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19th Annual Drinking Water Protection Seminar
Hosted by the Water Resources Committee
Behind the Scenes Partnerships for Source Water Protection

Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Augusta Civic Center, Augusta ME
8:30am – 4:00pm

6.0 Maine BLWSO TCHs and 3.0 Maine DEP TCHs

Agenda

8:30am Registration & Coffee

9:00am *Water Resource Protection through Awarness and Siting*: This presentation will provide more tools that water systems can use to protect their water source. We will be reviewing spills at single family homes and programs we have that may assist in preventing these spills from occurring. With this information water systems can promote maintenance of their resident's oil systems and provide incentives for them to do so. We will also be reviewing siting rules that restrict or prohibit certain facilities in water resource protection zones. With knowledge of these rules water systems will have another tool in their toolbox when communicating with their town on development projects in their watershed and residents within their protection area.

10:00am *Hydrogeology of Maine:* This presentation will focus on the hydrology of Maine, groundwater aquifers, and changes in the water cycle including recent droughts and floods. This talk will provide provide basic scientific information about the hydrology and hydrogeology of Maine, as well as information about recent seasonal fluctuations in water availability.

11:00am *Maine Drinking Water Program Funding for Source Protection:* Maine Drinking Water Program's funding opportunities for source water protection, including our Source Protection Grant and Land Acquisition Loan programs, along with some background on the Maine DWSRF. Learn how to apply for these grants and loans. There will be highlighted examples of projects that have been completed in Maine using this funding. Our current federal funding outlook and how we're working to secure ongoing support for this work. The goal is to make our funding process more accessible to water system owners and operators and to spark ideas for source protection projects in their communities

12:00pm **Lunch (included)**

1:00pm *Working with Partner Organizations to Protect Water Quality and Engage Your Community:* This class provide an overview of how to initiate and implement projects and programs aimed at protecting and restoring surface water resources in Maine. Topics will include the benefits of partnering with local community organizations for water quality monitoring, conducting watershed assessments and watershed planning, and accessing grants to leverage funding for projects. Examples will be provided for successful education and outreach efforts and hands-on erosion control projects at lakes and ponds across the state.

2:00pm *Drought Task Force* Since 2010, Maine has experienced at least an Abnormally Dry (D0) drought classification from the US Drought Monitor every year. Periods of extreme wetness are mirrored with periods of extreme dryness, and we find ourselves using the term "flash drought" more often. The Maine Drought Task Force facilitates communication and situational awareness of drought, develops and communicates a unified assessment of the situation, and provides recommendations on potential responses to the Office of the Governor (or other relevant organizations). This talk will summarize Maine's recent drought conditions, provide drought-related resources, and discuss the Maine Drought Task Force's role in drought activities in Maine.

3:00pm Roundtable with your instructors
4:00pm End

Registration Fees
Attendees: $80 per person Students: $70 per person

Register online at www.mwua.org or call us at 207.623.9511 to register.

Your Instructors:
Racheal French, Assistant Environmental Engineer, Maine DEP, has worked for the State of Maine for 8 years. She started her career at Maine CDC in the Drinking Water Program where she spent 4.5 years working with and inspecting Public Water Systems. She moved to the Maine DEP Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management in 2021 where she works in the Spill Prevention and Emerging Contaminants Unit managing programs to help reduce oil spills, reviewing siting for oil storage facilities, and participating in workgroups to protect water resources.

Ryan Gordon, State Geologist and director, Maine Geological Survey in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. Ryan specializes in groundwater modeling, hydrogeology, and surface water resources in Maine.

Sofia Licht, Grants and Outreach Coordinator, Maine Drinking Water Program, a role she has held for over a year. She previously served as a Technical Assistance Specialist with the program beginning in November 2022. Sofia holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in marine biology from the University of New Hampshire and is dedicated to supporting Maine's public water systems through funding, outreach, and technical support.

Jen Jespersen, owner and Senior Scientist, Ecological Instincts, a small, Maine-based, woman-owned environmental consulting firm based in Manchester, ME. Her expertise is in assisting municipalities, lake associations, and watershed groups with water quality monitoring, watershed assessments, watershed management planning, community outreach, grant writing, and project management for watershed protection and restoration projects statewide. She has a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Environmental Science from the University of Maine at Farmington, and a Master's degree in Ecology and Environmental Science from the University of Maine. Jen is a Certified Lake Manager and currently serves on the Advisory Board for Maine Lakes.

Nick Stasulis, began his USGS career in 2003 as a student with the Maine Water Science Center while attending the University of Maine. After graduation, Nick worked in the Maine Data Program, building an expertise in the collection and publication of streamflow and groundwater data. In addition, Nick took a particular interest in the use of hydroacoustics for measurement of velocity and streamflow as a member of the USGS Hydroacoustics Work Group (HaWG). Starting in 2016, Nick supervised staff in the Maine Office of the New England Water Science Center, with a focus on streamflow and groundwater monitoring. Beginning in 2024, Nick oversees the Monitoring Operations Section for the New England Water Science Center. Nick also serves on the IJC International St. Croix River Watershed Board, and as co-chair of Maine's Drought Task Force and River Flow Advisory Commission.