Registration Info

2015 Drinking Water Protection Seminar

Collaborating on Protection: Why Go it Alone?

September 2, 2015

8:30am-3:00pm

Governor Hill Mansion: 136 State St. Augusta, ME

5.5 TCH for Water Operator Licensure

Registration Cost: $45

Student Rate: $30

Register online by following the registration link found on our website: www.mwua.org

or

Mail registration form & payment to:

Maine Water Utilities Association

Name:

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Company Name:

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Business Address:

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Phone #:

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Email Address:

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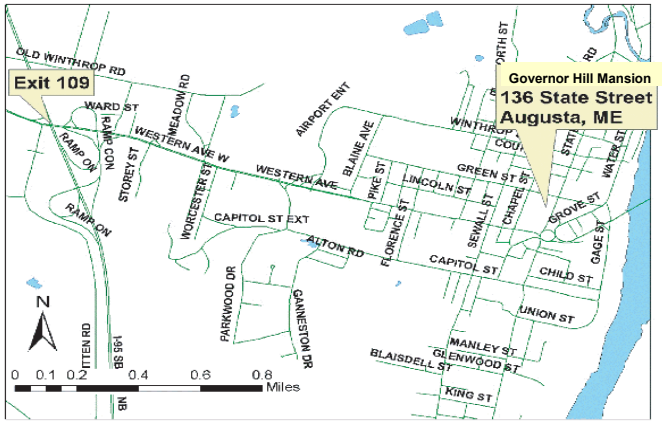

Maine Water Utilities Association

150 Capitol Street, Suite 5

Augusta, ME 04330

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Governor Hill Mansion ▪ Augusta, ME

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Maine Water Utilities Association
Organized 1925

About the Seminar

Public water supplies often have very limited resources, both financially and physically, to develop and implement source protection measures. This seminar emphasizes how state and local agencies, non-profit groups and educational institutions can help provide these critical services for public water suppliers and fill an ever-widening gap in the area of source protection.

Who Should Attend?

Water and Wastewater System Managers, municipal decision makers, Land Use Planners, Regulators, Lake Association Directors, Watershed Group Directors, Land Trust Stewards, Professional Engineers, and Environmental Consultants

Agenda

- **8:00-8:30am:** Registration
- **Welcome and Introduction**
- **Keeping the Great Pond Golden: The Belgrade Lakes Project,** *Dr. Whitney King*
- **Toxic Cyanobacteria: Ecology and Problems in Drinking Water and Linkages to disease in Wildlife and Humans,** *Dr. James Haney*
- **Lake Auburn: Ties between Iron, Aluminum, Phosphorus and Water Quality,** *Heather Doolittle*
- **10:30-10:45am:** Break
- **Conserving Watershed Land through Collaboration,** *Laurel Jackson*
- **How Public Water Systems can Collaborate to Prevent or Respond to Fuel and Chemical Spills,** *Michael Abbott*
- **12:15-1:00pm:** Lunch
- **A Critical Contact List for Water Emergencies,** *Paul Thomas Hunt,*
- **The State of Invasive Aquatic Plants in Maine,** *John McPhedran*
- **Citizen Lake Science in Maine,** *Roberta Hill*
- **3:00pm:** Adjourn

Discussion Topics

Keeping the Great Pond Golden: The Belgrade Lakes Project, *Dr. Whitney King, Miselis Professor of Chemistry, Colby College*

The Belgrade Lakes chain is typical of many Maine watersheds providing exceptional recreational value, a close-knit community, and millions of dollars in economic activity. Declining water quality is threatening many of our iconic Maine lakes. Developing sustainable solutions for the Belgrade Lakes has required community partnerships to define the change in lake ecosystem function, agree on a plan for collective action, and implement broad-based watershed restoration projects.

Citizen Lake Science in Maine, *Roberta Hill, Maine Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program (VLMP)*

Roberta will share the VLMP's recipe for success, including a look at the organization's strong emphasis on collaboration, innovative decentralized-leadership structure, and other strategies used to ensure continued program growth and sustainability in the midst of challenges. She will briefly highlight some of the ways in which VLMP's citizen lake scientists have become integral to cutting-edge lake research in our state, and provide tips for water utilities seeking to engage volunteers in the monitoring and protection of their surface water sources.

How Public Water Systems can Collaborate with State Agencies and Emergency Response Personnel to Prevent or Respond to Fuel and Chemical Spills, *Michael Abbott, Hydrogeologist, Maine Drinking Water Program*

The DWP is embarking on a statewide effort to improve mapping of potential sources of contamination for many of our public water systems with particular focus on river intakes and riverbank wells. Gathering this information will help to focus source protection efforts where they are most needed. A description of the project, expected outcomes and how this information will be used by public water systems and spill responders to improve protection of drinking water in Maine will be discussed.

Conserving Watershed Land through Collaboration, *Laurel Jackson, Water Resources Specialist, Portland Water District*

Sebago Lake, one of Maine's largest, deepest, and clearest lakes in Maine, has a high quality of water within the lake that enables Portland Water District to use it as an unfiltered drinking water source for over 200,000 people. While the largely forested watershed produces excellent lake water quality, the land is almost entirely privately owned, with no guarantee against future development. By collaborating with land trusts to promote forest conservation in the watershed, the district is able to work towards ensuring clean, abundant drinking water for years to come.

The State of Invasive Aquatic Plants in Maine, *John McPhedran, Biologist, Maine DEP*

As with any environmental threat, the value of preventing the spread of invasive aquatic plants clearly outweighs the potentially infinite efforts required to control an established infestation. Significant resources are being expended in prevention, early detection, and response to/control of invasive aquatic plants in Maine. There have been successes – several lakes have been removed from the infested waters list – but in other areas dense infestations remain. Prevention must remain at the forefront of the statewide effort.

Lake Auburn: Ties between Iron, Aluminum, Phosphorus and Water Quality, *Heather Doolittle, Graduate Student in Environmental Engineering, UMaine*

Lake Auburn, a historically oligotrophic lake and drinking water source to the Lewiston and Auburn communities, has experienced a decline in water quality in recent years linked to increased phosphorus concentrations in the water column. Working closely with the Auburn Water District, we have linked this decline in water quality to internal phosphorus loading from the lake sediment. Internal phosphorus loading is controlled by sediment chemistry and can play an important role in the phosphorus budget of a lake.

A Critical Contact List for Water Emergencies, *Paul Thomas Hunt, Environmental Manager, Portland Water District*

In December 2012, a significant section of the water distribution system in the most densely populated section of Portland was dewatered following a major main break resulting in a boil water order for the Portland peninsula. Standard media outlets were used to broadcast information about the situation yet many calls were received from individuals and businesses confused about what had happened and what to do. After this, a Critical Contact List of 35 individuals was developed. The list will be used to communicate immediately about water disruptions to those organizations that most need to know and that can help spread accurate information to others.

Toxic Cyanobacteria: Ecology and Problems in Drinking Water and Linkages to disease in Wildlife and Humans, *Dr. James Haney, Professor of Biology, UNH*

Blooms of cyanobacteria have been increasing worldwide. Many of the common cyanobacteria found in New England are capable of producing highly potent liver and nerve toxins raising concerns over their potential impacts on public health. An understanding of the ecology of toxic cyanobacteria is important in formulating programs for their control and monitoring.