

The PWO Pipeline

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PWO Director



Hello, My name is Bradley E. Fix. Yes, this is normally the newsletter from Bob Rutherford. Bob has ended his three-year rein as PWO Director and in October 2003, I was elected to take his place. I will serve as your representative to the Board (House, but more on this later in this letter) until October 2006.

Here is a little about me, I am the Superintendent of the City of Shelbyville Wastewater Treatment. I am in charge of the plant and collection system. The City of Shelbyville is a medium size City in central Indiana with a population of 17,500 people. We border Marion County where Indianapolis is the county seat. The Shelbyville WWTP is an 8.0 MGD design; 16 MGD peak trickling filter solids contact (TF/SC) system. I have been Superintendent for 24 years. My previous services with WEF include the Collection System Committee, Plant Operations and Maintenance Committee, Program Committee, and Operations Challenge Committee. I served four years as the event

coordinator for the Collections System Event and have served as a judge

for over ten years. At our MA level, I served several years through all the chairs and was President in 2002 when we changed our name from Indiana Water Pollution Control Association (IWPCA) to Indiana Water Environment Association (IWEA).

I have a big task ahead of me. Following in Bob Rutherford's footsteps will be a big task. Bob was very active and was able to travel to most of the regional member association meetings. I am not sure at this time what meetings I will be able to attend. However, I will use this newsletter to keep all of you informed on what is happening in the WEF. I may ask some of you who live near these exchange meetings to make reports back to me if I cannot attend. When former WEF President, Rhonda Harris, asked me to say yes to the nomination for this position, she said it would be hard to travel as much as Bob Rutherford did. ♦

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New Governance Structure

The WEF Board of Directors voted to streamline the WEF Governance Structure. At the Board of Directors meeting in Los Angeles, California, at WEFTEC '03, on Wednesday, October 15, 2003, the Board of Directors became the House of Delegates and the Executive Committee became the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is now legally responsible for managing WEF. The House of Delegates will provide guidance and strategic direction for the board.

These changes will allow WEF to better respond to the business needs and allow the members of the House of Delegates to represent WEF Member Associations and other constituencies more effectively.

There were 117 people on the Board of Directors representing 5 world regions and 79 member associations. At the same meeting, the House voted to add 6 new Director-at-Large positions for the new House of Delegates. This way WEF committee leaders, utility managers, academics, and other key constituencies can have a voice in the Federation management.

The WEF is a \$20 million dollar business. Sometimes decisions need to be made in a timely matter and cannot wait for the twice a year meetings of the Board of Directors (now House of Delegates). Both of these meetings are held in the same week at WEFTEC. We all know how it would affect us if our Utility Boards only met twice a year. ♦

The House of Delegates

At WEFTEC '03, the House of Delegates elected the following slate for offices for 2003-04:

Lawrence P. Jaworski,	President
Lynn H. Orphan,	President Elect
J. Michael Read,	Vice President
J. Michael Godfrey,	Treasurer
Gerald Hook,	Director-at-Large
Bjorn Von Euler,	Director-at-Large Corporate Members
Bradley E. Fix,	Director-at-Large Professional Wastewater Operations Members
Robert T. McMillon,	Immediate Past President

The House also approved the 2004 budget projected at \$19.7 million or \$1.6 million more than the past 2003 projections and equivalent to its original 2003 budget. Membership numbers have continued to slip through 2003. The budget includes a \$2.00 per person dues increase for active members only and will realize \$22,500 in new income. This increase is in line with the board policy to exact small incremental dues increases (in line with increased costs) rather than infrequent lump sum increases of significant amounts. No increase is planned for other membership categories.

During the October 15th House of Delegates meeting, the Long Range Planning Committee facilitated a brainstorming session with the House to identify the implementation issues and the Delegates interests in development of roles and processes of the House.

Currently, the LRPC is working on categorizing these issues and interests as a starting point for an inclusive process that will work with the Delegates, the Board of Trustees, WEF, and Member Association leaders to define the specific roles and responsibilities, to assure effective governance, and appropriate valuable roles for members of the House of Delegates and Board of Trustees. The House also approved changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the WEF to reflect the changes from Board of Directors to House of Delegates and Executive Committee to Board of Trustees.

The next meeting of the House of Delegates is scheduled for October 2, 2004 in New Orleans, LA. ♦



Presidents Message

In addition, at WEFTEC '03 Mr. Lawrence (Larry) Jaworski was elected President of WEF. Larry is with Greeley and Hansen, LLP in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Larry says that he is excited to lead this great organization through the many changes that are taking place this year with the governance changes taking place and the Committee Leadership Council (CLC) that has been created. The CLC will establish strong ties between WEF's strategic plan and all committee activities.

Larry says his goal is to have the Federation leaders be focusing on MA assistance, membership growth, and international activities. He says MA's need more assistance from WEF, because many volunteer MA leaders currently spend so much time dealing with mundane organizational matters, such as taxes, insurance, constitution, and bylaw issues, that they cannot address the MA's mission effectively. Therefore, this year Larry says WEF intends to provide more guidance on organization management to help MA leaders address such issues efficiently.

Larry says members are the core of any volunteer organization and like virtually all volunteer organizations; the membership of WEF and its MA's has been declining over the past several years. Federation leaders have been identifying ways to grow our membership and are developing programs to help MA's both attract new members and keep them for more than a year. Larry says WEF leaders also are seeking effective ways to fulfill WEF's mission to "preserve and enhance the global water environment". Today more than 1.2 billion people lack access to safe, reliable drinking water, more than 2.5 billion people live in inadequate sanitary conditions, and more than 1 million people die each year because of these problems, the United Nations reports. It is estimated that one-third of the world's population currently lives in water-stressed countries, and up to two-thirds of the population could be living in such conditions in less than 25 years. Larry says that therefore it is imperative that our Federation becomes a visible, active leader in international water issues. ♦

Operations Challenge

The WEF Operations Challenge was held October 13th and 14th 2003 in Los Angeles, CA at WEFTEC '03. Listed below are the overall standings for each division. All 34 teams are to be commended for their outstanding performances and their great show of team spirit.

Division 1

- 1st Place Team - Fluid Dynamics - Virginia
- 2nd Place Team - LA Wrecking Crew - California
- 3rd Place Team - HRSD Bio Force - Virginia



Division 2

- 1st Place Team - Cape Shore Workers - New Jersey
- 2nd Place Team - Royal Flush - Florida
- 3rd Place Team - Centrifugal Force - Chesapeake



Twenty-five Membership Associates (MA) were represented at the Challenge. There was a big challenge this year for the WEF Operations Challenge committee and judges as one team from Argentina spoke only partial English and some of their members only Spanish.

The Operations Challenge this year consisted of five timed events as in the past. Those events consisted of lab, safety, process, maintenance, and collections.

Plans are underway for the Operations Challenge '04 in New Orleans on October 4th and 5th, 2004. If you would like to get involved, contact Mr. Larry Knight at knight@fstinc.com or Mr. John Hart at jhart@sacoriver.net. ♦

Directors Corner

As you can tell by this newsletter, I am learning this new position as I go. I know that as Director-at-Large representing the Professional Wastewater Operations members to the Water Environment Federation, my job is to disseminate information from the Federation to the nearly 9,100 PWO members. However, I am also supposed to be your voice back to the Federation. I would like to know what issues the PWO members have with the Federation. I need suggestions, comments, and ideas to help make WEF you organization. How can WEF help you? As I stated earlier, I plan to attend as many of the WEF/MA Exchange meetings as I can to meet you. Nevertheless, I am always as near as your computer or phone. You can contact me in the following ways.

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I look forward to serving you for the next three years.

Calendar of Events

February 22 - 25, 2004

18th Annual Residuals and Biosolids Management Conference
Salt Lake City, Utah

March 14 -17, 2004

WEF - AWWA Joint Management Conference
Phoenix, (Chandler), Arizona

2004 WEF Max Meetings

(Previously WEF/MA Exchange Meetings)

April 1-3	Williamsburg, VA
April 22-24	Tulsa, OK
May 6-8	Indianapolis, IN
May 13-15	Lake Tahoe, NV
May 20-25	Atlantic City, NJ

August 8-11, 2004

WEF Collection Systems Conference Innovative Approaches to Collection Systems Management
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

October 2-6, 2004

WEFTEC 2004
New Orleans, Los Angeles

Please visit our Website at
www.wef.org



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