just happy that we hung in there and kept plugging along. Yes, we had to cancel last year's annual meeting, and yes, we weren't able to put on our usual slate of workshops over the summer. And no, I have not had dinner inside a restaurant since last March. But you know what? We're here, and we're moving forward.

And like everyone has done all year long, we adapted. Zoom business meetings, Zoom Executive Committee meetings, Zoom webinars. All Zoom, all the time. I think I've finally figured out how to share my screen and see my PowerPoint notes at the same time...I think. But here we are, planning the first of our winter webinar series (which will have already happened by the time you read this) and organizing the first ever virtual annual meeting. We are adapting, and we are moving forward.

I want to take a moment and thank the Executive Committee for all of their hard work over the past two years. They are a wonderful group to work with.

Somehow, they all find time for MAWS despite their busy personal and professional schedules. If you are still reading this, consider stepping up and throwing your name in the hat for one of the open positions. We need good people. And it is a fun group to work with.

I also want to thank all of the MAWS members who supported me and the organization through this last year. Thank you all for your patience and understanding. And another hearty thank you to the donors who stepped up this winter to help support our winter webinar series. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

I'm leaving you and the organization in the very capable hands of Lee Burman, who most of you know already, and who I'm sure has big plans and will do a tremendous job leading the organization. I am looking forward to seeing where MAWS goes from here.

And finally, I really do hope to see you all in person one day soon. I'm ready for some handshakes, hugs, and high-fives. But most of all, I hope you are all healthy and safe and hanging in there. Let's keep our heads up, and keep moving forward.

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



President-Elect's Message *Lee Burman*

Greetings MAWS,

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve as your next President! It is with excitement and not a little bit of trepidation that I take on this role (has it been two years already?). Excitement because MAWS is a really great organization led by dedicated, fun and professional people, for a diverse and interesting membership – all dedicated to wetland science! Trepidation because, as others have said before me, President of MAWS comes with big shoes to fill. And in that vein, I would like to thank Bryan Emerson, outgoing President, for all of his hard work and dedication over the past two years. Great job Bryan! We hope you will remain active in MAWS in the future.

What a crazy year this has been! One of my goals as President will be to continue the hard work of Bryan, Matt Kennedy (Program Chair), and the Executive Committee in keeping MAWS an active organization, despite not being able to meet in person. We will strive to offer meetings and workshops in some sort of on-line or safe outdoor setting until the powers that be deem us safe to return to “normal”. We may find that we like some of the on-line formats, and will work to meld that abnormal into the new normal, where it fits.

As President, I would like to explore the possibility of MAWS expanding their focus beyond just wetland science, to include other important protected natural resources such as rivers and streams, soil science, and wetland-based wildlife ecology. MANRS anyone? Many of our professions require us to be proficient in other, similar, resource-based disciplines and I feel that MAWS (whether we change our name or not) is 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. Through this, I am in hopes that we can expand our membership to include other natural resource-based scientists as well.

That all being said, my overall goal in the next two years is to maintain an active organization with offered content that is interesting and relevant, and inspires our membership to be and stay actively involved in MAWS.

Thank you, and I look forward to serving you for the next two years!

Report of the Webmaster – Communications Subcommittee *Dave Brennehan & 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/>

Popular areas of the website continue to be the jobs board and the list of upcoming seminars. I periodically receive requests from HR managers around the country looking to advertise their job openings in the New England region for their companies. Postings for the jobs board or to advertise for an upcoming event can be sent to me at maws.webmaster@gmail.com. I do my best to respond to requests in a day or so.

As always, requests to post or update information, 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

Bryan Emerson	President (2021)	bryan.emerson@tnc.org
Aleita (Lee) Burman	President-Elect (2021)	blburman@gmail.com
Roger St. Amand	Treasurer (2021)	roger.stamand@gmail.com
Sarah Mitchell	Secretary (2022)	semitchell@hntb.com
Matt Kennedy	Program Chair (2022)	matt.kennedy@boyleassociates.net
Rich Jordan	Legislative Chair (2021)	rich@flycatcherllc.com
Dave Brenneman	Membership Chair (2022)	dave@flycatcherllc.com
Kevin Ryan	Ethics Chair (2021)	kevinr@fbenvironmental.com
Dave Brenneman	Webmaster – Communications Subcommittee	dave@flycatcherllc.com
Lauren Leclerc	Obligate	lgleclerc@comcast.net
Roger St. Amand	Vernal Pool Technical Committee (year term expires)	roger.stamand@gmail.com

**MAWS Technical and Legislative Committees
Joint Update Rich Jordan**

Maine:

Regulatory: In early 2020, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) revised its review timelines for permit processing ([here](#)), and released a revised fee schedule for its state permit reviews ([here](#)). Changes in these schedules include extended review timelines for Site Location of Development Act (Site Law) permits (i.e., if the state receives a certain number of Site Law-level solar projects) and an increase in the permit-by-rule fee to \$250.

In September 2020 MDEP also provided a revised in-lieu-fee (ILF) schedule (Fact Sheet [here](#)). After no rate increases since 2013, the new compensation rates are significantly higher. For example, an ILF payment to offset an acre of impact in Cumberland County would previously cost \$187,308; an acre of impact today would require a fee of \$237,402. The rates will increase again in January 2022. The 2022 rate increase is anticipated to be equal to the recent rate increase, but the ILF Fact Sheet notes “The Department also anticipates the resource compensation rates in effect January 1, 2022 will be re-evaluated as part of the regular two-year review and, if necessary, adjusted to reflect the actual cost of compensation and remain consistent with the requirements of Section 480-Z.” The Wetlands of Special Significance (WOSS) multiplier and administration (e.g., The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC)

management of the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP)) remain unchanged.

Speaking of ILF, in early 2021, the MNRCP doled out over \$2.4 million to 11 conservation projects. The program will again be seeking applications in the spring/early summer of 2021 ([more information here](#)). Because the ILF program has seen a recent uptick in fees paid for impacts to coastal resources, in 2021 the MNRCP will be particularly interested in projects that restore or protect coastal ecosystems, including salt marshes, eelgrass beds, and other intertidal and subtidal habitats.

2021 Legislature: The First Regular Session of the 130th Maine State Legislature convened on December 2, 2020 and is currently scheduled to adjourn on June 16, 2021. This is the “long session” during which the majority of bills are presented and assigned to their appropriate committee for public comment and debate.

Here is a list of the currently-known (*as of drafting this article*) Legislative Documents (LDs) and Legislative Requests (LRs) of Potential Interest to MAWS submitted before the 130th Maine State Legislature ([follow all LR and LDs here](#)):

- [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. It also adds further



requirements for minimum guidelines for municipal zoning and land use controls adopted by the Board of Environmental Protection including: the use of clear and operable language that references widely available and best available datasets, specifically for modeling in a geographic information system and for enforcement purposes by municipal officials; the addition of defined terms "contiguous," "adjacent," "surficially connected" and other similar operational terms; the selection distances for use in geographic information systems and field surveys; and the exclusion from the resource protection zone lots where less than 2,500 square feet of the lot would be zoned as resource protection.

- This one is a bit of a doozy with potentially wide-ranging implications for how we map and regulate within the Shoreland Zone. This LD was referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and MAWS will be following.
- **LD 69** Rep. Tucker of Brunswick **Title: An Act To Reduce Duplicative Permitting Review for Projects under the Site Location of Development Laws**
 - Summary: Under current law, a structure that is from 3 acres to 7 acres is exempt from review under the site location of development laws if certain criteria are met. This bill changes the upper acreage limit from 7 acres to 10 acres. Referred to the ENR.
- **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).
- **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. The bill also requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Land Use Planning Commission, the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection each to submit by December 1, 2021 legislation necessary to align those provisions of law under their respective jurisdictions with the prohibition on offshore wind energy development projects. Under the bill, the term "offshore wind energy development project" includes community-based offshore wind energy projects, deep-water offshore wind energy pilot projects, offshore wind energy demonstration projects and offshore wind power projects, which are all categories of projects currently authorized by law. Referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT).



- **[LD 163](#) Rep. Tucker of Brunswick Title: An Act to Revise Maine’s Environmental Laws**
 - This bill is a concept draft; no language or specifics have been submitted and I did not speak with the sponsor at the time of drafting this article. Referred to the ENR.

- **[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 is 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. Referred to the ENR. I exchanged emails with Representative Grohoski and she is researching non-wetlands-based mitigation fee strategies and mechanisms available in Maine and has yet to pen any set language for this LD. I offered MAWS support to help ferret out any additional details and to be listed as an “interested party” in the proceedings. Folks from MDEP and TNC are privy to and following this LD as well.

The following LRs have also been submitted for review but I have not been able to track down any additional information as of the submission date of this article. The consensus from people I conversed with in the State House was that senators and representatives had passed these through from constituent, municipality or special interest requests and the sponsors do not know how they may be worded. As an example, Senator Lisa Keim submitted a bevy LRs that, based on their titles, could have significant impact on environmental regulations in Maine. Based on correspondence with Senator Keim and her office staff,

none of her LRs have draft language as they stemmed from her work with and recommendations of the Governor’s Economic Recovery Committee ([GERC, Final Report here](#)).

- 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**

- LR 1653 Sen. Keim of Oxford Title: **An Act Regarding Timelines for Permitting by the Department of Environmental Protection**

- LR 1654 Sen. Keim of Oxford Title: **An Act To Improve the Department of Environmental Protection Permitting Process**

- LR 981 Sen. Keim of Oxford Title: **An Act To Facilitate a Timely Revision Process in the Site Location of Development Laws**

- LR 982 Sen. Keim of Oxford Title: **An Act To Ease Business Expansion by Increasing the Number and Applicability of Site Permit Exemptions**

- LR 983 Sen. Keim of Oxford Title: **An Act To Increase Municipal Oversight in the Site Location of Development Laws**

- LR 1652 Sen. Keim of Oxford Title: **An Act To Redefine Development of State or Regional Significance That May Substantially Affect the Environment**

- 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**

- LR 1010 Rep. O’Neil of Saco Title: **An Act To Protect Natural Resources in Maine**



- LR 916 Rep. Riseman of Harrison **Title: An Act To Minimize the Propagation of Invasive Aquatic Plants**
- LR 869 Rep. McCreight of Harpswell **Title: An Act To Restore Regular Eelgrass Mapping in the State**

Federal:

On the Maine level, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released a new five-year General Permit (GP, 10/14/2020 – 10/14/2025, [available here](#)). Changes abound, e.g., instead of a single general permit, each category is its own GP. Also terms “self-verification” and “pre-construction notification” are used rather than “Category 1” and “Category 2”, and appendices have been removed. Perhaps the most newsworthy change is in the vernal pool general condition. The standard 750-foot area around jurisdictional vernal pools has been effectively removed from the GP.

In light of the GP changes and other changes since the 2014 publish date of the MAWS Vernal Pool Field Survey Protocol ([here](#)), MAWS is embarking on updates to the protocol this spring. We could use your help – please email rich@flycatcherllc.com if you have thoughts or time to join the update effort.

In December 2020, the USACE also released the New England District Compensatory Mitigation Standard Operating Procedure (SOP, formerly “Compensatory Mitigation Guidance” – [available here](#)). MAWS provided comments and recommendations on the DRAFT SOP in May (our comments will be published on the MAWS website under the Legislative banner).

At the federal level...Nothing to see here, same ‘ol same ‘ol... 🤔 🤔

With a new administration and a change in control of the Senate, federal environmental policy watchers are poised for many, many changes (or at least attempts at changes). Since January, we have seen new and replacement leadership federal committees, cabinet-level advisors and new special envoys (e.g., placement of Secretary John Kerry as the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate). As with all new administrations, new top positions at the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the

Interior, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, etc. have also been named.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated social and economic recovery is commanding most of the early energy and attention of the Biden Administration. However, on the environmental front it is clear that the new administration will be very focused on engagement and leadership in **climate change policy**. Since January 20, 2021, President Biden has signed several Executive Orders (EOs) on this, including reentering the U.S. into the Paris climate agreement, pausing and reviewing oil and gas drilling on federal land, eliminating fossil fuel subsidies, building clean energy jobs, and transitioning the government's large fleet of cars and truck to electric vehicles. [Click here](#) for a list of all EOs in the Federal Registrar.

Additionally, the “Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis” directs federal agencies to review and potentially overturn policies that the new administration says “were harmful to public health, damaging to the environment, unsupported by the best available science, or otherwise not in the national interest” ([here](#)). It is assumed this particular EO will enable review and revision of Trump-era wildlife protection changes in the **Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act**. JD Supra® has a good breakdown of this EO's potential effects on those two acts [here](#).

The consensus amongst federal policy watchers is that the 2019 changes to “**Waters of the U.S.**” (WOTUS) will not soon be challenged by the administration. However, there are currently at least 14 federal lawsuits pending against the Trump Administration's **Navigable Waters Protection Rule**. Depending on what happens in courts, it's likely the Biden Administration will eventually work on its own version of WOTUS. As Obligate readers know – WOTUS and all things **Clean Water Act** (particularly 401 and 404) are thorny issues. It took the Obama Administration six years to get to it, and the Trump Administration took three years to pass their version of WOTUS. In summary, the current 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 😊).

Ethics Update *Kevin Ryan*

Greetings readers! The MAWS executive committee wants to make sure that the MAWS stipend announcement reaches everyone who is eligible to apply. As such we ask that you help us spread the word far and wide. Please let any potentially interested students, professors, and institutions know that we offer an annual stipend of up to \$2,000. Stipend winners will have the opportunity to present at the MAWS annual conference, which looks great on a resume (as does the award of the stipend itself). The application form is available at www.mainewetlands.org, and applications are due March 1, 2021. Funds will be awarded in April.

Hannah Mittelstaedt is the winner of the 2020 MAWS stipend. Hannah is a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology and Environmental Sciences at the University of Maine, working under Drs. Amanda Klemmer and Brian Olsen. She is studying the role of invertebrates and rockweed (*Ascophyllum nodosum*) in Maine's intertidal ecosystems, including salt marshes, beaches, and rocky intertidal areas. Hannah's recent research involves assessing the invertebrate communities associated with rockweed debris, or wrack, through field surveys and experiments.

Hannah submitted to MAWS the following regarding her research and stipend award:

*Understanding processes that connect coastal habitats is essential for effective management and conservation. Salt marshes in Maine are often adjacent to other types of ecosystems, such as the rocky intertidal, but the effects of these ecosystems on salt marshes are not well understood. Salt marshes are known to receive material input from the rocky intertidal. In the northern Atlantic, the rocky intertidal is often dominated by the brown macroalgae *Ascophyllum nodosum*, commonly known as rockweed. Pieces of rockweed can break off and be deposited as wrack in salt marshes, providing a food source for invertebrate detritivores, such as insects and worms, thus increasing food*

resources for birds and fish. While rockweed wrack can be abundant in salt marshes in Maine, its effects on the salt marsh ecosystem and food-web are largely unknown.

Last summer, I set out to investigate the role of wrack in salt marshes by assessing the wrack-associated invertebrate community using multiple techniques. To describe the invertebrate community in naturally occurring wrack, I conducted a field survey in two salt marshes in Downeast Maine. This entailed collecting samples of wrack across a tidal gradient. These samples were brought back to the lab and preserved, and the invertebrates present are currently being counted and identified. I also conducted a field experiment to measure the invertebrate colonization rate of rockweed wrack in salt marshes. I sewed mesh leaf litter bags, which were filled with rockweed and secured in a salt marsh. Half of the bags were collected after just ten days to see which invertebrates initially colonized the wrack, and the second half were collected after two months to see how the invertebrate community in the wrack changed as it broke down. While both the field survey and experiment were carried out very successfully, the wrack samples collected last summer, and invertebrates present in them, are still being processed in the lab. The data collected from both parts of this study will take us closer to determining the role rockweed wrack plays in salt marsh ecosystem function.

I am incredibly grateful to MAWS for their financial support of this project. The research stipend I received allowed me to purchase the materials for this project, travel to field sites, and hire fantastic undergraduate lab and field research assistants. One undergraduate, Megan, was able to gain field experience and braved many mosquito swarms while conducting field surveys. Erin, another undergraduate, has worked very diligently in the lab to identify invertebrates, even when samples smell more pungent preserved than in the field. This stipend has not only made it possible to conduct research that is yielding the first data on wrack-associated invertebrates in salt marshes in Maine, but it has also allowed me to provide undergraduates with research experience, benefiting their professional development. Thank you, MAWS for allowing me to conduct this research on a fascinating aspect of a vital ecosystem.



Hannah Mittelstaedt's salt marsh study site.

Membership Update *David Brenneman*

In 2020, MAWS welcomed two new members to our rolls. It was a tough year to reach out and connect with folks and engage with the organization and colleagues. I recall back to last year at this time when I wrote my update for 2019. There was much news going around about the spreading pandemic, but that won't possibly come to Maine I thought! Oh, how naive I was! Not too many weeks later we received word that Bowdoin College was closing. Things changed rapidly from there and our annual opportunity to get together was not destined to be for the first time since I joined MAWS in 2008. 2021 will continue to bring new challenges, but the Executive Committee has planned new ways to connect with the membership and I hope this will entice new members to join. I've already received multiple applications for 2021, so there is hope! Your membership in MAWS gives you access to a great group of scientists from around Maine (and a few from our neighboring states to the south) in addition to reduced rates at webinars and conferences. In most cases, the cost of your dues is easily covered by the reduced seminar fees. So, please pay your dues each January and spread the word to colleagues and friends with an interest in wetlands that MAWS is a great organization to be a part of! Annual member dues for 2021 are as follows (note, the Student rate was officially dropped at the 2020 business meeting):

Active Membership - \$25.00 annually
Affiliate Membership - \$15.00 annually
Student Membership - FREE (with proof of college enrollment)

Dues can be paid online or by mail and instructions are available at <http://www.maws.me/store/annual-membership-dues>.

If you ever have any questions about your membership status, need access (or an update) to the email list you can contact me at dave@flycatcherllc.com or maws.webmaster@gmail.com. I am currently updating the Membership Directory and the MAWS Directory of Environmental Professionals as dues are paid. If you wish to be on the latter for 2021 list, please note as such when you pay your annual dues. I will be updating both lists over the spring, so look for revised versions sometime in April or May. Lastly, an ongoing project for 2021 is to revise the current membership application to be more user friendly and/or implement an on-line version. Cheers to a happy and healthy 2021!

Program Chair Update *Matt Kennedy*

Along with everything scheduled to take place in 2020, programming for MAWS was hindered by the pandemic. The Winter Conference at Bowdoin College was cancelled, and the Annual Meeting was postponed to a virtual meeting in the summer. The COVID-19 global health crisis has presented countless challenges and has forced us to adapt to the new world we live in. Thus, for the foreseeable future, MAWS will replace in-person meetings with virtual ones. Thanks to the support from the companies listed below, MAWS purchased a Zoom subscription that will allow us to host these meetings.

The Annual Meeting will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 24th. Since we did not want to subject everyone to an all-day Zoom meeting, it will be four hours in length, from 1PM to 5PM. Representatives from the MDEP, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Maine Land Use Planning Commission, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will begin by providing regulatory updates to the membership. Afterward, we will reboot the panel discussion that was scheduled to take place at last



year's cancelled meeting. Dale Knapp of Boyle Associates will moderate the 1.5-hour discussion about Maine's booming solar energy market. Panel participants will include Jim Beyer of the MDEP, Sam Boduch of Earthshift Global, Colin Greenan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rich Jordan of Flycatcher LLC, Dave Littell of Bernstein Shur, Troy Moon from the City of Portland, and Bob Stratton of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. There will be plenty of opportunity for audience participation during the discussion, so have your questions ready for the "Solar Panel."

We will finish up with the Annual Business Meeting, which all active MAWS members are highly encouraged to attend. Since the Annual Meeting has been scaled back, MAWS will be hosting several 1-hour webinars throughout the year. If you have any thoughts or ideas on future webinars, please bring them to the Business Meeting. As usual, we are seeking approval for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for the MAWS Winter Conference and Annual Meeting from the State Site Evaluator 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 Certificates of Attendance 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.

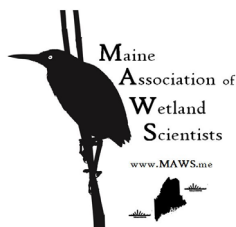
While these virtual meetings may not be ideal, they do provide our organization with a unique opportunity. They eliminate the need to find a meeting venue, which reduces overhead costs of events and registration fees. Participants no longer need to travel, which makes it easier for members in distant parts of the state to take part in events they otherwise would not be able to attend. Also, the virtual nature of the event favors a shorter event length, which provides for opportunities to host more educational workshops or dive into discussions on specific topics. While I look forward to meeting with you all when it is safe to do so, I believe the situation we are in provides us with an opportunity to push MAWS programming in a positive direction.

If anyone has a workshop idea or would like to assist in organizing workshops and activities for MAWS, please contact Program Chair, Matt Kennedy (matt.kennedy@boyleassociates.net).



Thank you to our sponsors!





Maine Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Business Meeting

Minutes of 2020 Meeting

Date/Time: 08/24/2020, 1PM

Location: Zoom On-line

Secretary: Lee Burman, President-Elect – standing in for Secretary for this meeting

Members Present: Bryan Emerson, President; Lee Burman, President-Elect; Rich Jordan, ENR Committee Chair; Dave Brenneman, Membership Chair and Website Manager; Roger St. Amand, Treasurer; Kevin Ryan, Ethics Chair; Matt Kennedy, Program Chair; Sarah Mitchell; Ruth Ladd; Kaitlin Nickerson; Matt Schweisberg

1. President's Introduction and Update: Bryan Emerson introduced the meeting and commented on “unspoken rules” for using zoom for larger meetings, such as keeping yourself muted while others are speaking. Bryan also introduced Zoom features we would be using for the meeting including using question/answer pop-ups for voting.

2. Motion for Approval of Minutes: Roger St. Amand made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting; Ruth Ladd seconded. Unanimous approval.

3. Program Chair Update: Matt Kennedy updated us on the upcoming MAPSS/MAWS/MASE Reid State Park Workshop on 09/04/2020. He commented that programming is difficult considering the COVID-19 pandemic and rules surrounding it such as mask wearing and limits on the number of people allowed at gatherings. He asked if we should consider a shift to virtual meetings and/or outdoor-only meetings. Further discussion generally favored this approach.

Discussion was had regarding the annual meeting in March of 2021. It was assumed that the pandemic would not be over by then. We discussed offering a joint annual meeting with MAPSS, especially so that the regulatory updates could be given once to all interested parties instead of several times at different meetings. Regulators had requested this to cut down on their travel and meeting times. Bryan said he would contact the MAPSS President to discuss this. Matt agreed that we should start planning for this as soon as possible, including potentially upgrading our Zoom account to accommodate more people (or potentially other similar on-line meeting services). Matt will look into this. It was discussed to have one meeting with “break-out” sessions for different offerings depending on participant interest. Sarah said that WebEx has break out session ability.

Matt and Bryan discussed shortening the meetings (including the annual meeting) to 2 hours (maybe 4) maximum, in consideration of participants comfort/interest during an on-line venue. All agreed with this approach, and discussion continued in offering several, shorter workshops throughout the year. This would also make up for the 8 hours of continuing education normally offered by MAWS at the annual meeting.

It was discussed to keep our membership informed of other groups with on-line content. Ruth Ladd said that the Society of Wetland Scientists New England (SWSNE) was offering a no-fee zoom presentation on the Waters of the United States rules on October 9/30. She also said that there would be an in-person mitigation meeting in Vermont in the fall of 2021. Kaitlin mentioned that the Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) has on-going webinar availability. It was discussed that these other organizations could provide a model for our on-line efforts, such as how they take attendance and issue certificates.



Suggested content for future workshops/meetings included speakers/presentations from the cancelled 2020 annual meeting such as stipend winner presentations. All agreed that the on-line format needed to be informative, and provide connection and engagement.

4. Environment and Natural Resources Committee (ENR) Update: Rich Jordan stated that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) General Permit expires in October of 2020. The MAWS ENR committee's comments were sent out during the comment period. Rich noted that the biggest change appeared to be that the 750-foot Critical Terrestrial Habitat buffer around vernal pools was gone.

Rich also stated that the Corps has new Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for mitigation in New England, replacing the 2016 standards. Comments were sent regarding the multiplier tables and the reduction in credit for the upland buffer not matching. The vernal pool regulations and credits are being removed. There are also new credits for streams.

Rich said that we are waiting for the new MDEP in-lieu fee table. Bryan stated that he had recently spoken to Dawn Hallowell and that a new table was coming soon. The prices will be going up by about \$1/square foot or more. The new table was going to the commissioner for review.

Rich discussed LD 1777, which adds streams to the in-lieu fee program. This was passed and signed on 03/09/2020. Bryan thought the calculation may change to square feet from linear feet. He noted that multipliers for in-lieu fee don't necessarily deal with WOSS.

Rich shared that the federal Great American Outdoors Act passed, which gives \$9 billion to the National Park Service and forests.

Lee Burman shared that Jim Beyer (MDEP) had discussed the MDEP conducting an internal review regarding WOSS standards. Rich asked if MAWS should be in contact with the MDEP regarding this.

5. Treasurers Update: Roger St. Amand went over the Treasurers Report, stating that in the end of 2019 MAWS took in \$7,858 and spent \$7,549.

Dave Brenneman asked about refunds from the cancelled March 2020 annual meeting. Roger said we had about \$600 in donations to date. Roger said we hadn't donated to the Envirothon yet this year (we usually vote on this at the annual meeting). Bryan said we would vote on that later.

Matt Kennedy made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report. Rich Jordan seconded. Unanimous approval.

6. Membership Update: Dave Brenneman stated that we had four new members last year. We have a total of 150 members, of which about 100 are active (meaning they pay dues and attend meetings). Dave said that there were 61 dues payments in 2019, and 21 in 2020. Roger said that there were 52 in 2020 based on Stripe. Dave and Roger will discuss this at some point after the meeting. Dave said that there was one application for new membership to date.

Dave stated that he wants to work on more on-line ability to become a member, and conversion of interested persons to membership. He said that the website "storefront" works well and is fairly efficient. He was looking for comments on how to engage more.

Bryan asked about free student memberships and if we needed to vote on this. Dave said that we had a few of these last year. All agreed that it is a good idea. Kaitlin thought that the free membership for students could be added to our stipend letters. Roger thought we should reach out to students at the University of Southern Maine. Other people/organizations to connect with were discussed. Rich suggested free attendance for students at the annual meeting. Bryan agreed to making membership easier. Roger made a motion to offer free membership to students. Kaitlin seconded. Unanimous approval.

7. Ethics Update: Kevin Ryan said that Emerald Wright had won the last stipend. Her work was on turtles. He thought there would be more applications next year.



8. Subcommittees: Bryan and Lee discussed maybe getting rid of subcommittees that we no longer use, or renaming some to better fit what they are currently working on.

Roger St. Amand, Chair of the Vernal Pool Technical Committee stated that there is no new news from this committee.

Lauren Leclerc is Chair of the Outreach Committee, which issues the MAWS Obligate newsletter and does outreach via Facebook.

Rich Jordan is Chair of the Research Committee.

9. Elections:

Sarah Michell has offered to take on the position of Secretary. There is no one opposing. Roger made a motion to accept Sarah as the Secretary of MAWS. Rich seconded. Unanimous approval.

Matt Kennedy stated that he would continue as Program Chair. Kaitlin made a motion for Matt to remain as Program Chair. Rich seconded. Unanimous approval.

Dave Brenneman stated that he would continue as Membership Chair. Roger made a motion for Dave to remain as Membership Chair. Lee seconded. Unanimous approval.

10. Stipend: Hannah Mittelstaedt was awarded \$2000 for her project.

11. Envirothon: No amount was requested this year. Dave made a motion to donate \$1000 to the Envirothon. Matt seconded. Unanimous approval.

12. Open Floor Discussion: Roger said that Bryan did a great job on our first virtual business meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm..



MAWS Financial Statement - 2020	
From January 01, 2020 - December 31, 2020	
Respectfully Submitted to the MAWS Membership, FEBRUARY 8, 2021, by Roger St.Amand, Treasurer	
Beginning Balance 01/01/20	\$ 9,230.67
Ending Balance 12/31/20	\$ 7,661.25
2020 Loss	-\$1,569.42
INCOME	
1 Annual Meeting (Bowdoin College - March 2020)	\$ 2,700.00
2 Membership Dues	\$ 1,840.00
3 MAWS Merchandise	\$ -
4 MAWS Workshop (2020 Reid Workshop deposit in 2021)	\$ -
(A) TOTAL INCOME	\$ 4,540.00
EXPENDITURES	
1 Annual Meeting (Cancelled due to Covid, refunds)	\$ (2,128.97)
2 MAWS Workshop (2019 venue) *	\$ (500.00)
3 Envirothon Grant	\$ (1,000.00)
4 Student Research Stipend Awards (2)	\$ (2,000.00)
5 Website	\$ (228.16)
6 Bank Fees, Stripe & Squarespace Fees, Sec State Filing, Misc.	\$ (252.29)
(B) TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ (6,109.42)
2020 Loss (A-B)	\$ (1,569.42)
GAIN / LOSS	
1 Annual Meeting	\$ 571.03
2 Membership Dues	\$ 1,840.00
3 MAWS Merchandise	\$ -
4 Workshops*	\$ (500.00)
5 Envirothon Grant / Student Stipends	\$ (3,000.00)
6 Other Expenses	\$ (480.45)
2020 Loss	\$ (1,569.42)
	\$7,661.25

** 2019 Venue paid in 2020, Reid 2020 Dep in 2021



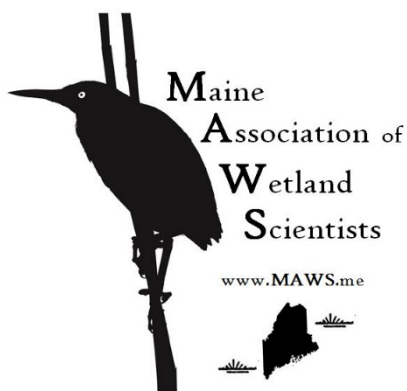
MAWS Business Meeting Agenda 2021 Annual Meeting - March 24

1. President's Introduction and Update – Bryan Emerson
2. Executive & Standing Committee Updates
Secretary Update (approval of minutes from 2020 annual meeting) – Sarah Mitchell
Program Chair Update – Matt Kennedy
Legislative Chair Update – Rich Jordan
Treasurer Update – Roger St. Amand
Membership Chair Update – Dave Brenneman
Ethics Chair Update – Kevin Ryan
Ad-hoc Subcommittees:
 Education/Student Outreach Committee – Lee Burman
 Vernal Pool Technical Committee – Roger St. Amand
 Outreach Committee (maws.me & Obligate) – Lauren Leclerc
 Research Committee – Rich Jordan

3. Executive Committee Elections (2-year terms)

Open Committee Chair Position	Nominees (<i>nominations will also be accepted from the floor</i>):
President-Elect	Open
Treasurer	Roger St. Amand (<i>incumbent</i>)
Legislative	Rich Jordan (<i>incumbent</i>)
Ethics	Kevin Ryan (<i>incumbent</i>)

4. Norman C. Famous Wetland Research Stipend Discussion and Award Vote
5. Envirothon Donation - Discussion and Award Vote
6. Open Floor Discussion
7. President's Closing Message, Meeting Adjourns



Maine Association of Wetland Scientists
Winter Conference & Annual Meeting
Wednesday, March 24, 2021
Via Zoom Webinar

- 1:00 – 1:10 **Welcome**, Bryan Emerson, MAWS President
- 1:10 – 1:25 **MDEP Regulatory Update**, Nick Livesay, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- 1:25 – 1:40 **USACE Regulatory Update**, Jay Clement, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
- 1:40 – 1:55 **LUPC Regulatory Update**, Stacie Beyer, Maine Land Use Planning Commission
- 1:55 – 2:10 **USFWS Regulatory Update**, Patrick Dockens, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 2:10 – 2:20 **Break**
- 2:20 – 3:50 **“SOLAR PANEL”**: Dale Knapp of Boyle Associates will moderate a 1.5-hour panel discussion about the booming solar development in Maine. Panel participants will include:
- Jim Beyer, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
 - Sam Boduch, Earthshift Global
 - Colin Greenan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Rich Jordan, Flycatcher LLC
 - Dave Littell, Bernstein Shur
 - Troy Moon, City of Portland, Maine
 - Bob Stratton, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- 3:50 – 4:00 **Break**
- 4:00 – 5:00 **Annual Business Meeting**

Certificates of Attendance for 3.0 hours of contact time for the conference and 1 hour for the annual business meeting will be sent to all registered attendees via email.

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

\$15 for active MAWS 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: (978)-578-6801, Email: mkennedy@boyleassociates.net

No Refunds for Cancellations