



Maine Water Environment Association

2019 Maine Sustainability & Water Conference

Where will the money come from?

Upgrading infrastructure for wastewater facilities.

CLEAN WATER BOND

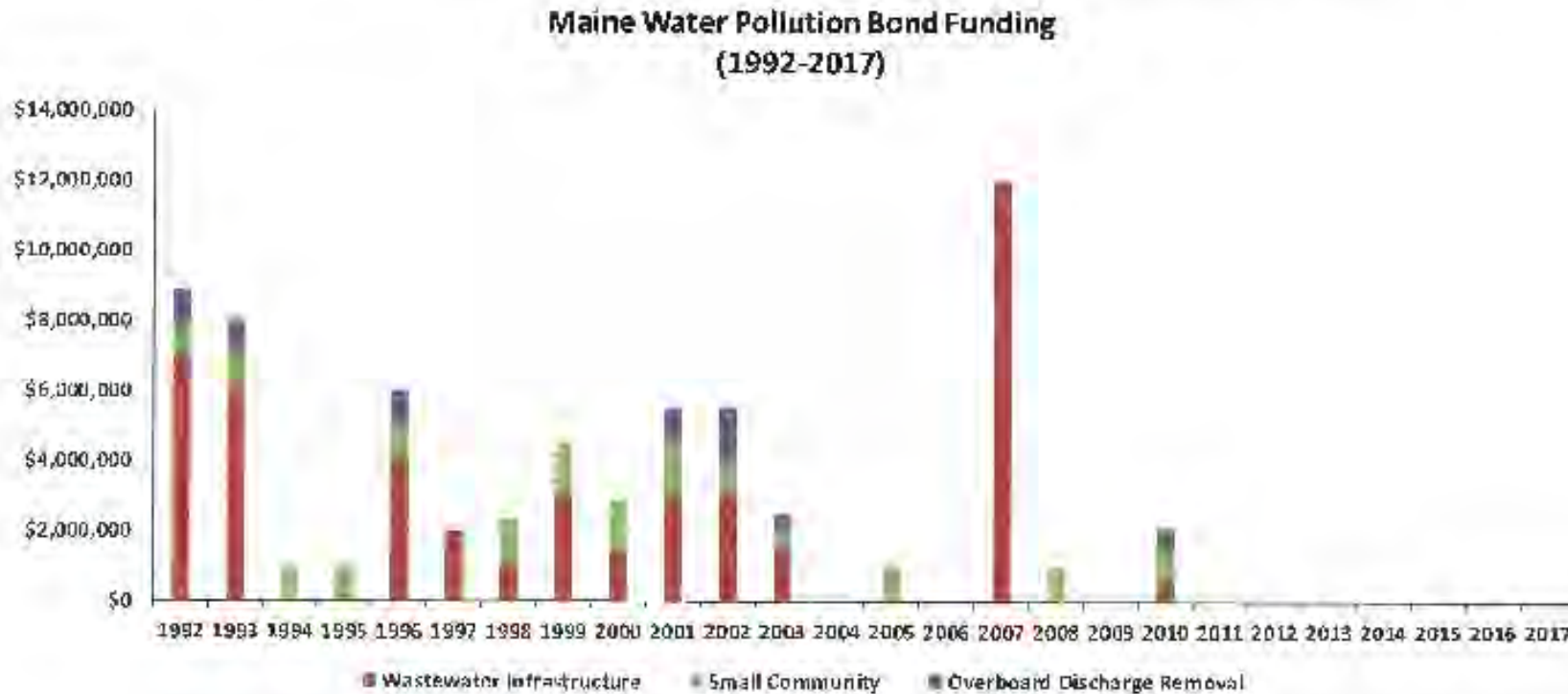
**LD 1510 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Wastewater
Infrastructure Projects for Ratification by Voters in the June 2017 Election
Status: Carried Over**

The funds provided by this bond issue, in the amount of \$50,000,000, will be used to fund wastewater infrastructure, wastewater treatment facility planning, construction grants, and assistance to homeowners whose homes are served by substandard or malfunctioning wastewater treatment systems.

Initial work on bond began in May 2016 and took two years of constant coordinated effort to get bond approved to go to voters in November of 2018. Final approved bond amount was \$30,000,000.

Support \$50 million Clean Water Bond (LD 1510)

FACT SHEET
NRCA



Support clean water and jobs. Support LD 1510.

- A \$50 million water bond will leverage an additional \$71 million in funding and create or sustain 2,186 jobs.
- Maine has a \$1 billion backlog in wastewater facility upgrades in 120 Maine towns (see reverse).
- More than 470 million gallons of untreated storm water and sewage was discharged to Maine waters in 2016.
- Water quality bonds are strongly supported by Maine voters, generally approved with well over 60% of the vote.
- No water bond funding has been provided in seven years, since 2010.
- Now is the time to invest in clean water infrastructure.

Legislative Advocacy (Lobbying)

Critical



- Active Government Affairs Committee
- Active Executive Committee
- Third-party legislative advocate
- Coordination with multiple associations/Build Relationships/Find Common Ground/Power In Numbers
- Issues we are active in:
 - Stormwater Issues/Culverts
 - Sea Level Rise
 - Ocean Acidification
 - Flushables/wipes
 - **DEP “Clean Water” bond**

Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification Partnership holds mini-symposium at State House

October 21, 2016

AUGUSTA – The Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification Partnership held a mini-symposium on ocean acidification remediation projects and policy directions on November 15 in the Maine State House. *The meeting drew over 50 participants including legislators, regulators from three state departments, scientists, municipal workers, commercial fishermen, representatives of NGOs and interested citizens.*

Experts presented an overview of what causes ocean and coastal acidification and how the process unfolds. Other topics included *stormwater management* in Maine, bioextraction by growing kelp outside of waste water outflows and the phytoremediation potential of kelp and eelgrass.

Rep. Mick Devin, D-Newcastle, spoke about setting the legislative agenda for the 128th Legislature and how ocean acidification can be a priority. He also noted that the Coastal Caucus's initial meeting of the session will be held on January 17th and will include identifying marine policy priorities for 2017 along with several experts presenting short talks on ocean and coastal acidification.

Dr. Aaron Strong of the University of Maine spoke about the options available to Maine for connecting monitoring to policy, including the current and potential applications of the *Clean Water* Act. The Casco Baykeeper, Ivy Frignoca, discussed the possibility of reducing nutrient load through regulatory tools.

Going forward, the top area of focus for the Partnership will be creating a comprehensive monitoring plan for ocean and coastal acidification in Maine's waters, determining hotspots of vulnerability from estuarine to offshore areas.

Devin was recently elected to a third term in the Maine House and represents Bremen, Bristol, Damariscotta, Newcastle, part of Nobleboro, part of South Bristol, Monhegan Plantation and the unorganized territory of Louds Island.

Contact:

Dan Ankeles [Devin], cell 207-756-3793

Photo: Members of the Maine Ocean and Coastal Acidification Partnership gathered at the State House to help develop a plan to address ocean acidification.





MEWEA Legislative Partners



The Environmental Priorities Coalition held a successful lobby day yesterday (April 4) which focused on talking to legislators about the clean water bonds. Here is a link to a petition that people can sign that will go to Appropriations:
<https://p2a.co/0nAXOrG>.



Tell Maine Legislators to Protect our Clean Water!

A petition to the Appropriations Committee in support of Water Bonds LD 1510 and LD 178:

Maine's economy, people, and way of life rely on the clean waters across our state. Studies show that water quality in Maine's lakes is deteriorating from pollution. We need to prevent further damage now, to save money – and jobs, tourism, and fisheries – in the future. We urge you to support LD 1510 and LD 178 to protect our valuable water resources from pollution that could seriously threaten our state.

LD 178 seeks to improve camp roads and other sources of pollution to prevent algae blooms and the degradation of Maine waters. This bond will secure nearly \$10 million in federal funds to ensure that we can stop dangerous pollution, while providing jobs for Maine contractors.

LD 1510 is designed to address the significant backlog of sewage infrastructure projects across the state. Many of our sewage pipes and treatment facilities are falling apart – and letting potentially hazardous sewage into our otherwise clean water. Many towns can't foot the bill for these big projects, but they will be paying more in damages if it isn't addressed soon.

LD 1510 will make investments in improving sewers, pump stations, and water treatment facilities across the state to stop harmful pollutants from entering our waters and risking our health and wellbeing, while leveraging \$71 million in other funding and creating or sustaining 2,186 jobs.

Over 600,000 Mainers rely on clean lakes for drinking water and our lakes generate at least \$3.5 billion in economic activity each year. We were given incredible natural resources here in Maine, and now we have to maintain and protect them.

We urge you to approve the water bonds, LD 178 and LD 1510, to protect the clean water resources that make Maine such a great place to work, play, and live.



Enter your information to add your name!

Mr.



Full Name

*

Email (jsmith@email.com)

*

Mobile Phone ?

Home Address (123 Any St)

*

Zip Code

*

Submit

☒ Send me emails about this campaign

☒ Send me text messages about this campaign

© 2018. All rights reserved. Subject to [Privacy Policy \(http://phone2action.com/privacy-policy\)](http://phone2action.com/privacy-policy)

Clean Water Bond Supporting Groups and Associations (44)

Acadia Center		
American Council of Engineering Companies of Maine		
American Public Works Association, Maine Chapter		
Appalachian Mountain Club		
Associated General Contractors of Maine		
Atlantic Salmon Federation		
Bicycle Coalition of Maine		
Conservation Law Foundation		
Environment Maine		
Environmental Health Strategy Center		
Friends of Casco Bay		
Islesboro Island Trust		
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions		
Maine Audubon		
Maine Center for Economic Policy		
Maine Conservation Alliance		
Maine Council of Churches		
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited		
Maine Department of Environmental Protection		
Maine Interfaith Power & Light		
Maine Lakes Society		
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association		
Maine People's Alliance		
Maine Public Health Association		
Maine Rivers		
Maine Rural Water Association		
Maine Water Environmental Association		
Maine Water Utilities Association		
Maine Wilderness Guides Organization		
MidCoast Conservancy		
Natural Resources Council of Maine		
New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission		
New England Water Environment Association		
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter		
Sierra Club, Maine Chapter		
Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative		
Ted Berry Company		
The Nature Conservancy in Maine		
The Ocean Conservancy		
The Trust for Public Land		
The Wilderness Society		
Toxics Action Center		
Upstream		
350 Maine		



Photo by Ann Flewelling

Protect Clean Water and Create Jobs

Support: LD 1510

An Act to Authorize a Bond to Fund Wastewater Infrastructure Projects (\$50 million)

Sponsored by: Rep. Ken Fredette

Support: LD 178

An Act to Authorize a Bond to Provide Jobs, Improve Road Infrastructure and Protect Water Resources (\$5 million)

Sponsored by: Rep. Russell Black

For more information, please contact
Pete Didisheim, (207) 430-0113 or
pdidisheim@nrcm.org



3 Wade Street
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-3101
nrcm.org

The Legislature should pass two bills (LD 1510 and LD 178) that would give Maine voters an opportunity to invest \$55 million in construction projects that will create jobs and reduce water pollution in Maine's rivers, lakes, streams, and coastal waters.

Protecting clean water in Maine is vital for our economy and quality of life. LD 1510 is important because:

- Maine has made significant progress over the past 20 years in treating and cleaning up wastewater before it flows into our rivers and coastal waters, but we still have a long way to go.
- In 2016, more than 470 million gallons of untreated stormwater and sewage was discharged by 25 communities into state waterways due to combined sewer overflows that need to be replaced with modern systems.
- Maine has a \$1 billion backlog in wastewater facility upgrades in 120 Maine towns.
- It will improve water quality in Maine waters, leveraging \$71 million in additional funds and supporting 2,186 jobs. The bond also will address failing septic systems and overboard discharges.
- Wastewater improvement bonds consistently receive strong support from the Legislature and Maine voters, but the last such bond was sent to the voters in 2010.
- Mainers deserve the opportunity to vote in support of a \$50 million investment in clean water and jobs.

Maine lakes face serious risks from nutrient runoff pollution. LD 178 is important because:

- Maine lakes generate at least \$3.5 billion in economic activity annually and help sustain 52,000 jobs.
- Lakefront property values are closely related to water quality, and those property values strongly affect town budgets and services statewide.
- Studies show that the water quality in Maine's lakes is deteriorating, with water clarity declining since 1995. Many of Maine's lakes are close to a "tipping point" that could result in rapid loss of water quality.
- Camp roads and other sources of nutrient pollution need attention to help prevent hundreds of Maine lakes from suffering water quality impairment and algae blooms in years to come.
- Maine voters deserve the opportunity to support a \$5 million bond for projects that reduce nonpoint source pollution, a major threat to lakes, rivers, and streams.











Photo by Allison Wells






Investments in water infrastructure will leverage other funding and create jobs.

For more information contact Pete Didisheim, Senior Director of Advocacy
(207) 430-0113, pete@nrcm.org, or visit <https://www.nrcm.org/projects/waters/>



Natural Resources Council of Maine
3 Wade Street • Augusta, Maine • 04330
(207) 622-3101 • nrcm@nrcm.org • www.nrcm.org

128th Legislature Committees			
Appropriations & Financial Affairs Committee			
Senate			
James M. Hamper, Chair (R-Oxford) 287-1505 senatorhamp@gmail.com		District 19	
POTWs <u>Norway</u> - Shawn Brown, 743-5304, sbrown@megalink.net			
Roger J. Katz (R-Kennebec) 287-1505 Roger.Katz@legislature.maine.gov		District 15	
POTWs: <u>Augusta</u> - Brian Tarbuck, 622-3701, btarbuck@greateraugustautilitydistrict.org			
Catherine Breen (D-Cumberland) 287-1515 cathy.breen@legislature.maine.gov		District 25	
POTWs: <u>Falmouth</u> - Robert Clark, 781-4462, pclark@town.falmouth.me.us <u>Westbrook</u> - Scott Firmin, 774-5961 x3077, sfirmin@pwd.org			
House - Representative			
Drew Gattine, Chair (D-Westbrook) 409-3477 Drew.Gattine@legislature.maine.gov		District 126	
POTWs: <u>Westbrook</u> - Scott Firmin, 774-5961 x3077, sfirmin@pwd.org			
John L. Martin (D-Eagle Lake) 834-7568 John.Martin@legislature.maine.gov		District 72	
POTWs: <u>Ashland</u> – Frank Martin, 435-2223, ashlandwater@atimaine.net <u>Eagle Lake</u> – Gerald Raymond, 444-5441, elwsd@ainop.com <u>Fort Kent</u> –Mark Soucy, 834-3463, Mark.soucy@fortkent.org			
Denise A. Tepler (D-Topsham) 287-4469 denise.teplar@legislature.maine.gov		District 54	
POTWs: <u>Brunswick</u> – Leonard Blanchette, 729.0148 x 115, lblanchette@brunswicksewer.org			
House – Representative (continued)			
Aaron M. Frey (D-Bangor) 249-9969 Aaron.Frey@legislature.maine.gov		District 124	
POTWs: <u>Bangor</u> – Andy Rudzinski 992-4477 andy.rudzinski@bangormaine.gov <u>Orono</u> - Joseph Madigan, 866-5069, jmadigan@orono.org			
Erik C. Jorgensen (D-Portland) 939-7120 Erik.Jorgensen@legislature.maine.gov		District 41	
POTWs: <u>Portland</u> - Scott Firmin, 774-5961 x3077, sfirmin@pwd.org			

<p>Brian Hubbell (D- Bar Harbor) 288-3947 Brian.Hubbell@legislature.maine.gov</p> <p>POTWs: <u>Bar Harbor</u> - Jeff Van Trump, 288-4028, jvantrump@barharbormaine.gov</p>	 District 135
<p>Tom J. Winsor (R-Norway) 527-2233 Tom.Winsor@legislature.maine.gov</p> <p>POTWs <u>Norway</u> - Shawn Brown, 743-5304, sbrown@megalink.net</p>	 District 71
<p>H. Stedman Seavy (R-Kennebunkport) 590-1597 Stedman.Seavey@legislature.maine.gov</p> <p>POTWs: <u>Biddeford</u> - Tom Milligan, 284-9118, tmilligan@biddefordmaine.org</p> <p><u>Kennebunkport</u> – Allan Moir, 967-2245, amoir@kennebunkportme.gov</p>	 District 9
<p>Heather W. Sirocki (R-Scarborough) 730-6602 Heather.Sirocki@legislature.maine.gov</p> <p>POTWs: <u>Scarborough</u> – David, Hughes, 883-4663, dhughes@scarsd.org</p>	 District 28
<p>Jeffrey L. Timberlake (R-Turner) 754-6000 Jeffrey.Timberlake@legislature.maine.gov</p> <p>POTWs: <u>Livermore Falls</u> - Greg Given, 897-2339, lfsd@207me.com</p>	 District 75

This is Your Clean Water Infrastructure!



Greater Augusta Utility District (GAUD)	
<i>General Manager:</i>	Brian Tarbuck
<i>Phone:</i>	622-3701
<i>Email:</i>	btarbuck@greteraugustautilitydistrict.org
<i>Towns Served:</i>	Augusta, Hallowell, Manchester, Winthrop and Monmouth
<i>Size:</i>	8 million gallons per day
<i># Pump Stations:</i>	17
<i>Miles of Sewer:</i>	105
<i># of Users:</i>	2,035
<i>Water Body Protected:</i>	Kennebec River
<i>Cost of Future Upgrades:</i>	\$29,651,695

Overview

Maine has 162 municipal and quasi-municipal wastewater treatment facilities with associated clean water infrastructure such as pump stations and sewer lines. This vital public infrastructure conveys and treats wastewater from homes, businesses, and industries to ensure the protection of the environment and public health and to support economic growth. Wastewater infrastructure serves direct users; those who work, shop and recreate in the service area; and those who utilize and benefit from Maine's clean streams, rivers, and marine waters.

Statewide Financial Needs

Most wastewater treatment facilities were built prior to the early '90s with approximately 55% - 85% federal grant funds, 10% - 40% state grant funds, and 10% - 20% local funds. The federal grant program that once funded the bulk of these projects no longer exists and other sources of federal grant money are now very limited, providing approximately 12% of the overall funding need. State grants have also decreased and currently provide less than 1% of the overall funding need for these projects. The typical useful life of a wastewater treatment facility is thirty to forty years before a major upgrade is needed. Pump stations and mechanical and electrical equipment at the treatment facility generally have a shorter useful life and need to be replaced or upgraded sooner. In addition, sewer lines need periodic repair or replacement to provide continued service at a minimum cost. There is approximately \$1 billion dollars of known needs to upgrade Maine's wastewater infrastructure. Most upgrades are multi-million dollar projects that cannot be affordably accomplished without federal or state grants.

LD 1510 – An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Wastewater Infrastructure Projects, if approved, will provide grant funds to support wastewater infrastructure improvements!

Clean Water is Worth It!

Fact Sheet 2018 Maine Water Quality Bond



LD 1510: *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Wastewater Infrastructure Projects...*

Overview:

- The \$50,000,000 bond will fund three wastewater infrastructure /water quality grant programs at DEP that provide grants to upgrade municipal/ quasi-municipal wastewater infrastructure (treatment plants, pump stations, sewer systems), remove overboard discharges and repair/replace malfunctioning septic systems that impact surface water.
- There are approximately \$1 billion of known needs to upgrade Maine's wastewater infrastructure. The bond will fund approximately three years of DEP's ten-year wastewater infrastructure plan.
- All three programs create jobs, improve water quality, and protect and/or open shellfish areas. The Department of Marine Resources is supportive of all of these programs.
- These bond funds will leverage (be combined with) other federal and state funds to facilitate important wastewater infrastructure projects. An approximate estimate of the leveraging potential is 150% or more, resulting in approximately \$121,475,000 of wastewater infrastructure projects.
- From 1992 through 2010, there had been consistent legislature and voter approved support for bonds for these programs. These programs have not been funded since 2010.
- A broad coalition of stakeholders support this bond due to the multiple benefits of job creation, environmental protection, improvement of shellfish harvesting areas, and municipal/ quasi-municipal infrastructure improvement.

Jobs:

- It is estimated that 900 jobs (such as construction and engineering related jobs) will be created or sustained from the bond funds and 2,186 total jobs will be created or sustained from the combined bond and leveraged state and federal funds.¹
- Shellfish harvesting jobs: In addition to the jobs noted above, abating combined sewer overflows, removing overboard discharges, and repairing/replacing malfunctioning septic systems all have the potential to open closed shellfish areas so they can be harvested.

¹ "How Infrastructure Investments Support the U.S. Economy: Employment, Productivity and Growth" Political Economy Research Institute, January 2009, p. 25. Table 3.1 estimates 18 jobs created per \$1 million infrastructure investment.

Water Quality:

- Maintenance and upgrading of this "invisible", yet essential, infrastructure is critical to protect public health, to protect water quality, and support economic growth.
- The Maine Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) rated Maine with a grade of D+ for Municipal Wastewater Infrastructure. The lack of funding for infrastructure investment and proper maintenance adversely affects Maine's ability to protect water quality and public health.²

Summary of Bond:

Program	Bond Amount	Purpose / Benefits
Municipal Wastewater Infrastructure Grants	\$47,650,000	Municipal and quasi-municipal wastewater infrastructure projects including combined sewer overflow (CSO) abatement.
Small Community Grant Program	\$2,000,000	Repair or replacement of failed septic systems impacting surface water.
Overboard Discharge Removal Grant Program	\$350,000	Removal of commercial and residential overboard discharges (OBDs) with goal to open shellfish areas.
TOTAL	\$50,000,000	

Potential Projects:

There are approximately \$1 billion of known needs to upgrade Maine's municipal wastewater infrastructure. Wastewater infrastructure (wastewater treatment facilities, pump stations, and sewer systems) is typically the highest value asset a community owns and in some circumstances, cannot be affordably sustained solely through local rate payers. Based on current known needs there are numerous projects that are good potential candidates for grant funding.

Once the bond is approved, DEP will solicit detailed project requests to determine how the grants will be awarded. Project requests will be evaluated using longstanding DEP criteria including economic need, shellfish area protection and improvement, abatement of combined sewer overflows, water quality improvement, regionalization, and leveraging bond funds with other state and federal funding sources.

² <http://maineasce.org/2016ReportCard.htm>

January 30, 2017

Senator James Hamper
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Jim-

My name is Penny Lowe, I am the Utility Manager for the Paris Utility District, and your constituent in my hometown of Oxford. I am submitting comments in support to LD 1510, an Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Wastewater Infrastructure Projects. I am sure you must be aware of the positive impact that this bill would have on all Wastewater Treatment Facilities in the State of Maine. The reasons that I am supporting this bill are as follows:

The bond would fund the Municipal Wastewater Infrastructure Grants, Small Community Grant Program and the Overboard Discharge Removal Program that the Department of Environmental Protection would oversee. These grants and programs would provide much needed upgrades to Maine's municipal wastewater infrastructure.

At the present time the Paris Utility District's sanitary sewer system is in need of upgrades that cannot be affordably obtained solely through our rate payers. The District would be examining all possible funding or grants to see that these upgrades are completed to protect public health, and protect water quality. The longer it takes for funding these programs the more it will cost the rate payers of Paris.

The programs have not been funded since 2009, even though there has been consistent legislature and voter approval. I would ask that the Appropriations and Financial Committee fund this bond issue, to help with the much-needed upgrades to assist homeowners with malfunctioning septic systems, wastewater treatment facilities, construction grants, and modeling in coastal watersheds.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoints on this matter. I believe it is an important issue, and would like to see the Appropriations and Financial Affairs pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Penny Lowe

Utility Manager
Paris Utility District

March 9, 2018

The Honorable Troy Jackson
The Honorable Michael Carpenter
The Honorable Roger Sherman
The Honorable John Martin
The Honorable Roland Danny Martin
The Honorable Carol A McElwee
The Honorable David Harold McCrea
The Honorable Harold Stewart III
The Honorable Dustin Michael White
The Honorable Chris A Johansen
Maine State Legislature

Dear Aroostook County Delegation,

The wastewater utilities of Aroostook County submit this letter requesting your assistance in removing the barriers to the funding contained in LD 1510, "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Wastewater Infrastructure Projects for Ratification by Voters in the June 2017 Election." The bill, as printed, authorizes a \$50,000,000 to replace aging wastewater infrastructure with priority granted to coastal watersheds and those with high value shellfish resources. We seek your support in the removal of this restriction and seek applicability for all wastewater facilities.

According to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Aroostook County utilities have requested approximately \$16,300,000 of wastewater infrastructure projects that have yet to receive funding. This includes the following:

- \$11.3 m in Fort Fairfield for a new wastewater treatment facility and sewer replacement
- \$1.8 m at the Loring Development Authority for sewer replacement
- \$1.9 m in Mapleton for wastewater treatment facility upgrades and sewer replacement
- \$1.3 m in Washburn for outfall improvements and sewer upgrades

Additionally, the 2012 *Clean Water Needs Survey* documents another \$26,600,000 in need. This list includes the following projects:

- \$7 m in Caribou for wastewater treatment plant upgrades and sewer replacement
- \$1.2 m in Fort Kent for sewer replacement
- \$0.6 m in Houlton for sewer replacement
- \$1.6 m in Mars Hill for sewer replacement
- \$2.5 m in Presque Isle for wastewater treatment plant upgrades
- \$13.7 m in Washburn for wastewater treatment plant upgrades and sewer replacement

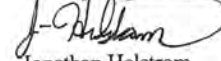
Though no formal request has been filed at this time, the Maine DEP is also aware of \$17,000,000 in additional projects. This list includes the following projects:

- \$7.5 m needed in Madawaska for upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant and sewer rehabilitation for combined sewer overflow abatement.
- \$7.5 m needed in Presque Isle to correct the Inflow/Infiltration issues and rehabilitation of the collection system.
- \$2.0 m needed in Ashland to remove sludge from treatment lagoons.

It is evident that the wastewater infrastructure needs in Aroostook County alone are staggering; any barrier restricting access to additional grants should be removed. We ask that you please advocate on behalf of the County to help us, our rate payers, and our communities, in receiving access to additional grant monies.

Affordable sanitation service is critical to our small communities and necessary for the sustainability of the region. The United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Grant/Loan Program has not been included in the President's FY 19 budget, without reliable access to these monies, it is imperative that the State of Maine offer every opportunity available for wastewater facilities to replace infrastructure affordably.

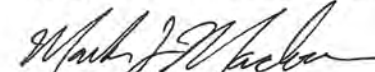
We request your assistance in this important matter.

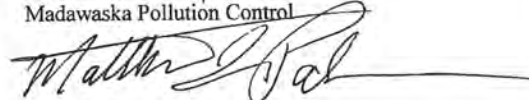

Jonathan Helstrom
Fort Fairfield Utilities District

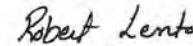

Carl Flora
Loring Development Authority



Hugh Kirkpatrick
Caribou Utilities District

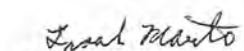

Mark Soucy
Fort Kent Water & Wastewater Department

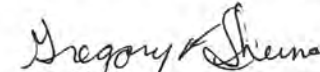

Mark Madore
Madawaska Pollution Control


Matt Palmer
Washburn Water & Sewer District


Robert Lento
Mars Hill Water Company


Frank Kearney, Sr.
Presque Isle Utility District


Frank Martin
Ashland Water and Sewer District


Greg Sherman
Houlton Water Company


Gilles St Pierre
Mapleton Sewer District

LEGISLATION OUTCOME FOR END OF THE FIRST HALF OF THE 128TH LEGISLATURE

By the end of the session 1647 bills had been proposed. We had to at least do cursory review of each bill. The bill title alone often has nothing or little to do with the actual intent of the legislation so each bill may have to be read once a description is available.

Through out session we monitored upwards of 150 bills of interest. About a dozen bills required input and testimony, dozens more required some form of lobbying and 100's of hours of our members and our legislative partners time.

The Legislature enacted 283 laws from 1647 bills submitted, which is historically low.

The Governor vetoed 128 bills – 40 vetoes were overridden.

A large number of bills from this session are being carried over to the Second Regular Session (294), which will make the Second session very busy, in addition, possible new legislation will be submitted through the Legislative Council.

BONDS

The House and Senate passed a \$105M transportation bond for the November ballot - \$80M going to roads and bridges, \$20M for alternate modes and \$5M for culverts. Only approved bond issue to go to November ballot. (2017)

Over 33 separate bond issues carried over to the next session. In total over \$1 BILLION Dollars in requests.

Recent Storms Highlight the Need for More Wastewater Funding

April 18, 2018, Augusta, Maine- Water and wastewater districts are reminded daily of the need to upgrade facilities, but storms often bring those issues to the surface revealing troubling issues for the public. While necessary today, dumping wastewater into waterways can be stopped.

“We sometimes refer to our underground utilities as forgotten by the people we serve, until something happens. Big rain events like this week are always top of mind when our systems are working at capacity. I know citizens are amazed that we have contingency plans that include the release of wastewater into our waterways. It’s something we want to fix, and that requires more funding,” said XXX XXX.

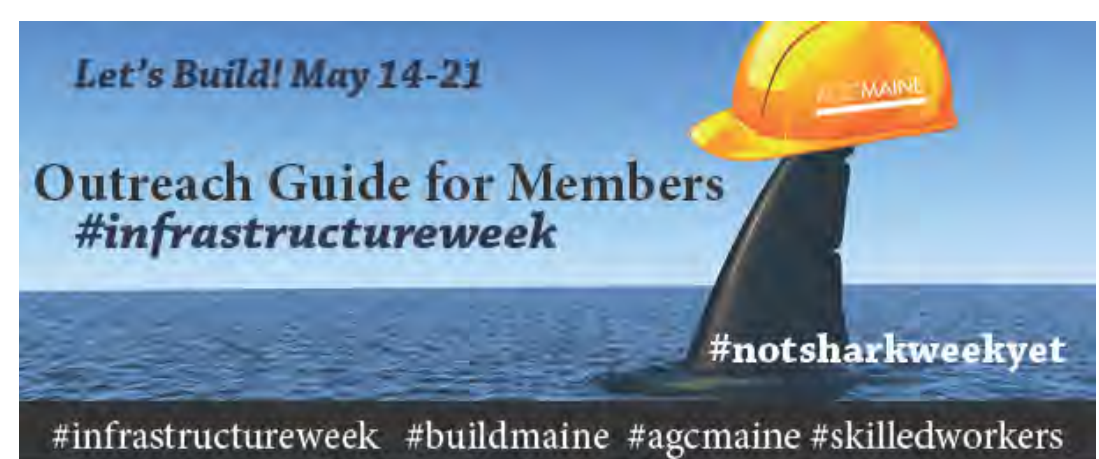
It was estimated by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) that Maine’s growing wastewater deficit is \$1billion of needs. The most significant portion, combined sewer overflow (CSO), remains the largest obligation and a health and environmental threat. When stormwater overwhelms the system’s capacity, the hydraulic relief points to protect downstream assets, including the treatment plant and upstream protection such as homes and businesses to prevent backup. The result is untreated wastewater and stormwater into our waterways.

“We made strides to include recurring revenue to make sure we meet the federal requirements for matching dollars. However, if we want to stop dumping sewer waste into our water system, we must do more,” said XXXX XXXX.

The Associated General Contractors of Maine (AGC Maine) agrees with the assessment of water and wastewater advocates. “Contractors share the concern, especially when replacing broken pipes or facilities during storm events when an emergency occurs. I think the general public would share our enthusiasm if they saw they extent of how old our systems are that are servicing the needs today. An investment today will serve many generations, as proven by the number of century-year-old systems” said Matt marks of AGC Maine.

The legislature has a chance to provide additional funding by passing a bond this session, LD 1510, An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Wastewater Infrastructure Projects. “The additional funding addresses problems throughout Maine, including rural towns. Providing adequate wastewater facilities serves both residents and businesses. We kicked the can on this last legislative session, but how much longer” said XXXXX.

Maine has 162 publicly owned treatment facilities throughout the state. During the review by ASCE developing an infrastructure report card, wastewater was given a D+. Maine has made significant strides in CSO reduction since 1989 with an estimated in CSO volume of 85%-92%. "Urban areas contributed more CSO events, but this is a case where there is a major deficit in funding improvements to rural wastewater systems. It's vital to our economic development and environment we invest more today," said XXXXXXXX.



AGC Maine will use next week to focus on Infrastructure investment using various forms of media. You can help by sharing photos and videos of your job sites, people at work, and quote about the importance of infrastructure to your business and Maine jobs. Below is a schedule of our focus areas for each day. Let's keep our foot on the gas pedal and encourage Infrastructure investment while celebrating the work accomplished.

Monday, May 14th Water & Wastewater

AGC Maine will post facts via photos on current and future needs. Help us by posting your w/www pics, new technology at work, Mainers working in the field. Send us a quote we can use, along with a photo for a press release and promotional material. Don't forget to tag us on social media @agcmaine and use the following hashtags: #cleanwaterformaine #skilledworkers #buildmaine #agcmaine

Tuesday, May 15th Vertical Construction

AGC Maine will post facts via photos on housing, school construction, retail, and all things related to vertical construction. Help us by posting your projects in development and highlight those recently completed, don't forget we love to see Mainers working! Send us a quote we can use, along with a photo for press releases and promotional material. Don't forget to tag us on social media @agcmaine and use the following hashtags: #jobsformaine #skilledworkers #buildmaine #agcmaine

Wednesday, May 16th Transportation

AGC Maine will post facts about Maine's transportation infrastructure. Help us by sharing the impact of investment on your business and skilled workers. Share photos and jobs showing the pride of "I built this." Send us a quote we can use, along with a photo for press releases and promotional material. Don't forget to tag us on social media @agcmaine and use the following hashtags: #transportationmatters #skilledworkers #buildmaine #agcmaine

Thursday, May 17th Energy & Industrial

AGC Maine will post facts via photos & videos on Maine's energy economy. Help us by posting your pics & videos of current and past projects. Send us a quote we can use, along with a photo for press release and promotional material. Don't forget to tag us on social media @agcmaine and use the following hashtags: #maineenergyworks #skilledworkers #buildmaine #agcmaine

Friday, May 18th Site Work

AGC Maine will post facts via photos & videos on site work projects around the state. Help us by posting your pics & videos of current and past projects. Send us a quote we can use, along with a photo for press release and promotional material. Don't forget to tag us on social media @agcmaine and use the following hashtags: #sitework #skilledworkers #buildmaine #agcmaine

Weekend May 19-20 Why Infrastructure Matters?

AGC Maine will promote infrastructure investment, job statistics, and share open jobs on the "Who's Hiring" page on our website throughout the weekend.

Have Questions?

Shoot an email to team@agcmaine.org or give us a call 207-622-4741.

AGC Maine Media Pages

www.agcmaine.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/agcmaine

Instagram: [agcmaine](https://www.instagram.com/agcmaine)

Twitter: [agcmaine](https://twitter.com/agcmaine)

Youtube: [agcmaine](https://www.youtube.com/agcmaine)

Legislative Leadership - POTWs

Senate

Legislator	POTW	Contact	Phone	email
Sen. Mike Thibodeau – President of the Senate	Belfast	Jon Carman	948-2422	joncarman@uninets.net
	Islesboro	Jon Carman	948-2422	joncarman@uninets.net
	Northport	Dick McElhaney	242-0529	dmcelhaney@twc.com
	Searsport	Howard Clark	548-6320	rbouchard1@myfairpoint.net
	Unity	Jon Carman	948-2422	joncarman@uninets.net
	Winterport	Annaleis Hafford	223-2232	annaleis@olverassociatesinc.com
Sen. Garrett Mason – Senate Majority Leader	Lisbon	Stephen Aievoli	353-3013	SAievoli@lisbonme.org
	Sabattus	Paul Morin	577-3177	ssdp@roadrunner.com
Sen. Amy Volk – Assistant Majority Leader	Gorham (PWD – East End)	Scott Firmin	774-5961 x3077	sfirmin@pwd.org
	Scarborough	David Hughes	883-4663	dhughes@scarsd.org
Sen. Troy Jackson - Democratic Leader	Ashland	Frank Martin	435-2223	ashlandwater@atimaine.net
	Caribou	Hugh Kirkpatrick	496-0911	District@gwi.net
	Eagle Lake	Gerald Raymond	444-5441	elwsd@ainop.com
	Fort Kent	Mark Soucy	834-3463	Mark.soucy@fortkent.org
	Frenchville	Andre Gendreau	895-9506	andre_h2o@yahoo.com
	Grand Isle	Andre Gendreau	895-9506	andre_h2o@yahoo.com
	Limestone	James Leighton	325-4788	lwsd@maine.rr.com
	Madawaska	Mark Madore	728-3608	mmadore@townofmadawaska.net
	Mapleton	Gilles St. Pierre	551-8523	grstp@mfx.net
	Sinclair Sanitary District	Mark Madore	728-3608	
	Van Buren	Ricky Sirois	868-3975	vbwastewater@live.com
	Washburn	Matthew Palmer	455-1042	washburnwsd@myfairpoint.net
Sen. Nathan Libby – Assistant Democratic Leader	LAWPCA	Mac Richardson	782-0917	crichardson@lawpca.org

House				
Legislator	POTW	Contact	Phone	email
Rep. Sara Gideon – Speaker of the House	Freeport	Daniel Bicknell	865-3540	fsddb@aol.com
Rep. Erin Herbig – Majority Floor Leader	Belfast	Jon Carman	948-2422	wwtp@cityofbelfast.org
	Northport -	Dick McElhaney	242-0529	dmcelhaney@twc.com
Rep. Jared Golden – Assist. Majority Floor Leader	LAWPCA	Mac Richardson	782-0917	crichardson@lawpca.org
Rep. Ken Fredette – Minority Floor Leader	Corinna	Annaleis Hafford	223-2232	annaleis@olverassociatesinc.com
	Newport	Dan Stevens	368-5129	dannsd@myfairpoint.net
Rep. Ellie Espling – Assist. Minority Floor Leader	None			

Media Alert

What: More than 120 organizations and businesses to urge Legislature to reconvene.

When\Where: June 5, 2018

10:00 am

**Maine State House
Welcome Center
Augusta**

Who:

Dana Connors

Executive Director
Maine State Chamber of Commerce

Lydia Dawson

Executive Director
Maine Association for Community Service Providers

James H. Page

Chancellor
University of Maine System

Matt Timberlake

President, Ted Berry Company
Board Member, Associated General Contractors of Maine

Contacts

Matt Marks, The Associated General Contractors of Maine, 207-530-3001
Tom Abello, The Nature Conservancy, 207-406-0230

June 5, 2018

Citizens, Interest Groups Ask Legislature to Complete Maine's Business

Representatives highlight funding needs for care givers, infrastructure funding, education funding and more

AUGUSTA — A broad collection of more than 120 organizations and businesses representing nearly every facet of the state's economy, livelihood, and quality of life joined together today to urge the Legislature to reconvene to complete its unfinished business. The issues left on the table cut across all sectors and industries from direct care workers, to transportation funding to education funding, the concerns expressed today impact nearly every citizen of the state.

"We respectfully ask you to return to work," said Dana Connors, Executive Director of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. "We are nearing essential timelines where impacts from inaction will create significant difficulties for the people of Maine. Now is the time for Maine to show leadership to demonstrate that despite our differences we can still work together. Let's ensure that our essential services, educational funding, economic opportunities and critical decisions by Maine businesses and agencies will continue without delay."

Among the hundreds of bills hanging in the balance, is an increase in state reimbursement rates for direct care workers, including those who work in nursing homes and homes for those with intellectual disabilities.

"MaineCare rates paid to providers for services for people with intellectual disabilities have not been increased in over a decade," said Lydia Dawson, Executive Director of the Maine Association for Community Service Providers. "Many receiving this service have extreme medical and behavioral needs and have nowhere else to go to receive the support they need. Homes and programs will close because the rate will no longer support even the required minimum wage. If providers are forced to close homes and programs because they cannot sustain the cut, individuals will lose their essential and medically necessary supports."

Funding for upgrading, maintaining and replacing Maine's aging road infrastructure and bridges face significant shortfalls. If the legislature fails to approve a bond referendum this year, the department's current three-year work plan will need to be drastically reduced by some \$80 million. The Maine Department of Transportation cannot invest in transportation infrastructure if these anticipated funds fail to materialize, DOT will be forced to cut projects from the capital work plan. The current bonding amount represents roughly one-third of the highway and bridge programs for 2019.

Open Letter to the 128th Legislature

Dear Members of the 128th Legislature,

We, the undersigned, collectively urge you to reconvene to complete the unfinished business of this legislative body. Our interests vary, it is even likely that some issues you debate will have some signers of this letter on opposite sides. However, we recognize the importance of having those public debates and convening a special session outweighs each of our interests. It is also clear that many of us are nearing essential timelines where impacts from inaction will create significant difficulties for the People of Maine.

Each of us recognizes the tireless work that you contributed before the close of the session. We know, and appreciate the many hours of time spent in hearings, meeting with constituents and researching policy. We realize that the passion driving each of your convictions on issues can be frustrating, empowering, challenging and perhaps fuel anger. However, we are counting on each of you.

For those reasons and many more, we encourage the legislature to set a return date that will conclude business before the end of the month. This action will ensure many essential services, economic opportunities, and critical decisions by Maine businesses and agencies will continue without delay.

Now is the time for Maine to show leadership to demonstrate that despite our differences we can still work together. When the Committees complete their work, follow immediately with the assembly of the entire legislature to vote on the remaining business. We believe that civility, compromise, and fairness will prevail. Do the right thing, start the public debate, ask Committees to finalize their work, vote on the urgent matters before you, and let's make sure Maine's summer is something we can celebrate knowing that you, our elected leaders, completed the work of the people.

Thank You from 117 Maine Businesses and Organizations.

30 Mile River Land Trust, A.W. Madden Inc, AAA Northern New England, Affinity, Alliance for Addiction & Mental Health Services, Alternative Services Northeast Inc, American Council of Engineering Companies, Amicus, Ascentria Community Services Inc, Assistance Plus, Associated General Contractors of Maine, Bicycle Coalition of Maine, Bitumar USA, Bridge to Success Inc, C.M. Cimino Inc, CAFÉ Inc, CASA Inc, Casco Bay Engineering, Central Aroostook Association, Charlotte White Center, Children's Center, Children's Odyssey, Coastal Opportunities, Community Living Association, Conservation Law Foundation, CPM Constructors, Creative Options LLC, Creative Work Systems, Crooker Construction, Danforth Habilitation Association, Davis Forestry Products Inc, Downeaster Horizons, Elmhurst Inc, Families Matter Inc, Friends of Casco Bay, Gallant Therapy Services Inc, Goodwill Industries of Northern New England, Great Bay Services, Green Valley Association, Group Main Stream Inc, H.B. Fleming Inc, Hope Association, Independence Advocates of Maine Inc, Independence Association Inc, ISC for ME, J.P. Martin & Sons Construction, Joint Environment Training Coordinating Committee, KFI, Landry/French Construction, LEAP Inc, LifeShare Inc, Linkletter & Sons, Living Innovations, Maine Affordable Housing Coalition, Maine Association for Community Service Partners, Maine Association for Community Support Workers, Maine Audubon, Maine Better Transportation Association, Maine Community Action Association, Maine County Commissioners Association, Maine Drilling & Blasting, Maine Equal Justice Partners, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, Maine Professional Loggers Association, Maine Rural Water Association, Maine School Management Association, Maine Section American Society of Civil Engineers, Maine State Chamber of Commerce, Maine Vocational & Rehabilitation Association, Maine Water Environment Association, Maine Water Utilities Association, Mayor's Coalition, MERT Enterprises, Midcoast Conservancy, Mobius, Momentum, Morrison Developmental Center, Natural Resources Council of Maine, New Communities, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control, Northern Aroostook Alternatives Inc, Northern Maine General, OHI, Opportunities Enterprises Inc, PCS Family Homes, Peregrine Corporation, Personal Onsite Development, Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter, Pike Industries, Port Resources Inc, R.J. Grondin & Sons, Reed & Reed Inc, Residential Resources of ME Inc, Sargent Corporation, Shooting Star Program, Skills Inc, Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative, Special Children's Friends, Spectrum Generations, Spurwink Services, St. John Valley Associates Inc, Sunrise Opportunities, Support Solutions, Ted Berry Company, The Nature Conservancy, The Progress Center, The Structural Engineers Association of Maine, Tri-County Mental Health Services, University of Maine System, United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Maine, Uplift Inc, Vannah Logging, Waban Projects Inc, Woodfords Family Services, Work First Inc, Work Opportunities Unlimited.

Please Support, Question #2, to Improve Wastewater Infrastructure

We/I urge Maine people to support Question #2 on November 6th. This bond measure will provide \$30 million in badly needed support for Maine's wastewater infrastructure. That infrastructure includes wastewater treatment facilities, pump stations and sewer systems. As the Executive Director (?) of the _____ sewer system (add 2nd person if any), we/I know firsthand the challenges of properly maintaining these systems. Treatment facilities and pump stations must be upgraded or replaced every 30-40 years. Sewer lines have a longer life, but many in Maine are over a century old! As a result, Maine wastewater systems have a backlog of needed projects totaling \$1 billion dollars.

The \$30 million provided by this bond will be combined with federal, state, and local funds to leverage many times that in new investment. 540 jobs will be created to implement these projects. The benefits will flow throughout the state to many of the 162 municipal or quasi-municipal wastewater treatment systems in Maine. They serve communities from Kittery to Fort Kent, Calais to Rangeley.

Maintaining water treatment systems is something every Maine person should care about. Properly treating wastewater is essential to protect public health by keeping groundwater, streams, rivers, and the coastline clean. Our water quality is a big part of what makes Maine special.

Wastewater systems are essential for economic growth. Medium and large-size projects are almost always in locations with access to dependable wastewater services. Septic systems are not viable for larger projects. Maintaining wastewater systems is essential to keep current businesses and attract new ones. Supporting Question 2 is the right thing to do for Maine's environment and its economy.

Without proper maintenance, older systems will fail, causing huge disruptions for thousands of people. Burst pipes result in erosion and can create sinkholes that close roads. The discharge of untreated sewage can contaminate groundwater and threaten drinking water supplies. Repairing damage after an event like this is always more expensive than replacing old pipes before they fail. Question #2 will fund that kind of preventive maintenance.

Another key problem is the release of untreated sewage during extreme rainfall events. Many systems do not have the capacity to handle all of the water collected in a major rainstorm and must release rain and sewage together. Such events are known as Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). Maine communities have been working hard on the problem for years and have reduced CSOs by 85-90% since 1989. More work remains to be done and Question #2 will help fund it.

It's not just our opinion that Maine must invest more in protecting water quality. The American Society of Civil Engineers of Maine gave Maine's wastewater infrastructure a grade of D+ in their most recent report card. Maine DEP has catalogued the condition of systems statewide and has identified the \$1 billion in statewide needs.

In addition to upgrades to major wastewater systems, Question #2 will provide \$2 million to repair broken septic systems and \$350,00 for failed household disposal systems. DEP will target these funds on projects that will have the greatest impact on water quality, including discharges on coastal clamming

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, October 31, 2018

CONTACT:
Tim Haskell 3
Tom Abello 406-0230

Broad Coalition Urges Passage of Question 2 to invest in Clean Water

(PORTLAND) – A coalition urged Maine voters to support Question 2 on Election Day to invest in clean water and create jobs.

Ballot question 2 asks Maine voters: Do you favor a \$30,000,000 bond issue to improve water quality, support the planning and construction of wastewater treatment facilities and assist homeowners whose homes are served by substandard or malfunctioning wastewater treatment systems?

“Maine has \$1 billion in wastewater infrastructure work that needs to be done to maintain and upgrade existing facilities,” said Matt Timberlake, XXXX. “Passage of Question 2 improves water quality, protects shellfish areas, and creates jobs.”

Funding from Question 2 would fund improvements to municipal, quasi-municipal and private wastewater systems: \$27.6 million in grants to help design, build, repair wastewater treatment plants, pump stations, sewer pipes, and combined sewer overflows; \$2 million in grants to towns to assist homeowners with replacement of malfunctioning septic systems that pollute surface waters or cause a public nuisance; and \$350,000 to assist with removal of substandard or malfunctioning overboard discharges into coastal watersheds in effort to restore shellfish areas.

“Every resident of Maine, and every visitor to Maine, benefits from wastewater infrastructure in some way,” said Mark Holt, XXX. “Maintenance and upgrading of this “invisible”, yet essential, infrastructure is critical to support economic growth. Most upgrades are multi-million dollar projects that cannot be affordably accomplished solely by ratepayers without federal or state grants. Question 2 is essential.”

Wastewater infrastructure will require an estimated \$1 billion in upgrades and repairs over the next approximately ten years. A Yes on 2 vote will leverage an additional \$41 million or more in federal and state funding to upgrade these systems. The Maine Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) rated Maine with a grade of D+ for Municipal Wastewater Infrastructure.

Passed with support from Republicans, Democrats and Independents by a margin of 124-2 in the State House and unanimously in the State Senate, Question 2 supports clean water and clean water jobs by allowing investment in badly needed infrastructure improvements in communities across Maine.

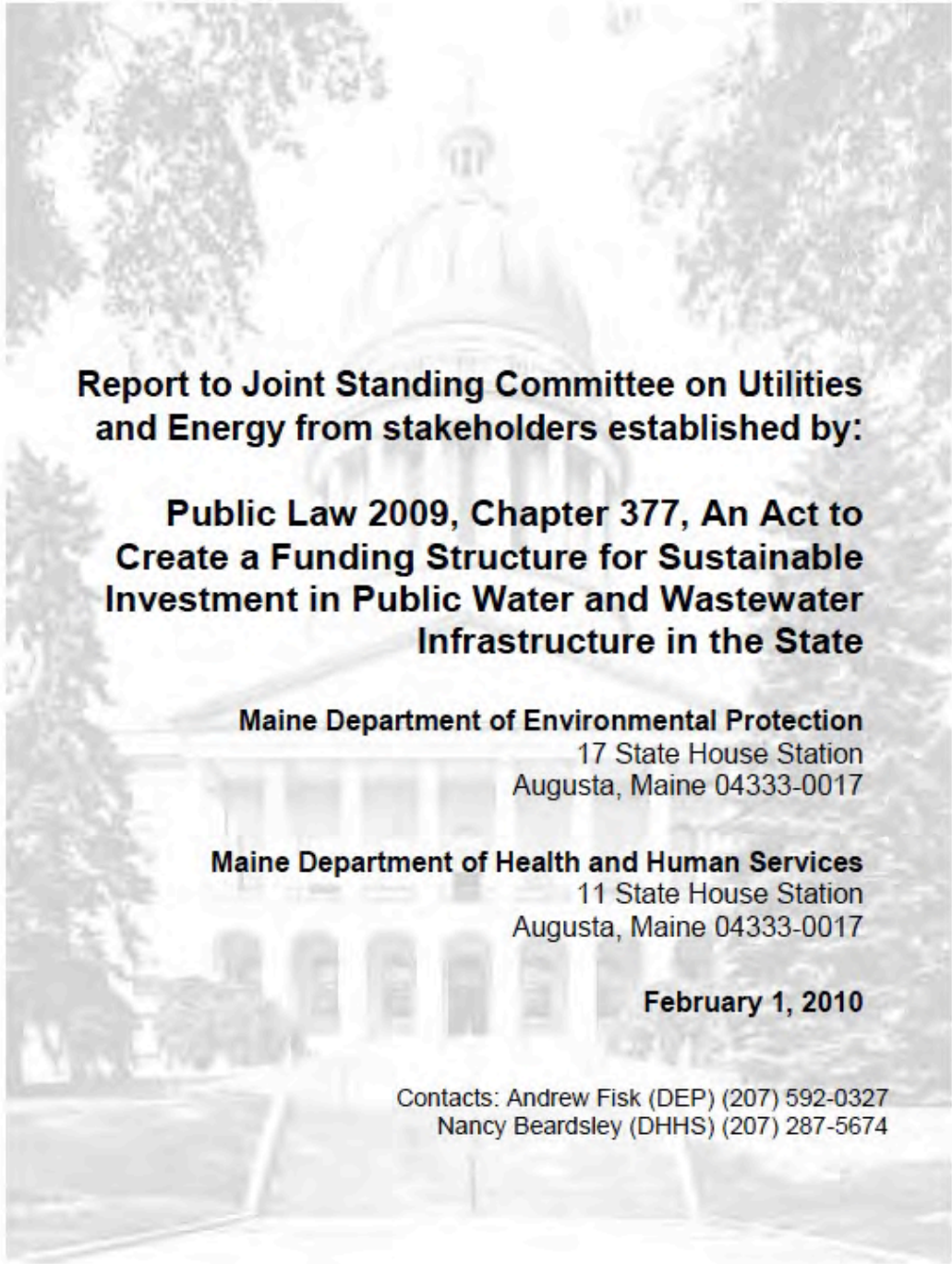


FUNDING OPTIONS AND WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE??

Bonding is not the answer for infrastructure with long term multi-year needs. It can be a tool, but sustainable funding at known or near known amounts is necessary for long term planning and improvements.

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

LD 347- An Act to Provide Sustainable Funding for Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure



**Report to Joint Standing Committee on Utilities
and Energy from stakeholders established by:**

**Public Law 2009, Chapter 377, An Act to
Create a Funding Structure for Sustainable
Investment in Public Water and Wastewater
Infrastructure in the State**

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

February 1, 2010

Contacts: Andrew Fisk (DEP) (207) 592-0327
Nancy Beardsley (DHHS) (207) 287-5674

Reconvene Stakeholder Group

- *Department of Environmental Protection*
- *Department of Health and Human Services*
- *Maine Water Environment Association*
- *Maine Water Utilities Association*
- *Maine Rural Water Association*
- *Associated General Contractors of Maine*
- *American Council of Engineering Companies (Maine)*
- *Maine Municipal Bond Bank*
- *Additional Financial Review Provided by the New England Environmental Finance Center, Martha Sheils*



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 347

H.P. 273

House of Representatives, January 24, 2019

An Act To Provide Sustainable Funding for Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered
printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DeCHANT of Bath.
Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, BLUME of York, DEVIN of Newcastle, HEPLER
of Woolwich, O'CONNOR of Berwick, TUCKER of Brunswick, Senators: CHENETTE of
York, WOODSOME of York.

Framework for Sustainable Funding for Municipal and Quasi-municipal Wastewater Infrastructure Needs

Summary:

The following is a framework to establish a reliable, sustainable, and comprehensive funding mechanism for Maine's municipal and quasi-municipal wastewater treatment infrastructure.

Maine has 162 municipal and quasi-municipal wastewater treatment facilities with associated infrastructure such as pump stations and sewer lines. In addition, there are 42 municipal and quasi-municipal satellite sewer collection systems that do not have a wastewater treatment facility but convey wastewater to one or more of the 162 POTWs noted above.

This vital public infrastructure conveys and treats wastewater from homes, businesses, and industries to ensure the protection of the environment and public health and to support economic growth. Every resident of Maine, and every visitor to Maine, benefits from wastewater infrastructure in some way. Wastewater infrastructure serves direct users (ratepayers); those who work, shop and recreate in the service area; and those who utilize and benefit from Maine's clean streams, rivers, and marine waters that support Maine's tourist economy.

Statewide Financial Needs:

There is approximately \$1 billion dollars of known needs to upgrade Maine's wastewater infrastructure. Most upgrades are multi-million dollar projects that cannot be affordably accomplished without federal or state grants.

Most wastewater treatment facilities were built prior to the early '90s with approximately 55% - 85% federal grant funds, 10% - 40% state grant funds, and 10% - 20% local funds. The federal grant program that once funded the bulk of these projects no longer exists and other sources of federal grant money are now very limited, providing approximately 12% of the overall funding need. State grants have also decreased and currently provide less than 1% of the overall funding need for these projects. The typical useful life of a wastewater treatment facility is thirty to forty years before a major upgrade is needed. Pump stations and mechanical and electrical equipment at the treatment facility generally have a shorter useful life and need to be replaced or upgraded sooner. In addition, sewer lines need periodic repair or replacement to provide continued service.

Framework:

1. Funding should be reliable, sustainable, and comprehensive.

Historic state grant funding for wastewater infrastructure has been provided by general obligation bonds that have been approved by the legislature and sent to the voters for approval. This system of funding is problematic. While typically some level of funding has been provided annually since 1970, the levels are unpredictable and have varied significantly year to year. In some years, no bonds were approved by the legislature. Most notably, no wastewater infrastructure bonds were approved by the

legislature from 2009 - 2018. The amount of work that is necessary to get a bond approved is very significant. Hundreds of hours are required from local and state staff and legislators to compile supporting documentation, educate, advocate, and debate. Changes in the administration, DEP management, and the legislature create the need to start the process over from the beginning. The unpredictability in the process and funding amounts prevents municipalities and DEP from implementing long term planning to upgrade this important infrastructure. In short, the current process is ineffective and inefficient.

2. State and local funding should be to a level that is sufficient to meet known needs in conjunction with federal funds.

The current known need for Maine wastewater infrastructure for the next ten years is approximately \$1 billion dollars, or \$100 million dollars per year. These are projects that must be completed to ensure current and projected service needs are met. Any proposed funding mechanism should ensure sufficient state and local funding, in conjunction with known federal funding, to meet this need.

3. The funding should come from the largest base possible.

This vital public infrastructure conveys and treats wastewater from homes, businesses, and industries to ensure the protection of the environment and public health and to support economic growth. Wastewater infrastructure serves direct users (ratepayers) and those who live, work, shop and recreate in the service area. It also serves those who are not direct users, but who utilize and benefit recreationally and economically from Maine's clean streams, rivers, and marine waters. Since everyone in Maine benefits from the services wastewater infrastructure provides, everyone should contribute to their upkeep. A system of broad infrastructure support would be similar to that used to support the upkeep of roads and bridges.

4. The funding should be structured to leverage federal funding to the maximum extent possible.

Current sources of federal grant and loans are USDA Rural Development Grant/Loan Program, Department of Economic and Community Development Block Grants, and the Northern Border Regional Commission. In addition, the DEP administers the Clean Water State Revolving Fund that is capitalized with a federal grant and state matching funds. Any state funding program should ensure that adequate funds are available to meet match or other requirements to so that federal funds can be accessed to their fullest extent possible.

5. The funding should supplement additional funding through state bonding. DEP wastewater infrastructure bonding should be joined with DOT transportation bonding.

While bonding is unpredictable and inconsistent it should continue to be used as needed to supplement sustainable funding during times when the need of specific projects may exceed the amount of sustainable funding. Wastewater infrastructure bonds should be combined with DOT transportation bonds to indicate the importance of wastewater infrastructure and to improve the likelihood of legislative and voter approval.

Wastewater Talking Points for LD 347 –

An Act to Provide Sustainable Funding for Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Wastewater Infrastructure Background

162 POTWs

41 Satellite Collection Systems

\$1 billion dollars of upgrade needs. Approximately \$100 million per year.

Most POTWs built late 1970 thru 1980s.

Useful life of POTW is 30-40 years. Collection systems have longer life but many in Maine are very old. These systems must be upgraded or replaced.

Wastewater infrastructure is the foundation for clean water in Maine.

Funding History

Most POTWs built with majority of federal grants, with some state grants, and some local funds.

Federal grants have been greatly reduced.

Greater burden of upgrade costs now fall to the state or local funding.

Typical POTW needs range from \$1 million to \$30 million.

Some communities do not have enough users to affordably support borrowing of entire cost of upgrade project. Therefore, state grants are needed.

DEP's estimate is \$15 million of state grants are needed annually. This is based on known needs, and availability of all federal and state grant and loan funding sources.

State grants have historically been provided via general obligation bonds approved by the legislature and the voters.

Bonding has been sporadic, unpredictable, and very time intensive for all involved. From 2010-2017 there were no wastewater bonds approved by the legislature. A \$30 million bond was approved in 2018.

Since 1970 the state has, on average, made principal and interest payments on wastewater bonds of approximately \$6 million per year. Adjusted by the *Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index* this equates to approximately \$15 million per year in 2018 dollars. These payments are made from the General Fund.

Funding Sources:

- USDA Rural Development: Grant and loan package
- DECD: Community Block Grants
- Northern Border Regional Commission: Relatively small grants.
- DEP Clean Water State Revolving Fund: Low interest loans.
- State grants

What LD 347 does:

Finishes good work the legislature started in 2009.

Legislature agreed on the need for sustainable wastewater (and drinking water) funding.

Three empty funds were established without capitalization via PL 2009, Ch. 377, *An Act to Create a Funding Structure for Sustainable Investment in Public Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in the State*. One at DEP for wastewater, one at DHHS for Drinking water, one at MMBB as central repository.

LD 347 provides a mechanism to sustainably capitalize the funds. This would be an alternative to bonding that would be more efficient and effective.

Existing sales tax from a group of products that can impact water quality or infrastructure would be diverted to the three dedicated funds. This is invisible to the consumer.

Approximate revenue from these products is \$27 million (based on 2010 estimates). This could be capped at a certain level below maximum revenue generation if desired.

Benefits compared to bonding are:


- Sustainable, dedicated, predictable. This will allow for long term planning by the communities, districts, and DEP and DHHS.
- Direct funding as an alternative to future bonding will eliminate the payment of interest. All the money allocated would go to solve infrastructure issues.

Will this funding approach leave a "hole" in the General Fund?

Arguably, no when compared to historic funding levels via bonding.

The average P&I payment for wastewater bonds over the last 48 years has been approximately \$6 million. In 2018 dollars, this is \$15 million.

A return to historic levels of wastewater funding of \$15 million via direct funding through LD 347 would remove approximately an equivalent amount of money from the general fund as has historically occurred to make payments on wastewater bonds. However, no money would be spent on interest.

129th Legislature Committees		
Energy, Utilities & Technology Committee		
Senate		
Mark W. Lawrence, Chair (D-York) 475-4975 Mark.Lawrence@legislature.maine.gov		District 35
POTWs <u>Kittery</u> – George Kathios, 439-4646 kitterysewsupt@verizon.net *Upgrade Needs: \$10,701,476 <u>Ogunquit</u> – Philip Pickering, 646-3271 phil@ogunquitsewerdistrict.org *Upgrade Needs: \$10,444,850 <u>South Berwick</u> – Harold Clough, 384-2760 info@sb-sd.org *Upgrade Needs: \$186,022 <u>York</u> – Tim Haskell, 363-4232 thaskell@yorksewerdistrict.org *Upgrade Needs: \$11,980,733 <u>Berwick</u> – Jay Wheeler, 698-5740 *Upgrade Needs: \$32,872,237 **Past wastewater grant awards: \$4.2 million		
David R. Miramant (D-Knox) 236-4845 David.Miramant@legislature.maine.gov		District 12
POTWs: <u>North Haven</u> – Joseph Stone, 867-4433 naadmin@midcoast.com *Upgrade Needs: None reported <u>Rockland</u> – Terrance Pinto, 594-0324 tpinto@ci.rockland.me.us *Upgrade Needs: \$15,729,383 <u>Thomaston</u> – John Fancy, 354-2136 thompcd@midcoast.com *Upgrade Needs: None reported <u>Vinalhaven</u> – Andrew Dorr, 863-2042 townmanager@townofvinalhaven.org *Upgrade Needs: None reported <u>Warren</u> – Edward LaFlamme, 596-6401 *Upgrade Needs: \$296,287 **Past wastewater grant awards: \$15.6 million		
David Woodsome (R-York) 432-5643 david.woodsomes@legislature.maine.gov		District 33
POTWs: <u>Cornish</u> – Thomas Magno, 730-1746 ptmagno@roadrunner.com *Upgrade Needs: None reported <u>Limerick</u> – Russell Nutting, 793-2530 *Upgrade Needs: None reported <u>Sanford</u> – Andre Brousseau, 324-5313 abrousseau@sanfordsewerage.org *Upgrade Needs: \$7,473,533 **Past wastewater grant awards: \$2.2 million		
House - Representatives		
Seth A. Berry, Chair (D-Bowdoinham) 522-1609 Seth.Berry@legislature.maine.gov		District 55
POTWs: <u>Richmond</u> – Charles Applebee, 380-4261 waterqualitycompliance@roadrunner.com *Upgrade Needs: \$7,228,731 **Past wastewater grant awards: \$667,361		
Deane Rykerson (D-Kittery) 439-8755 Deane.Rykerson@legislature.maine.gov		District 1
POTWs: <u>Kittery</u> – George Kathios, 439-4646 kitterysewsupt@verizon.net *Upgrade Needs: \$10,701,476 **Past wastewater grant awards: \$1.2 million		
Christina Riley (D-Jay) 897-2288 Tina.Riley@legislature.maine.gov		District 74
POTWs: <u>North Jay</u> – Mark Holt, 645-4246 jsewer@jay-maine.org *Upgrade Needs: \$850,998 <u>Livermore Falls</u> – Greg Given, 897-2339 lfsd@207me.com *Upgrade Needs: \$3,429,294 **Past wastewater grant awards: \$579,520		

<p>Christopher James Calazzo (D-Scarborough) 488-4719 Chris.Calazzo@legis.maine.gov</p> <p>POTWs: Scarborough – David Hughes, 803-4463 dhughes@scarst.org *Upgrade Needs: Not reported</p> <p>**Past wastewater grant awards: \$3.3 million</p>	 District 28	<p>Chad Wayne Grignon (R-Athens) 654-2771 Chad.Grignon@legislature.maine.gov</p> <p>POTWs: Birkenhead – Ernest Pooler, 672-4484 binghamselectmen@yahoo.com *Upgrade Needs: None reported</p> <p>Jackman – Jay McNally, 668-7688 *Upgrade Needs: None reported</p> <p>**Past wastewater grant awards: \$1.7 million</p>	 District 118
<p>Victoria D. Douders (D-Camden) 542-1990 Victoria.Douders@legislature.maine.gov</p> <p>POTWs: Camden – David Boletridge, 236-7855 dboletridge@camdenmaine.gov *Upgrade Needs: \$4,001,290</p> <p>Elsworth – Janet Anderson, 734-2253 managan@townofelsworth.com</p> <p>**Past wastewater grant awards: \$4.5 million</p>	 District 94	<p>Steven D. Foster (R-Dexter) 924-7523 Steven.Foster@legislature.maine.gov</p> <p>POTWs: Dexter – Jeffrey Wiers, 717-0488 dexterwiers@madrumer.com *Upgrade Needs: \$2,007,377</p> <p>**Past wastewater grant awards: \$1.8 million</p>	 District 104
<p>Nicole Grohoski (D-Elsworth) 358-8333 Nicole.Grohoski@legislature.maine.gov</p> <p>POTWs: Elsworth (Bayside) – Michael Harris, 667-7315 mharris@elsworthmaine.org *Upgrade Needs: \$3,298,806</p> <p>**Past wastewater grant awards: \$2.7 million</p>	 District 132	<p>* Upgrade needs are based on information from the facility in response to the 2012 Clean Water Needs Survey, or more recent data when available. Current needs may be different.</p> <p>** Past wastewater grant awards are all past grants awarded in the District for the Small Community Grant Program, Overboard Discharge Removal Program, and Wastewater Construction Grants Program.</p>	
<p>Christopher J. Kessler (D-South Portland) 958-0882 Christopher.Kessler@legislature.maine.gov</p> <p>POTWs: Cape Elizabeth – Scott Firmin, 774-6961 x3077 sfirmin@cpwd.org *Upgrade Needs: \$6,405,585</p> <p>South Portland – Patrick Cloutier, 767-7675 pcloutier@southportland.org *Upgrade Needs: \$23,929,388 **Past wastewater grant awards: \$4.8 million</p>	 District 32		
<p>Jeffery P. Hanley (R-Pittsford) 456-9009 Jeff.Hanley@legislature.maine.gov</p> <p>POTWs: Randolph – Charles Applebee, 380-4261 watersqualityandcobillings@kitterunner.com *Upgrade Needs: ~ \$173,075 **Past wastewater grant awards: \$460,147</p>	 District 87		

Bonding Funds VS Sustainable Funding

- Build Support and Advocacy Network
 - Introduce Bill and Secure Sponsor and Cosponsors
 - Hearing Support and Lobby Appropriations Committee Members
 - Lobby Leadership and Entire Legislature (Hopefully Bill Will Move to State Referendum)
 - Lobby and Educate Public State Wide
 - ***REPEAT***
- Build Support and Advocacy Network
 - Introduce Bill and Secure Sponsor and Cosponsors
 - Hearing Support and Lobby Committee Members
 - Lobby Leadership and Appropriations Members
 - Lobby Leadership and Entire Legislature (Hopefully Bill Passes)
 - Part of Annual Budget

Questions??

