

CENTRAL STATES WATER

The Official Magazine of the Central States Water Environment Association, Inc.

Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District



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Environment Association
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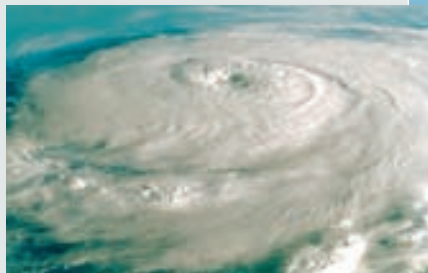
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Young Professionals' Discount

Dennis Lindeke

There is an exciting new membership initiative from WEF/CSWEA. Young professionals can now become a new member for half price, for three years. So, how can you spot a YP and encourage them to join? A YP is:

- A water quality professional, with five years or less of work experience in the industry.
- Under 35 years of age.
- A potential new member, but can currently be a student member.
- Well trained, exciting, full of new ideas and eager to contribute.



At the end of this, virtually everyone in the room was standing up, except the spouses, which was my oversight, as they do much support us. And you know something; everyone in the room had a big smile. Volunteers are always happy people, be it professionally, or in their community. We love what we are doing, the contributions that we have made. "We" are here to protect and preserve the water environment, and to learn how to do it better. This is a career, and an organization, that others can only hope to dream about. So why allow

In my June column I introduced the "Just One New Member" initiative. How are we doing with this? I would like to hear some success stories. Even if you have not signed up a new member, have you approached someone, or are you thinking about approaching someone?

Well, here is a fantastic opportunity. Look around your place of business, the plant, the sewers, the people you have contact with, etc. Do you see someone who is a potential YP? Talk to them about the association and the benefits of membership. They are our future. Their energy, enthusiasm and new ideas will make us a stronger association.

Employers, managers: Look at your new staff. I am sure there are a bunch of eager young people who should be members. CSWEA recognizes that young people have unique needs that are different from the more seasoned professional. As an organization we need to meet the needs of our diverse membership. To this end we will be starting new training and networking initiatives in 2008 for the young professional. It begins with the Young Professionals Exchange July 18, 2008, in the Wisconsin Dells.

At the annual conference in Madison, I began my banquet remarks by asking the members in the audience to stand up if they were, or had:

- Served on a committee
- Presented or published a paper
- Sponsored an event
- Received an award
- Volunteered time for the profession
- Given a plant tour
- Educated the public

others to be on the outside looking in? Get them to join and get involved.

CSX 2007

On July 19-20 we had the annual Central States Exchange meeting in the Wisconsin Dells. About 20 leaders from the three states got together to toss around ideas on how to improve our association. I will not detail the discussion here, as it will be covered elsewhere in this magazine. But I will say that I was most impressed with every single member of the group and their contributions. The big ideas were flying so fast and furious that I could not even get them to stop and take a break. This is why I love to be a member: the talent and the enthusiasm.

WEFTEC 2007

So who is going to WEFTEC in San Diego this fall? It will be October 13-17, 2007. If you go, here are some of the CSWEA highlights:

- The Executive Committee meeting will be held on Sunday morning, 10/14 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel. All association and section leaders/committee chairs are welcome to attend.
- The annual CSWEA reception will also be held at the Manchester, on Sunday evening, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This is a required event for all members and friends of CSWEA.
- Support our hard working Operations Challenge teams. The events will be held all day on Tuesday in the convention center. Stop by and see them in action.

See you there! CS

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Good to Great

Eric R. Lecuyer



Central States is on the cusp of moving from being a “good” association to a “great” association, a tipping point that we can either wander upon by accident, shy away from as if it were a pretreatment audit, or pursue with a vengeance. Our recent recognition by WEF with the “Outstanding Member Association” award (to be awarded at WEFTEC ’07) is an achievement with which we can take great pride. Certainly it is recognition that CSWEA has had a history of strong leadership, committed members and a Midwestern work ethic that drives our members to work with such diligence and commitment for the benefit of the association. Many accolades are due to many leaders at every level, past and present and those are properly dispensed elsewhere in this issue of *Central States Water*. We should take time to enjoy the fruits of our collective labor and the well-deserved recognition of our peers throughout WEF, but we should also look forward and envision our future as we want to see CSWEA over the next few years, decades, and generations.

In his series of books *Good to Great*, author Jim Collins analyzes how certain organizations went from being “good” (defined as mediocre to average) to “great” (defined as sustained leaders by any number of metrics within their fields) and concludes that there are only a few critical factors separating the good from the great. First and foremost it is people. Throughout every scenario, the importance of having the right people in critical leadership positions is paramount to the success of any organization. In most cases, we are talking about a corporate chief executive officer who may be at the helm for many years and has overseen the transition from good to great. But it does not end there since every leadership position, whether it is an association officer, section officer, committee chair, committee member or simply a member looking to get involved, has an impact on the success of the organization.

With our cycle of officers, wherein a person goes from second to first to president to past president in a very short

time, one individual at the top cannot possibly make the entire difference. What CSWEA has experienced over the years has been a group of leaders, all committed to the same goal, and when corralled with the same vision, all working to advance a common vision for the association. One cannot mistake the common theme of our past sev-

eral presidents: our need to replace ourselves with younger, brighter, smarter, and enthusiastic new members; our need to separate the daily operations and mundane administration of the association from the real work of leaders – leading. While there are several factors cited by Jim Collins in his books, none is as critical in every respect as having the right people on board.

We need to be mindful of that critical factor. We need to collectively seek to attract the very best people and if that person is a YP or someone who has only been around for a few years, so be it. If confronted with the choice of an outstanding, highly qualified and eager person for a leadership role and one whose turn it is, we should select the qualified person, regardless of experience. A common theme at WEF leadership conferences has been that the delegates sent by MAs to WEF’s house of delegates are “honorary” positions: people who have served in every other capacity and now its time for them to be WEF delegates, whether they have the time, inclination, energy or fortitude to serve in such a significant capacity. Fortunately, CSWEA has been the exception, with highly active, committed and relevant WEF delegates often acting in a manner contrary to their apparent years of experience – another reason for our success. Simply put, we need to drill down to the organization and advance those bright young folks into critical leadership roles at every level. Does that mean that we should discard the experience and wisdom provided by our more experience leaders? Absolutely not. But the wise leaders may need to step to the side and mentor the bright, energetic and enthusiastic leader, rather than taking a turn as the stoic masthead of an aging association. Sometimes the wisest thing we can do is offer wisdom

The importance of having the right people in critical leadership positions is paramount to the success of any organization.

when requested, provide guidance to those who flounder, provide encouragement, direction and support and then stand back, out of the way.

So you are probably thinking, great, so Eric read a book and now he is all preachy about CSWEA going from "Good to Great" ...and I admit it. I have been greatly impacted by Jim Collins's book, but the book which has provided me the courage ramp up my message to a gonzo-style, in your face, tell it like it is tirade, is about Hunter S. Thompson, one weird dude whose popularity and cult-like following still eludes me. But I got the part about in your face, tell it like it is, gonzo-style reporting.

A disclaimer: CSWEA has been a leader in advancing young leaders and the entire leadership has embraced every opportunity to support, encourage and elevate our younger leaders. We have also recycled ourselves at times and rather than take the quick and easy route, or simply put a name in a blank committee position, we need to hold out and find the best person for each position. Our future is bright, our commitment is unquestioned and our leaders are unified in their desire to strive for more and with that commitment CSWEA will become great! CS



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CSX '07 Big Ideas

By Eric R. Lecuyer

Our third annual Committee and Section Exchange (CSX '07) was conducted at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in the Wisconsin Dells this past July 19-20, 2007. Twenty-three CSWEA leaders were on hand to share ideas, experiences and participate in this vital strategic planning and brainstorming meeting. With the agenda focused on advancing the creation of a marketing plan, membership development, attracting and serving young professionals and the best ways to reinvest sections' surplus revenues in the association, attendees were able to develop several critical action items (what we like to call "Big Ideas"). Below is a sample of the Big Ideas from CSX '07.

1. Play nice with other associations. Pursue joint efforts and better communication.
2. Determine alternate metrics for the success/health of CSWEA rather than membership count.
3. Feature **www.CSWEA.org** on cover of *Central States Water*. **(Done)**
4. Promote CSWEA as providing cost-effective CEUs/education.
5. Membership ad in *Central States Water*. **(Done)**
6. Create "Join Now" button on website with direct link to membership application.
7. Non-member fee for seminars/annual meeting to include membership in CSWEA for one year.
8. On-line membership survey (age, interests, involvement & recruiting).
9. Adopt WEF's half-price membership for YPs for the first three years of membership. **(Done)**
10. YP Committee to organize regional CSWEA YP Exchange (YPX) with other MAs, AWWA, APWA, etc. **(Scheduled for July 18, 2008)**
11. Recognize that Young Professional Operators are the future Channel Captains, so we need to focus more efforts toward them. ("Channel Captain" is a marketing term for the reason that the association exists. If we did not have WWTPs and operators, we would not need

got ideas?



engineers, manufactures and sales representatives.)

12. Develop Webinars to attract new members and generate interest in CSWEA.
13. Add an Operations Forum to Annual Meeting. **(Done)**
14. Use *Central States Water* as an advertising tool for the association.
15. Have fun!

Along with the hard work completed by many CSWEA leaders, CSX is designed to be family friendly, and many family members were able to enjoy the Kalahari Resort and our pizza party on Thursday evening. CSWEA CSX is an event that CS leaders at all levels, committee chairs and members, section and association officers, and any members interested in serving the association are welcome to attend.

CSWEA's CSX '08 is scheduled for July 17-18, 2008 again at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. Put it on your calendar now and plan to bring the family along for the fun! (Big idea #15!) CS



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You are No. 1

By Dan Lynch, incoming WEF delegate

You may not know this, but you belong to a very special organization. I have heard many people say that Central States is a leader in the Water Environment Federation. Our opinion is valued by WEF and other member associations. You are a member of one of the very best associations in the entire WEF family.

This association is special for many, many reasons. We have great people who care about what they do. We have great programs with national reputations. What we do matters, not just to us, but to anyone who cares about water. We are a multi-state organization, which gives us a broader perspective than most other professional associations. But you have heard all of this before. I have said it myself many times, but now, I have proof!

I do not want to say that we are better than everyone else; I am not like that, but, that is exactly what I want to say. WE ARE BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE, at least we are better than WEF's 79 other member associations.

I am very pleased to announce that the CSWEA, one of the founding associations of WEF, will be presented a very special award at WEFTEC '07 in San Diego. Central States will receive WEF's very prestigious OUTSTANDING MEMBER ASSOCIATION AWARD. This is not quite like the Super Bowl; it is more like being on the team that wins the Super Bowl. We own the bragging rights for the next year.

Every member should be proud of this accomplishment. To receive this award, an association must demonstrate exceptional performance in multiple program areas including membership, student achievement, scholarships, technology transfer, awards, and remain financially strong in the process. We accomplished this through a process known as "Reinventing Central States". The following are some recent initiatives.

- Webmaster and Website redesign (all new and improved).
- *Wisillminn* (evolved into *Central States Water*).
- Public Education Committee (a committee comes back to life).
- Membership Committee (why didn't we have one before?).
- Student and Young Professional Committee (it's new and it works).
 - Student Chapters (from four to nine and growing).
 - Student Design and Paper Competitions – Initiated stu-

dent paper and design competitions which allowed eight students to go to WEFTEC since 2004 (CS representatives won the first and second national paper competitions. We have some very smart students).

- Stockholm Junior Water Prize (CS representatives have been one of the three national competition finalists in each of the last three years. We have some even smarter high school students).
- Started a new event, The Midwest Water Industry Expo (a show for operators, YPs and exhibitors), complementing the 15 other events which annually serve over 3,000 people.
- Began the Central States Exchange (CSX) allowing an opportunity for the association and section leadership to gather and plan for our future.
- Manufacturers and Representatives Committee (MARC) (better representation for a very important part of our association).
- Won (or our members have won) six national WEF awards since 2004.
 - In 2007 we will get two more (the Outstanding MA award, and an Honorary WEF Membership for Dr. William Boyle, another tremendous accomplishment).
 - Operations Challenge (we won the laboratory component last year!).
 - Awards (we win our share, but don't brag enough).
- Completely overhauled the association and the section fiduciary policies and governing documents (only exciting to a few of us, but still important).

Thank you to every one of our members; all have helped. Get involved and stay active. Things are only beginning to get interesting because Central States is on the move and is going to keep moving. See you in San Diego. CS

Editor's note: CSWEA is deeply indebted to Dan for his tireless efforts in assembling the necessary nominating information, a book containing over 30 pages prepared by Dan and dozens of attachments that ultimately resulted in our receiving this award. This effort was an update to the original nomination package prepared by Jim Roth.

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2008 CSWEA & WEF Award Nominations Now Being Accepted

Nominations are now being accepted for the following WEF awards and should you be aware of a worthy nominee, we ask that you please complete and return the form for consideration. Note that it is OK to self-nominate. Each award is briefly described below and complete information may be found on the CSWEA.org or WEF.org web sites.

Charles Alvin Emerson Medal:

This award is presented by WEF to an individual whose contributions to the wastewater collection and treatment industry most deserve recognition. Areas of involvement include membership growth, water resource protection, improved techniques of wastewater treatment and fundamental research.

Harry E. Schlenz Medal: This award is presented by WEF and recognizes the achievements of an individual outside of the water environment profession, who takes up the banner of environmental public education. This person is typically in the journalism, film, or video production field.

Richard S. Englebrecht International Activities Service Award:

This award is presented by WEF and recognizes sustained and significant contributions to the furtherance and improvement of the activities of WEF in the international field.

Outstanding Achievement in Water Quality Improvement Award:

This award is presented by WEF and CSWEA to the water quality improvement program that best demonstrates significant, lasting, and measurable excellence in water quality improvement or in prevention of water quality degradation in a region, basin or water body.

Gordon Maskew Fair Medal:

This award is presented by WEF and recognizes worthy accomplishments in the training and development of future

sanitary engineers. Awardee must be a WEF member.

Public Education Awards: There are three categories of Public Education Awards: **Individual**, **Member Association**, and **Other**. The awards are presented by WEF and recognize significant accomplishments in promoting awareness and understanding of water environment issues among the general public, through the development and implementation of public education programs.

George Bradley Gascoigne Medal:

This award is presented by WEF to the author(s) of an article which presents the solution of an important and complicated operational problem within a full-scale, operating wastewater treatment plant, which is appropriately staffed. Article must have been published in a federation or member association magazine/newsletter during the previous year.

Thomas R. Camp Medal: This award is presented by WEF to a member who demonstrates a unique application of basic research or fundamental principles through the design or development of a wastewater collection or treatment system.

The Phillip F. Morgan Medal: The Morgan Medal is awarded by WEF and recognizes valuable contribution to the in-plant study and solution of an operational problem. A published paper is not required.

The George J. Schroeffer Medal:

The Schroeffer Medal is awarded by WEF and recognizes a professional engineer for conceiving and directing the design of a project to achieve substantial cost savings or economic benefit over other alternatives, while achieving environmental objectives.

Member Association Safety Award:

This WEF award is presented to a member association to recognize

the success of the safety programs in their local wastewater works.

Arthur Sidney Bedell Award: The Bedell is a federation award that is given annually to one recipient in recognition of outstanding achievement in the sewerage and wastewater treatment works field, as related particularly to the problems and activities of the member association. The Bedell award subcommittee selects the nominations.

William D. Hatfield Award: This award is given annually to one recipient in recognition of outstanding operation of a wastewater treatment plant. Each state section may nominate one person per year and submit it to the Hatfield subcommittee.

Operations: This is a Central States award given annually to one recipient in each state. The purpose is to recognize operators of wastewater treatment facilities who are performing their duties in and outstanding manner and demonstrating distinguished professionalism. The states sections' committee makes the nomination.

Radebaugh: The Radebaugh Award is given to the author of a deserving paper presented at the previous year's annual meeting. The Radebaugh award subcommittee selects the nominations.

Academic Excellence Award: This is given to one student per year from each eligible institution in the state section hosting the annual conference (Minnesota is hosting the next conference.). An eligible institution shall be a college or university having a recognized graduate or undergraduate program in engineering as accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. The candidate shall be selected by the department chairman or other designated person at the eligible institution.

Collection System Award: This award is given to one member each year in recognition of outstanding

contributions in advancing collection system knowledge and direct or indirect improvement in water quality. Each state section collection system committee can nominate one individual per year. The recipient shall be nominated annually for the WEF Collection System Award.

George W. Burke Safety Award:

The Burke Award is made annually by WEF to a municipal or industrial wastewater facility for promoting an active and effective safety program. Each state section committee can nominate a facility and the nominations are then sent to the general awards committee.

Central State Section Safety Award:

The CSWEA Facility Safety Award is made annually by CSWEA to a municipal or industrial wastewater facility within each state section in recognition of active and effective safety programs from Burke Award submissions

Industrial Environmental Achievement Award:

The award is given to one industry per year in recognition of outstanding contributions in waste minimization, pollution prevention, environmental compliance, and environmental stewardship. Each state section industrial committee may nominate one facility per year.

Lab Analyst Excellence: This is a WEF award that is given annually to one recipient in recognition of outstanding achievement in the area of water quality analysis. Each state section laboratory committee may nominate one person.

Industrial Environmental Achievement Award:

The award is given to one industry per year in recognition of outstanding contributions in waste minimization, pollution prevention, environmental compliance and environmental stewardship.

CSWEA Outstanding Educator of the Year:

This award is given to one teacher per year in recognition of outstanding education assistance to students of any level in the study of the water environment.

Further information can be found at **www.CSWEA.org**, **WEF.org**, or by contacting Eric Lecuyer, 815-954-2714, erlec@prodigy.net CS

Please complete the following information and submit to Tim Tack at tim@leyassociates.com. Nominations must be received no later than December 1, 2007 for consideration as the Central States WEA Nominee for each award category.

Award Name: _____

Nominee: _____

Nominee Contact Information:

Employer Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email address _____

WEF member ID _____

Other: _____

Please provide a brief description of your nominee's qualifications for the award: _____

Please provide your name: _____
(its OK to nominate yourself!)

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CSWEA's WEFTEC '07 Planner

If you are attending WEFTEC '07, be sure to check out the following CSWEA members participating in various WEFTEC activities.

CSWEA/IWEA Welcome Reception

October 14, 2007. Be sure to stop by at the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. to meet old friends and make new ones and plan your week.

Student Design Competition

Be sure to stop by the Student Design Competition at the San Diego Convention Center and support our CSWEA Team from the University of Illinois. Team members include Paul Davidson, Amanda Olsen, Joe Good and Andy Lenkaitis. The competition runs from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Student Paper Poster Session

Visit the poster session on Monday, October 15, 2007 and support our CSWEA and WEF student paper winner, Lindsey Bergsven.

Operations Challenge

Cheer on our two Operations Challenge teams on Tuesday, October 16 within the exhibits area.

The Pumpers are led by Coach Rick Ashling, Albert Lea, MN and Captain Charlie LaRocco, Elmhurst, IL, Charles (Wrigley) Bynum, Fox Lake, IL, Jeff Mayou, Marinette, WI, and Dennis Egge, Janesville, WI.

The Shovelers are led by Coach Jim Miller, Bonestroo, Captain Jeff Smudde, Green Bay, WI, Linda Mullen, Burnsville, MN, Les Lange, Willmar, MN, and Lucas Streicher, Chicago Heights, IL.

Future Host Booth

Throughout WEFTEC '07, members of CSWEA and IWEA will be manning the local host booth for WEFTEC '08 to be held in Chicago at McCormick Place next October 18-22, 2008. Be sure to stop by and see what we have in mind for next year's event.

Attending WEFTEC '07 in San Diego?

Please join us at WEFTEC'07 for the IWEA/CSWEA Welcome Reception Sunday, October 14, 2007. The reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego.

This is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones, and has become the tradition as the place to kick off the week at WEFTEC!

There's still time to be a WEFTEC '07 Welcome Reception sponsor. All sponsors will be recognized on a display banner in the reception room. Go to www.CSWEA.org for details.

Please support and thank our sponsors. As of August 25, 2007, the following firms have joined to sponsor our WEFTEC Welcome Reception.

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WINNING CAPITAL FUNDING TECHNIQUES

By Donald F. Roecker, P.E.

The need for capital funding for wastewater infrastructure is growing and today there is an overall national wastewater infrastructure funding shortfall. The U.S. EPA's Clean Watershed Needs Survey 2000, Report to Congress (CWNS 2000), lists the overall wastewater needs at \$181 billion. Adjusting this number to 2007 dollars, today's wastewater needs are over \$220 billion.

While individual facility owners try to seek information, data and entry into unique capital funding opportunities, very little reliable information exists to help them through the maze of rules, regulations and protocol used by those who control more than \$6 billion of state and federal capital provided annually. This article should help these owners locate and secure capital funding.

LOCAL CAPITAL FUNDING

The review of and creative use of all local capital funding opportunities offers the potential of lowering a particular project's need for agency or legislative capital funding assistance. Table 1 shows

a listing of possible groups of beneficiaries followed by suggested capital funding sources associated with these user groups.

In the past several years, it has become more important to make sure all project beneficiaries are paying their fair share. In developing a comprehensive outside capital funding strategy, make sure all those benefiting or those who will benefit are accounted for.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING AGENCIES

Table 2 provides owners with a listing of agencies that fund wastewater and the agency's website which will provide information needed for an owner to review and evaluate how a particular agency may help. Table 2 also provides the historic funding program objective which will give the owner a better focus on how to approach the agency.

Working through these federal agencies and their state counterparts will provide you with an understanding of the administrative capital funding possibilities for both your current project and future projects. In addition, the effort

will produce the background information you will need to consider taking your project to the next step, which is the U.S. Congress.

U.S. CONGRESS

Congressional action to designate funds within appropriations legislation for specified projects or locations has been increasing in recent years. Such legislative action has often been popularly referred to as earmarking.

Since 1992, the U.S. Congress has provided more than \$6.5 billion for water-related infrastructure projects. The majority

Table 1 - Listing of local beneficiaries and capital funding source

Beneficiaries	Capital Funding Source
Existing users	Increasing the current user rates Imposing a property tax special assessment ⁽¹⁾ Imposing property tax liens (special assessment) ⁽¹⁾
Developers	Area-wide assessments based on acreage receiving benefit ⁽¹⁾ Per unit assessments – equal assessment per units ⁽¹⁾ Up-front developer financial contributions Impact or development fees Pre-paid connection fees
Future users	Connection fees – collected before the need materializes Tiered user rates – higher for special need areas

⁽¹⁾ Since special assessments are property liens, federal agencies may be available to pay the special assessments for the poor and elderly.



of this funding went to wastewater projects in the form of nearly 3,000 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants to more than 1,800 different communities around the country.

As a result of the change of control of the U.S. Congress in the November 2006 national elections, some new dynamics have emerged in this funding area. The old Congress failed to complete last year's domestic funding work and the new Congress refused to provide any new domestic spending

Table 2 - Listing of government funding agencies and their funding program objectives

Agency, Office & Website	Funding Program Objectives
U.S. EPA – Office of Water http://www.epa.gov/owm	To provide financial incentives to maintain NPDES compliance, fund new technologies and demonstrations to reduce negative water impacts.
USDA – Rural Utility Service http://www.usda.gov/rus/water	To provide safe and sanitary housing, including water-related facilities to small, rural municipalities (less than 10,000 people) serving lower income people.
HUD – Community Development Block Grants http://www.hud.gov/cpd	To provide viable urban communities with adequate housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities for low- to moderate-income residents.
US Department of Commerce – Economic Development Agency http://www.doc.gov/eda	To promote long-term economic development and assist in the construction of infrastructure, including water-related facilities, needed to initiate and encourage the creation or retention of permanent jobs.
State Pollution Control Agencies http://www.XX.gov <i>XX = A state's two-letter abbreviation</i>	Each state has its own water pollution control initiatives. They tend to build on the U.S. EPA State Revolving Loan program. Detailed review of individual state agencies' websites provides details on many capital funding opportunities.

in their year-long funding of this year's programs. In addition, the new Congress passed earmark funding reforms. While this may be viewed as an end of direct Congressional funding of wastewater projects, it appears that it's just the beginning of a new phase.

This past spring, both the new House and new

Senate requested individual members of the Congress to supply worthy wastewater projects for earmark funding consideration. The Appropriations Chairmen have published documents saying that Congressional earmarks will continue. In June, 2007, the U.S. Congress again listed more than 250 new water and wastewater earmarks totaling more than \$150 million. While this list will not be passed into law until later this fall, it documents that this process is continuing.

There are a number of ways communities work through the U.S. Congressional capital funding process to win grants. In general, successful owners work to package their project to demonstrate that the project meets certain national funding objectives and pattern their presentations after past successful projects. Several examples of national funding objectives include:

- The project is still unaffordable when all available agency funding is secured.
- The project possesses some unique feature that distinguishes it from other projects.
- The project fell through the cracks by circumstances beyond the community's control.
- The project provides a national demonstration opportunity.

The funding will win favor with large population areas for future political purposes.

- The funding will correct an actual or perceived public policy injustice.
- The funding corrects an injustice related to delays which were beyond the owner's control.

Special attention to the issues of the day and the concept of fairness leads to success in the legislative arena. If a community works through the existing state and federal agency capital funding programs and the project is still truly unaffordable or if it has some unique feature that distinguishes it from other projects attempting to accomplish the same objectives, elected officials can help. Our democratic process has a strong sense of fairness and when a case can be made demonstrating that the project has not had a fair shake for available public funds, both the state and federal legislatures can help.

PROVEN CAPITAL

FUNDING TECHNIQUES

The location of the capital funding is only the first part of a winning plan. The second is to develop a strategy that will enhance an owner's chances of success. Below is a listing of proven capital funding techniques that have worked for those who have and continue to win outside capital funding for wastewater infrastructure projects.

Table 3 - Expanded project objectives to meet funding program objectives

Example Activities	Expected Benefits
Plan for and provide service to undeveloped lands.	Secure additional up-front capital from those the service is provided to through impact, assessments, service availability fees, etc.
During project restoration, watch for positive secondary environmental benefits such as erosion control, bank stabilization, berm construction, etc.	Win secondary funding from state or federal non-point, flood protection or coastal zone management agency programs.
In planning relief sewers, address surface flooding problems and develop a multi-purpose project.	Win eligibility for surface flooding correction through traditional wastewater funding sources.
Identify those neighborhoods and areas of population that process unique demographics.	Use those agency programs that have funding program objectives targeted at the unique demographics.

Enlisting help from an elected official

Regardless of the technical merit of your funding request, the single most important component of your Congressional funding run is to have an elected official as part of your funding team. Experience has shown that members of Congress need to have some face-to-face discussions with local elected officials who are passionate about the project or its need. If your local elected officials are not engaged in this process, your chances of success are greatly reduced.

Expanding a project objective to meet a program objective

Expanding a project objective to meet

funding program objectives enhances your ability to win. Table 3 shows some example activities that have expanded project objectives and won their owners funding.

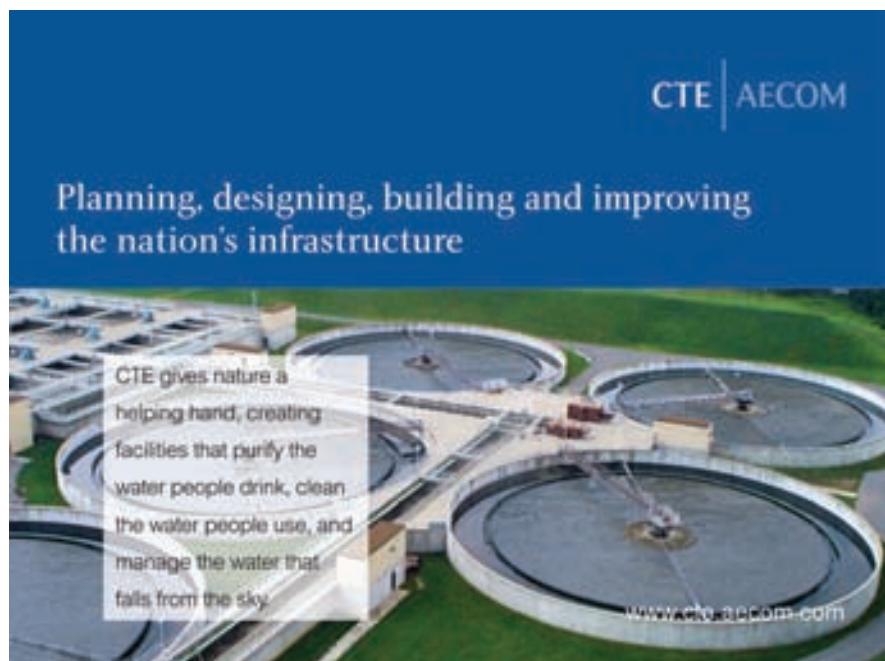
Screen state and federal funding sources during planning

This proven capital funding technique involves taking a detailed look at all known and developing wastewater infrastructure capital funding options as a priority activity during planning. The idea is to have the project development include capital funding screening at a time when the project still has the ability to expand, change or include additional beneficiaries. In addition, it requires that the project planners consider the real financial implications of their recommended alternatives.

Screening should include a review of historic federal legislative funding programs that have been used for municipal project funding in the past. The purpose is to determine which existing legislative funding programs have a reasonable chance of providing benefits to the owner, the approximate amount of assistance that may be available and the advantages and disadvantages of each. In addition, this activity will provide an estimate of the probability of success based on recent funding history.

Package the project for legislative funding

In general, packaging is a proven capital funding technique in which the project and its unique features are highlighted, explained, analyzed and presented. The presentation is scripted in such a way that it will show similari-



ties to past legislative-funded projects, area-wide commitment and important strategic project information that allows easier approvals. The packaging process results in providing agencies or legislatures with the answers to all possible questions that could be asked of the owner.

A funding request package does all the necessary background leg work for the agency personnel, legislative staff or legislative member. It becomes the link between the project's financial reality and its engineering details. It makes defending the funding request easier and, therefore, more likely to happen. As an agency funding cycle moves ahead or a legislative calendar advances, requests for project information that can differentiate the owner's project from its competitors, comes at unpredictable times. The package provides the details needed to make a quick, favorable impression on those forced to pick between a number of worthy projects.

The package generally contains a carefully edited fact sheet and executive summary of the project's salient features that would be appropriate for local, state and federal presentation. The package is housed in a binder containing background information used in developing the project, including a question/answer document, which address typical appropriations questions that have been used to judge past requests for similar projects. Finally, the package contains letters of support received from appropriate state, regional and other affected parties.

Use experienced government affairs consultants

In legislative funding activities, their role is even more important. In general, an experienced government affairs consultant can be expected to do the following:

- Ensure that your funding request is heard.
- Be on site in Washington D.C.
- Learn where the real legislative funding control is.
- Show your representatives that you understand the system.
- Provide continuous bill monitoring.
- Work as an extension of your representative staffers.
- Provide access to key committee officials.
- Provide consistent day-to-day attention.

- Bring multi-state funding intelligence to staffers.
- Write language that minimizes grant rules.

CONCLUSION

It is important for owners to understand that capital funding is available and application of these capital funding techniques can lead to significant wins. Experience has shown that with hard work, creativity, and determination, needed capital funds can be obtained. CS

The information contained in this paper comes from 30 years of experience in assisting 250 communities obtain more than \$1,350,000,000 in wastewater and other water-related grants or loans across the United States. Out of this total experience, more than \$250,000,000 has come from direct site-specific line item appropriations through the U.S. Congress.

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Public Outreach Leads to Infrastructure Funding Support

By Eric C. Dodds, PE, Project Manager, AE2S and Bruce Grubb, PE, Enterprise Director, City of Fargo

In June of 2006, the City of Fargo placed a one-cent, 20-year dedicated infrastructure sales tax measure on the ballot and passed the measure with nearly 70 percent of the vote. This dedicated funding source will provide secure revenue to fund necessary improvements to manage growth and maintain the reliability of its wastewater utility, as well as provide funding for water utility, flood control, and street improvements. The keys to success included comprehensive master planning for utility improvements, definition of funding challenges, and strategic public outreach, which included educating the city's decision makers. Ultimately, the public outreach efforts were successful in selling the need for infrastructure funding and the public passed the dedicated sales tax initiative.

FOUNDATION FOR FUNDING NEEDS

Recognizing that major infrastructure improvements were likely imminent due to the realities of a growing service area, the City of Fargo elected to begin a comprehensive master planning process for both its water and wastewater utilities in 2003. The city retained Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S) to investigate existing system capabilities and limitations, work with the city's planning department to establish a basis for growth projections, complete computerized models of the city's distribution and collection system, develop improvement concepts, and recommend a capital improvements plan. The recommended capital improvements plan includes over \$220 million of

water system improvements and over \$230 million of wastewater system improvements by 2028 (a 25-year planning period from 2003).

Upon completion of the initial capital improvements plan as part of the draft Wastewater Collection System Master Plan (CSMP) and draft Water Distribution System Master Plan (DSMP), it was recognized that additional effort was warranted to identify the currently available funding sources and the magnitude of the anticipated funding short-falls for the planned wastewater system improvements. As such, the city's enterprise director and utility staff worked with AE2S to complete a funding matrix that defined the current programmed funding sources, potential future revenue sources, and the anticipated funding shortfall. The results of the funding matrix indicated that the anticipated funding shortfall through 2028 was approximately \$70 million for the water utility and approximately \$144 million for the wastewater utility.

This information provided the foundation for presenting to the city's leaders a summary of the master planning process. The presentation included the recommended capital improvements plan and a discussion on the funding challenges. The capital improvements were split into four categories, and presented in a color-coded graphical format for simplicity. At the end of the presentation, the commissioners clearly understood the limitations of the existing system, the recommendations to address those limitations, and the funding challenges that faced the city.

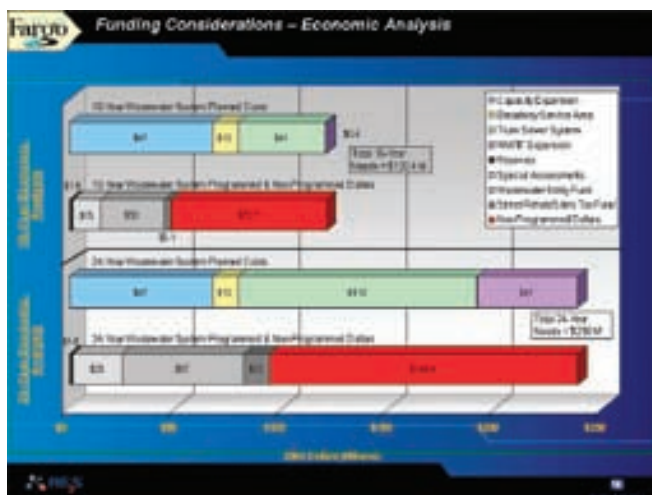


Figure 1: An economic analysis of the city's planned capital expenditures and existing programmed revenue sources was completed to define the funding challenges (non-programmed dollars) for 10-year and 24-year planning periods.



Figure 2: The planned capital improvements associated with the city's wastewater collection system master plan were categorized for presentation purposes.



Figure 3: A graphical CIP was prepared and used to convey technical information from the master plans to city leaders.



Figure 4: An informational presentation regarding the city's infrastructure planning and funding challenges was given by the mayor to the other city commissioners to develop and understanding and support for the proposed infrastructure sales tax funding approach.



Figure 5: The presentation included a summary of the funding shortages for water supply, water, and wastewater utilities.

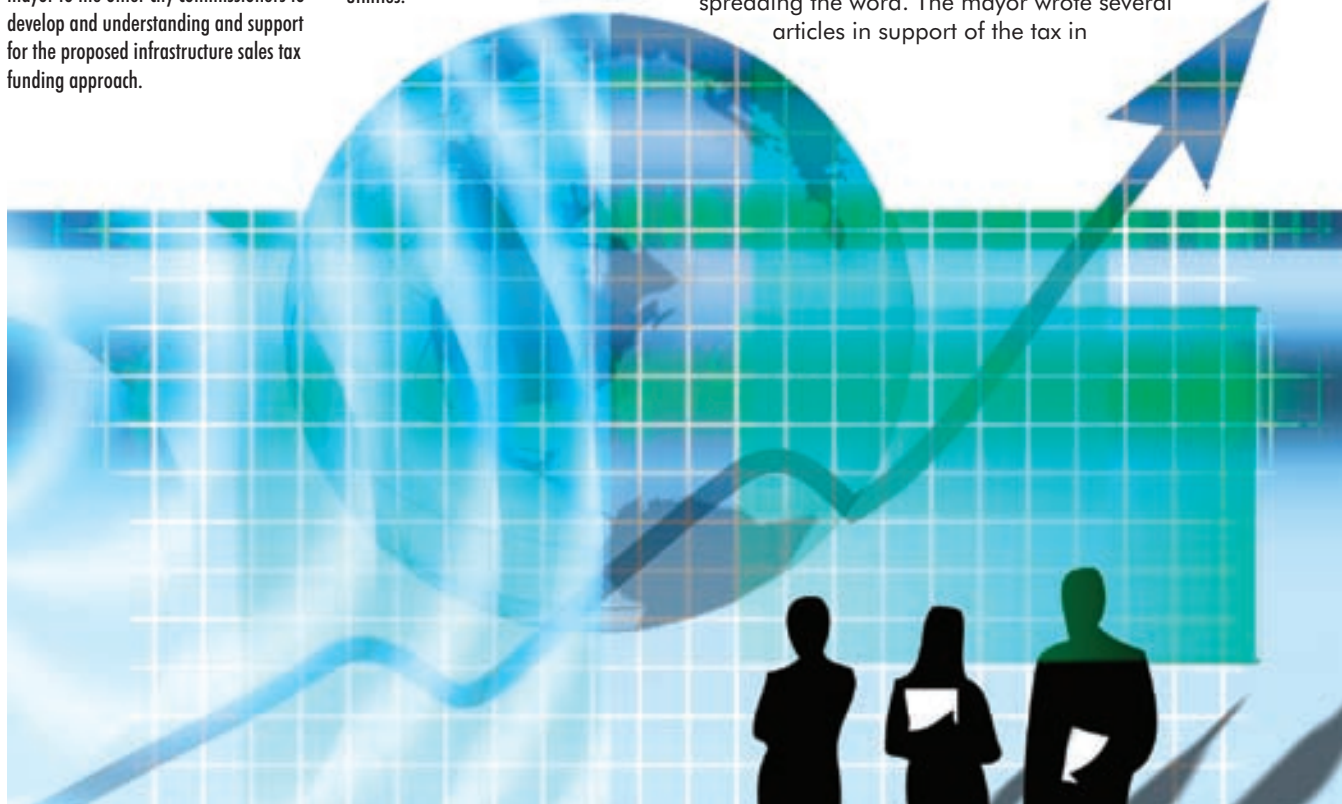
ONE VOICE FOR FUNDING NEEDS

Throughout the master planning process, the mayor (now former mayor, Bruce Furness) had been a liaison to the city's utility committee. As such, the mayor supported the need for infrastructure improvements as a backbone to the city's vitality. In an effort to garner broad support for the utility improvements, city staff and AE2S worked with the mayor to prepare a separate presentation to discuss the funding challenges in more depth. This presentation was given by the mayor to the other commissioners, city staff, and the media. The presentation discussed not only the infrastructure needs resulting from the master planning process, but also the city's long-term water supply, flood control, and street improvement needs. The result of this presentation was a very compelling argument for a new funding source dedicated to infrastructure. The commissioners agreed with the mayor and one voice supporting the funding needs for utility infrastructure improvements resulted. A key component to the success of the informational presentation was that the presentation included not only a problem, but also a funding solution concept.

SPREADING THE WORD

Upon securing broad support from the city commission, the support of the voting public was ultimately going to define success of the proposed sales tax. To compound this already challenging task, other groups were proposing a different half-cent sales tax for altering school funding away from property taxes. It was apparent that a "competition for sales tax dollars" could result from the two proposals. Also, to pass either tax proposal required at least a 60 percent supporting vote from the public.

With this challenge set, the mayor and others began spreading the word. The mayor wrote several articles in support of the tax in



Furness pitches sales tax

By Bruce W. Furness
Furness, former mayor of Fargo, is quoted in *The Forum* as saying, "These are essential projects; the need will not go away. Without this sales tax, utility rates will have to be significantly increased." Furness was also quoted saying "We think this is a proactive solution. We are not waiting until the infrastructure deteriorates and crumbles away." It was bold statements such as this that encouraged the public to become more educated and to support this initiative.

The former mayor (Bruce Furness) played a large role on encouraging the citizens of Fargo to support the one-cent sales tax.

One-cent Fargo sales tax will keep progress going

By Bruce W. Furness
Just over a year ago, the Fargo City Commission received two reports recommending the need for significant upgrades to the city's water and sewer facilities. The first dealt with the needs of our water treatment plant and the water distribution system; the second dealt with the needs of our wastewater treatment plant and the sewage collection system. The consultant who prepared the report to analyze the needs for the next 20 years and concluded we have major problems in several general categories. The cost to address these issues is \$200 million over the next 20 years. During that time period, the city has available resources of \$200 million, leaving a requirement of \$200 million to improve this infrastructure. Revenue equivalent to a 1/2 cent sales tax will enable the city to fund these requirements. At the same time, we need to continue the significant progress made on our streets, water main replacement and flood protection projects by utilizing the current 1/2 cent sales tax for those purposes. In 1998 and again in 2000, voters overwhelmingly supported the use of sales tax for these projects. The essence of the decision now is that we need both of these 1/2 cent sales tax revenue streams to fund the needs of our infrastructure. And, as in 1998, we need to make that decision now, three years in advance of the requirement. The question on the June 13 ballot is on a 1-cent sales tax for 20 years to fund these badly needed improvements. This is a new sales tax not tied to any of the existing sales taxes. It will become effective on Jan. 1, 2009, when the current Fargo-based 1/2 cent sales tax expires. I believe our citizens are happy with the progress being made on street rehabilitation, water main replacement and flood protection. This proposed sales tax will achieve similar results for the water and wastewater projects. These are essential projects; the need will not go away. Without this sales tax, utility rates will have to be significantly increased. This sales tax proposal is the right solution to meet these major infrastructure needs. I urge our citizens to vote "yes" on Home Rule Charter Amendment #1 on the ballot.

the local newspaper and gave speeches to city leaders, the media, and the public at events. Mr. Furness is quoted in *The Forum* as saying, "These are essential projects; the need will not go away. Without this sales tax, utility rates will have to be significantly increased." Furness was also quoted saying "We think this is a proactive solution. We are not waiting until the infrastructure deteriorates and crumbles away." It was bold statements such as this that encouraged the public to become more educated and to support this initiative.

In addition to the support from the mayor, the city's enterprise director and AE2S CEO were guests on a local talk radio show prior to the vote to discuss the background and explain the need to the voting public.

CONCLUSION

In the evening of June 13, 2006 it was clear that the efforts to demonstrate the utility system challenges and the need for a dedicated funding source were successful. The voters responded with approximately 70 percent support for the infrastructure sales tax. Starting in 2009, the sales tax will provide approximately \$18 million dollars per year for water, wastewater, street, and flood control infrastructure improvements. It is expected that the city will balance this revenue stream with prudent rate increases and appropriate debt financing to implement the recommendations included in the Water DSMP and Wastewater CSMP. CS

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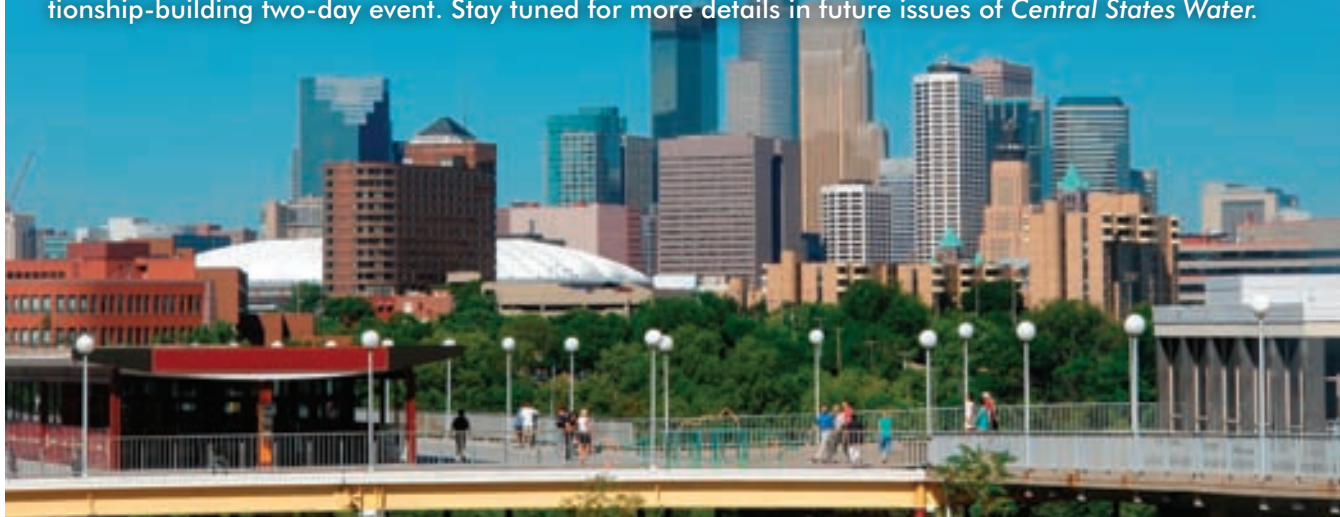
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CSWEA to Host WEFMAX '08 in the Twin Cities

Central States will host one of the regional Water Environment Federations Member Association Exchange (WEFMAX) in March of 2008 in the Twin Cities area. These regional exchange meetings are great incubators for the transfer of information and provide an excellent forum for association leaders from around North America to discuss common challenges and share great ideas. WEFMAX is often our first opportunity to meet the future president of WEF, since it is the vice president of WEF who leads the meetings. WEFMAX is open to all CSWEA leaders and is highly recommended for committee chairs, section officers and leaders at all levels. Plan to attend and meet leaders from WEF and other WEF member associations from around the country and participate in this outstanding networking and relationship-building two-day event. Stay tuned for more details in future issues of *Central States Water*.



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Leonardo da Vinci

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Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District

By Jim Daugherty

Primary Clarifiers



Final Clarifiers



Established in 1928 to serve Chicago Heights, Illinois, the Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District (TCB) has expanded to provide wastewater treatment services for six communities in the southern suburbs of Chicago. TCB has focused on constructing and operating wastewater treatment facilities and a regional trunk sewer system. Each of the six communities owns and operates the local collection system.

TCB's wastewater treatment plant is located in Chicago Heights. The receiving stream, Thorn Creek, extends 19.5 stream miles before discharging into the Little Calumet River. Historically flowing into Lake Michigan, the Little Calumet River is now diverted via the Cal-Sag Canal into the Illinois River waterway. Upstream of the district's outfall, the 7Q10 of Thorn Creek is 0.19 MGD. The stream volume available for mixing is less than 1:1.

The district's first wastewater treatment plant was constructed in 1933. It was an activated sludge plant, one of the first in Illinois. That plant has been expanded seven times and now has a dry weather flow capacity of 15.94 MGD. It provides treatment services for the district's entire service area containing 100,000 people.

The plant was expanded to achieve nitrification in 1978 by adding two-stage activated sludge. The plant is currently operating at 75% of rated capacity. To reduce the power demand and save operating labor, the first stage activated sludge units were removed from service in 1982. The facility is able to achieve complete nitrification using only the second stage. The design detention time of the second stage is 4.6 hours. At current average annual flow, detention time is just over five hours. Aeration basins are loaded at 25 lbs CBOD5/CCF.

The clarifiers used for the activated sludge system are peripheral feed clarifiers and produce an effluent low in SS. That effluent is further polished by shallow bed traveling bridge sand filters. Disinfection is practiced May through October using sodium hypochlorite. Sodium bisulfite is used for dechlorination. The system is automated using ORP monitors.

Discharge limits and plant performance are:

	NPDES LIMIT *	ANNUAL AVERAGE DISCHARGE
CBOD	10 mg/l	3.4 mg/l
SUSPENDED SOLIDS	12 mg/l	3.8 mg/l
AMMONIA - SUMMER	1.8 mg/l	0.25 mg/l
- WINTER	4.0 mg/l	0.35mg/l
FECAL COLIFORM		
-SUMMER	400 count /100 ml	60 count / 100 ml
CHLORINE	0.05 mg/l	0.02 mg/l

* Monthly average except chlorine, which is a daily limit.

Solids processing consists of two-stage mesophilic digestion. The first stage is completely mixed and provides 15 days of detention time. The second stage is partially mixed. Digested biosolids are pumped to lagoons for thickening. After several years of thickening, the biosolids are removed with a dredge at 8-10% TS. Tank trucks are used to haul the biosolids to farm fields where application is via knife injection.

TCB was one of the first facilities to use computers to monitor plant operations. A SCADA system was placed in opera-

tion in 1978. A third generation SCADA system is now in use. The SCADA system improves plant control and performance and has led to a reduction in the work force.

In 1992, the district decided to replace its turbine aeration system with a more efficient fine bubble system. After pilot testing, the district decided to use fine bubble membrane disc aerators. Off-gas testing of the entire aeration system was conducted to determine the actual oxygen demand, the alpha factor, the spatial distribution of the oxygen demand. Alpha was found to increase in each of the three aeration passes. Following installation, the off-gas testing was repeated to verify the system design. The follow-up testing showed that the installed system closely matched oxygen demand in each pass and has proven useful in fine tuning operation of the system for optimum efficiency. The work was described in a paper presented at a CSWEA conference.

In 1995, TCB began receiving an industrial wastewater high in sodium sulfate. Since sodium sulfate is not removed in the treatment plant, the industrial discharge caused elevated levels of sulfate and total dissolved solids (TDS) in the plant effluent. TCB was able to show that elevated levels of TDS and sulfate would not have a negative impact on Thorn Creek. The Illinois Pollution Control Board granted an adjusted standard for Thorn Creek to cover the proposed discharge. Based in part on the Thorn Creek experience, the Illinois EPA is proposing to raise the sulfate limits statewide. This work was the basis of a paper presented at WEFTEC.

Elevated sulfate concentrations in the wastewater have increased concentrations of hydrogen sulfide in the district's anaerobic digesters to as high as 1% (by volume). Increased scaling in boilers/heat-exchangers and gas mixing equipment results in increased maintenance costs.

In spite of having a separate sewer system TCB experiences increased flow rates during storm events as a result of inflow and infiltration (I/I). Excess flow facilities at the main plant boost the peak capacity to 64 MGD or four times dry weather flow. The district also has an off-site excess flow facility with a capacity of 26 MGD. These facilities are not adequate to handle peak flows from intense storms. TCB has responded by establishing peak flow limits on I/I for the six communities that own the local sewers. TCB is requiring the communities to spend a minimum of \$30 per capita per year on sanitary



Aeration Basins



Aeration Basins

sewer rehab. TCB is also constructing a 26 MG retention basin for short-term shortage of peak flows.

The district's workforce consists of 33 full-time and two to six part-time employees. The plant is staffed 24 hours per day. CS

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Safety and Recognition = Excellence and Value



By Gary B. Scott, CPMM, Illinois Section Safety Chair,
WEF Safety & Occupational Health Committee Liaison

As members of CSWEA, we have a great opportunity to recognize and reward individuals and organizations who make contributions to the water environment profession through WEF's **Member Association Awards Program** (yet only a few respond to these solicitations annually), and a proposed *Professional Certifications Program* through the Association of Boards and Certification (ABC). These programs also offer opportunities to show our communities just how committed we are to protecting important resources – our employees.

It is evident that safety is of key importance to any level of facility success. The WEF **George W. Burke Jr. Facility Safety Award** was established in 1982 in recognition of active and effective safety programs in municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities. This prestigious award recognizes a single treatment facility within CSWEA based on both the documented safety program and illustrated safety record of the facility for the preceding calendar year. Facilities ranging from large to small have been given this prestigious award in the past. You can see a listing at <http://www.cswea.org/awards/georgeb.shtml>.

The CSWEA executive committee has recently created the **CSWEA Facility Safety Award** program within each member state of the association in addition to the annual WEF Burke Award. The **CSWEA Facility Safety Award** will be an appropriate plaque which will be presented at the Annual Meeting to each state section selectee from among WEF Burke nominations. In addition, each state section may issue a certificate of recognition to facilities or individuals meeting minimum award criteria. Remember, submissions must be forwarded to the chair of the state section safety committee before October 1st of each year. Details of award criteria are now available at <http://www.cswea.org/>

governance/CSWEA_SOP_052207.pdf (see page 28 of the document). A request for nominations notice will be posted on the CSWEA website in the coming weeks. Keep your eyes open and let's recognize those safe efforts.

Did you know that the Association of Boards and Certification (ABC) develops over 65% of all water and wastewater operator certification testing currently used in the United States? As you may recall from our last *Central States Water* issue, WEF has developed a partnership with the ABC in developing a **Plant Maintenance Technologist** certification program for drinking water and wastewater plant maintenance personnel. ABC reports that participation in the online survey was better

than expected. They are now hard at work determining what is both appropriate and required to cover on plant maintenance technologist certification exams. ABC has been in direct contact with both the EPA and WEF during this process, and they are optimistic that the state sections of EPA will initiate licensing programs based on the resulting program.

I am anticipating the announcement of the **Plant Maintenance Technologist Program** soon. Maintenance managers and supervisors should be looking forward to making this program available to their staff as well. Comments or questions? Contact Suzanne De la Cruz at 515-232-3623 or e-mail: sdelacru@abccert.org. CS

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Bolivia

It Took a Tragedy

By Braulio Rojas of Suma Jayma,
a Water For People Partner in Bolivia

Village of Kerani, Photo by Braulio Rojas

The following article has been excerpted from the 2006-2007 Water for People Special Report. The article was written by Braulio Rojas of Suma Jayma, a Water For People Partner NGO in Bolivia. The NC AWWA-WEA Water for People Committee has been sponsoring projects in Bolivia like the Kerani project (discussed below) since 1992, and was recently able to provide him with a theodolite, donated by Alex Cooper of Cooper and Associates in Cary, NC.

Editor's Note: A gravity-fed water system is often the most appropriate option in communities located in mountainous areas. At least one spring is protected with concrete spring boxes to protect the water quality. A fence around the box keeps animals and people away, contributing to the protection of the water source. Water then flows downhill via PVC pipes to a storage tank closer to the community. Break-pressure tanks are sometimes built to relieve the pressure of water traveling a long distance downhill. Another PVC distribution network pipes water to individual or public taps throughout a community.

The system in Kerani is composed of three spring boxes, two break-pressure tanks, a 25,000-cubic-meter storage tank, 8.9 kilometers (5.5 miles) of piping, and 126 household and 5 public taps. The total cost of the project was \$25,678 in cash and \$15,485 in in-kind labor.

The road to Kerani, Bolivia, turns left sharply, heading directly toward the 20,000-foot peaks of the Cordillera Real, one of the mountain ranges bisecting Bolivia. Along this bumpy dirt road lies the community of Kerani, home to 126 families. A few years ago, the community had no access to safe drinking water. In order to survive, women and children would collect contaminated water from unprotected shallow wells or travel several kilometers to access river water.

The Arenas are one of the families in Kerani who are most grateful for the tap stand outside their home. Sixty-seven-year-old Victor Arena lost his wife a few years ago and was now charged with caring for his three orphaned nieces and nephews. The duty of collecting water for household needs and consumption, which normally falls on the woman's shoulders was left to the three young children.

One morning, as always, the three children woke before dawn and began the hour-long hike to gather water for cooking. Their only water source was a river swollen from recent rains. In one horrific moment, the five-year-old, Luis, tripped at the riverbank and was swept downstream before anybody could help him. This fatal accident would never have happened if there was a safe drinking source near their home.

Since the tragedy two years ago, the Arenas and other community members have benefited from a gravity-fed water

The community of Kerani (is) home to 126 families. A few years ago, the community had no access to safe drinking water. In order to survive, women and children would collect contaminated water from unprotected shallow wells or travel several kilometers to access river water.

system, which brings water from three springs to their homes. The project has brought an uninterrupted, reliable source of safe water to the more than 1,300 people who call Kerani home.

Ongoing operation and maintenance of the system, one of the key determinants of sustaining any water system, occurs monthly to ensure that the quality of the water is not compromised before it gets to users' tap stands. Bimonthly cleaning of the tank and intake structures is done by the water committee, which is composed of both female and male members. The 126 families of Kerani pay monthly tariffs of 2 bolivianos (approximately US\$0.25), which covers cleaning supplies and spare parts for the system. Children at the elementary and high schools now have a place to wash their hands after using the bathroom, and the taps at both the health center and the public market are contributing to better public health practices. Most importantly, women and children no longer have to take life-threatening risks to get something as basic as water.

The challenge will be to ensure not only that the community of Kerani has the support to sustain their system, but that these community-level successes are replicated in other communities without access to water and sanitation facilities. The need is clearly great, as 2.5 million Bolivians lack access to safe water, but because of the work of Water For People and its partner organizations, that number is decreasing as communities like Kerani all over the world turn on their taps for the first time. CS



Bolivian boy at his tapstand, Photo By Brulio Rojas

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Wisconsin Section YP Update

By Rachel Lee, P.E. Wisconsin Section YP Chair

The Wisconsin Section YP (Young Professional) group is building momentum. We recently had our inaugural event, which was a great success. On August 15, we had the first annual YP-SP Brewers Outing. There were 19 attendees: 12 YPs and seven SPs (Seasoned Professionals). Although the Brewers did not bring home the win, a good time was had by all. It was great to see so many new faces at the event, and we hope to see all of you again at future events. We would like to extend a big thank you to our pit crew from Mulcahy/Shaw Water, Inc. consisting of Rich Knoelke, Mark Duerr, Kristi Glocke, and Tom Mulcahy who hosted a wonderful pregame tailgate. Everyone enjoyed the burgers, bratwurst, and refreshments before heading to the game.

The Wisconsin Section YP group has a few more upcoming events. We hope to have a total of four events this year. Two events in the works are a plant tour and YPX. The plant tour will be this fall and an activated sludge mini-course will be included in the activity. As soon as we have a date and location, we will let you know. Also, please mark your calendars for July 18, 2008, when CSWEA will be hosting YPX. This YP Exchange will be a one-day workshop at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells.

The agenda for the workshop is currently under development. Suggestions for speakers and topics are welcome. The goals of the event are to provide a forum for communication among YPs in the region, educate and develop our YPs, and foster active membership in our organization.

If you are attending WEFTEC this year, make sure you check out the YP events on the agenda. Some of the highlights include two technical sessions hosted for and by YPs and the YP reception. One of the technical sessions will be on advanced wastewater treatment with membrane emphasis (Session #40) and the other on microconstituents (Session #41). "Microconstituents" is the new term for endocrine disruptors (EDs) and compounds of emerging concerns (CECs). The YP reception is at Dick's Last Resort on Monday evening. More information about these events can be found on the WEFTEC Web site, www.weftec.org.

Please feel free to e-mail me, rachel.lee@strand.com, or any of the CSWEA-WI board members if you or someone you know would be interested in coming to YP events or receiving the YP group e-mails. Our group is an active and dynamic one for individuals in our industry who are under 35 or

who have less than five years' experience. Members from all sectors of our business are encouraged to join. We are always looking for new members and new ideas for events. We look forward to seeing you at our next event. CS



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Is YP for Me?

By Kris Evans, P.E., MN Section YP Chair

According to WEF, a young professional is “any person who considers himself/herself to be relatively new to the water quality industry and 35 years old or younger”. Wait, before you turn the page because this does not describe you, keep reading to see why the students and young professionals groups need your help.

First the S&YP groups need members, plain and simple. Anyone in school, new to the industry – whether it is a student in a water-related field, a recent graduate and starting a career, or a recent change in a career path – is welcome to join. It is a great way to meet local people in the industry. The group has lots of different activities designed to enhance their careers by providing them technical information, mentoring, training, and more. But with any event it has got to be fun. Socializing is encouraged and “gatherings” usually follow information sessions. It is a great place to network and meet others in your same position. It is also a great opportunity to find a mentor or just learn from others’ experiences.

Mentors are the second piece of this group. We need seasoned members involved in the S&YP group, too. These members have a wealth of experience that can be shared. Attend a vendor presentation and share your experience or explain a real-world example. Go to a management training session and help the YPs develop their leadership skills. Hang out with the YPs at a social event and meet the new faces in the industry and see what they can share with you.

I am a YP. How do I get involved? Talk to your employer; let them know you are interested in becoming more involved. Most of the YP activities are held in late afternoon or early evenings so meetings should have minimal effect on your workday. Be willing to come into work early that day, work a little extra during the week, or work through your lunch hour to make up any time you might miss. Provide value to your employer by offering to share information learned with your coworkers. The next step is to attend the YP functions and get involved.

Contact your local YP chair and find out if there are any upcoming activi-

ties. If you have a project or topic you would like to talk about or even visit, the YPs are a great audience. Sponsoring

a social event is another great way for companies to help out. CS



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Professional Wastewater Operators Report

By Howard Jacobson

The Operations Challenge Teams conducted their first practice at the Madison Metro Sewerage District's Nine Spring Wastewater Treatment Plant on August 23-24. Three of the team's members were unable to attend due to storm and flooding issues that are plaguing the Midwest.

The team members met on Thursday morning, did introductions of past team members and new members, then conducted a mock process control exam similar to the exam that will be given at the Ops Challenge Competition in San Diego. After the exam, the teams met up with Monty Baker from MMSD to review the lab event using WTW pH and DO meters provided by the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District and John Benedict of BEC Corporation. When the teams meet again in September, Monty will have a mock lab event set up for the teams to complete. Practice resumed on Friday with a review of the maintenance event with the use



(L-R) Howard Jacobson presents Paul Nehm with a plaque of appreciation.

of the Godwin pump that was supplied by the MMSD. The teams will conduct their second practice session September 27-28 at the Madison plant.

Member of this the 2007 CSWEA Operations Challenge Teams are for the **Pumpers**, Coach **Rick Ashling** of Albert Lea, MN, Captain **Charlie LaRocco** of Elmhurst, IL, **Wrigley Bynum** of Fox Lake, IL, **Jeff Mayou** of Marinette, WI, and **Dennis Egge** of

Janesville, WI. The CSWEA **Shovelers** are Coach **Jim Miller** of Buffalo, MN, Captain **Jeff Smudde** of Green Bay, WI, **Linda Mullen** of Burnsville, MN, **Les Lange** of Willmar, MN and **Lucas Streicher** of Thorn Creek, IL.

The teams also presented Paul Nehm, Director of Operation and Maintenance for MMSD with a plaque of appreciation from the Operations Challenge Teams for all he and MMSD have done for the CSWEA Operations Challenge Teams. Howard Jacobson PWO Rep. 09 presented the plaque to Paul on Thursday morning. MMSD will also display the first place trophy that the CSWEA Shovelers won in the Lab Event at WEFTEC '06 in Dallas last year.

These experiences provided by CSWEA to the teams members and support people are truly appreciated by the team members. The teams feel that this event will continue to prove beneficial to the organization by challenging its membership and providing the future leadership of CSWEA. CS

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Lindsey Bergsven wins WEF Student Paper Competition

By Kris Evans, PhD, PE

Congratulations to Lindsey Bergsven! She is the winner of the 2007 WEF Student Paper Competition with her paper entitled *Solving the Problem of Specificity in Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization (FISH)*. While completing her undergraduate degree, Lindsey started working as an undergraduate research assistant where she was introduced to FISH. During her senior year she embarked upon her own research project. She focused on understanding, predicting, and minimizing the mismatched errors (or false positives) which occur when searching the ribosomal database. Her work advances research in the wastewater field and because FISH is used in many applications, such as medicine and biology, her work has benefits for other research fields.

Lindsey graduated in May from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in Civil Engineering with the Environmental Engineering option. She also found time to complete a Certificate of Business. Since June, Lindsey has been working for Carollo Engineers in Kansas City on a variety of water, wastewater, and stormwater projects across the country. The engineering community is fortunate to have such a creative new engineer; if engineering

(L-R) Carol Slackbein and Lindsey Bergsven.



did not work out Lindsey would have majored in art.

Lindsey was the winner of the Central States Water Environment Association's 2007 Student Paper Competition and was sponsored by CSWEA to compete in the WEF Competition and to attend

WEFTEC '07. Although Lindsey has moved to a new WEF member association, Central States Water Environment Association still proudly acknowledges her work and congratulates her on winning the 2007 WEF Student Paper Competition. CS

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It is not too early to mark your calendars for CSWEA's 81st Annual Meeting. It will be held Monday, May 19 through Thursday May 22, 2008, in Bloomington, MN. The Sheraton South Hotel (old Radisson South) is located about six miles west of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul airport. Some preliminary notes about the conference:

- There are free hotel shuttles available to and from the airport and the Mall of America.
- All events will be held at the large conference center in the hotel.
- The exhibits will be held on Tuesday afternoon only, with no concurrent technical papers.
- The keynote speaker on Tuesday will be Dr. James Barnard, pioneer of the biological phosphorus removal process.
- Wednesday, there will be an all-day Operations Forum technical session, focusing on plant operations and collection systems topics.
- We will again have a student paper session on Wednesday afternoon, building on the success of last year's program.
- The golf tournament will be on Monday, at Braemer Golf Club, about two miles from the hotel.
- Visit <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/CSWEA> for information on the venue and to book your accommodations.



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Mutual Aid Agreements: What is the need?

By Daniel Lynch

A mutual aid agreement is a formal process which allows a unit of government, either local, state or federal, to work with other units of government in response to a disaster. In its simplest form, it allows one community to help or to be helped by another. Communities currently help each other all the time so why is there a need for a mutual aid agreement? There are several reasons to have preexisting agreements:

- To clarify the roles of the responding communities
- To establish protocols for sharing resources
- To provide a forum for establishing and maintaining emergency contacts
- To provide access to specialized resources
- They are necessary for the involved communities if federal disaster reimbursement is expected.

Mutual aid agreements are implemented if the affected community's normal public works resources, including water and wastewater, are not sufficient to meet the task it is facing. Police and fire departments have used mutual aid agreements for years to support their activities. Mutual aid between communities which address public works, water and wastewater are in the development stage, but are up and running in several states. The hurricanes which recently hit the southern coast demonstrated the value of mutual aid agreements between communities in those states. The states with organized emergency response plans and mutual aid agreements (i.e. Florida, Texas) were much more prepared and better able to respond to these natural disasters than other states (i.e. Louisiana, Mississippi). In fact, the water and wastewater mutual aid agreements in Florida and Texas were so good, that the USEPA took notice and retained the American Water Works Association (AWWA) to help develop similar programs in all of the states. See them at www.FLWARN.org or www.TXWARN.org.

USEPA and AWWA are focusing their efforts on the water/wastewater segments of local public works through the formation of statewide programs called Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network, referred to simply as the WARN program. Programs are being developed in each of our three states. If AWWA is taking the lead, why is this a Central States issue? The key reason is that this is not just a drinking water issue.

It is not just a wastewater issue. It is a local community issue and while AWWA may be taking the lead role in getting it started, participation by wastewater professionals is critical to its success.

I have taken on a new role, as chair of the committee to develop and implement a WARN program in Wisconsin. Active programs are also under way in Illinois and Minnesota. In fact Illinois already has their website up and partially operational (www.ILWARN.org). Soon there will be a WIWARN website operating. The Illinois and Wisconsin programs intend to include other government entities besides water and wastewater. Public works departments are specifically being included and encouraged to help develop the programs in these two states.

I urge you to visit the WARN websites mentioned above, learn more about this valuable program and if you can, get involved in the development of the program in your state. Although it is unlikely that any of our states will get hit by a hurricane, there are disasters such as ice storms, tornadoes, high winds, and other Midwestern weather phenomena, that can cause serious problems for a community. This is important and you can impact how it develops if you get involved. At a minimum, keep an eye on this program as it develops in your state. ☺

The state WARN contacts are:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Illinois | Tammy Bennett, P.E.,
ILWARN Committee Chair
Clark Dietz, Engineers
Phone (217) 373-8900
Email tammy@ilwarn.org or
tammy.bennett@clark-dietz.com |
| Minnesota | Pete Moulton, MNWARN Committee
Chair, City of Saint Peter – Water Utility
Phone (507) 934-0670
petem@saintpetermn.gov |
| Wisconsin | Daniel L. Lynch, P.E., DEE,
WIWARN Committee Chair
Janesville Water & Wastewater Utilities
Phone (608) 755-3115
Email lynchd@ci.janesville.wi.us |

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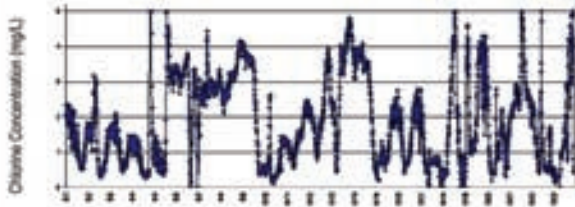
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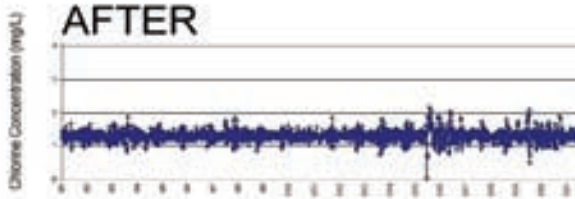
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Announcing the 3rd Annual Midwest Water Industry Expo



Wisconsin Water
ASSOCIATION



The 2nd Annual Midwest Water Industry Expo is over and again it was successful. Attendance was higher than the first year and all vendor spaces were sold out. If you were not there you missed a great experience so plan on coming next year. You will not regret it; the expo is only going to get bigger and better. It continues to receive very favorable comments from both attendees and exhibitors. Most people left looking forward to next year.

The expo is intended to be a means to bring water and wastewater professionals into contact with equipment suppliers and manufacturers to promote the free exchange of information. Our goal is to bring a quality water and wastewater exposition to the upper Midwest so operators and others can have a chance to see equipment that is usually only on display at national conferences. The expo is the exhibitors' opportunity to present their goods and services to their customers and potential customers without all of the other normal conference activities that take people away from an exhibit hall. The first two expos have accomplished these objectives.

Planning for the **3rd Annual Midwest Water Industry Expo** is now under way. We are excited because the planning committee has had an infusion of many new members, mostly vendors and equipment representatives from previous expos. They will be bringing forward new insights and ideas making this event even that much better. The biggest change for the next expo will be in the event's location. Instead of holding it at the Kalahari as we have in the past, **the 3rd expo will be held at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells on January 23 and 24.** The reason for the change is simply that the Kalahari was not available on the days we needed. It is very possible that the expo will return to the Kalahari someday. The Chula Vista is also a premier Wisconsin Dells vacation resort with many of the same (or better) facilities that we have had in the past. The Chula Vista has always been one of the better resorts in the Dells and it recently completed a major facility makeover. If you have been there before, you will not recognize it now. Although we have a new location, next year's expo will continue many of its past highlights, including:

- A fundraising raffle with over \$5,000 in prizes with proceeds going to help

solve water or sanitary problems in Central America.

- Over 100 exhibitors (last year there were 110).
- Almost 700 attendees (1,000 attendees next year would be nice).
- Over 30 vendor presentations (we have room for more).
- Wednesday and Thursday lunches and a Wednesday evening meet and greet.

We appreciate everyone who exhibited in the past and hope they return and that many more join us next year. The past expos could not have been successes without these exhibitors and without the

Chula Vista Resort



large number of operators and other water professionals who attended. If you have not come to an expo, come this January – it gets better each year. We hope to see all of you at the Chula Vista in 2008. CS

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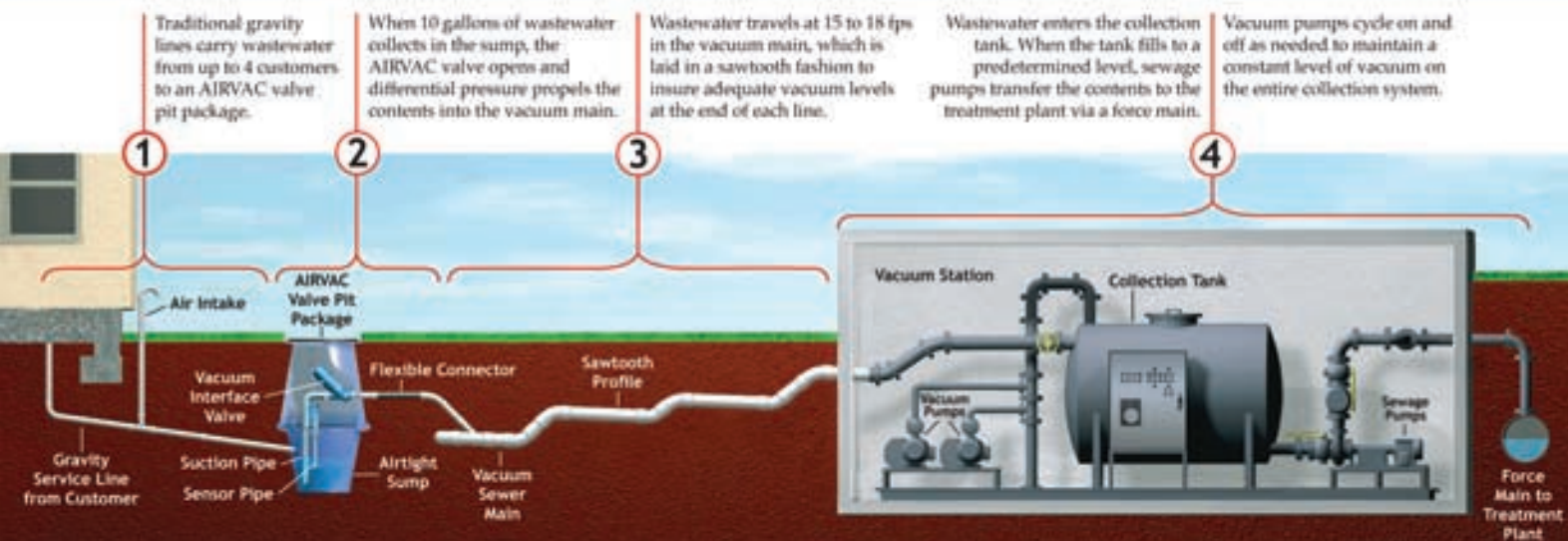
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Not So Lazy Days of Summer

Bill Marten

Summer is usually a fairly slow time in our section, but this summer has been a little livelier than normal.

Of course, we again co-sponsored the collection system seminar, held in Watertown last June, and it was a great success, with about 200 attendees. We also co-sponsored another management seminar, and thanks to some innovative planning ideas we had a nice turn-around. This seminar has been held in mid-August in Madison for a few years now, and was starting to see a drop in attendance. This year the planning committee arranged to hold the seminar in early August in a meeting room that is part of the new Cabelas outdoor sporting goods store located just northwest of Milwaukee. The result was a great boost in attendance (final figures are not in, but it appears we more than doubled last year's attendance) with the added bonus that the store decided to give attendees a nice discount on purchases made that day (this was not part of the original room rental arrangement, just something the store decided to offer the day of the event).

Several of our committees have also been busy during this "sleepy" time of year:

- The collection systems committee has been hard at work planning to hold a second collection system seminar in Marshfield next year. The annual Watertown seminar will be held, as always, but will be complemented with this second seminar, to be held in mid-August, that will aim to better serve folks in the northern reaches of the state.
- The industrial wastes committee has also been hard at work planning our section's first industrial pretreatment



seminar, which will be held in Oshkosh in mid-June of 2008.

• Our students and young professionals committee has also been quite active. A highlight of their efforts was hosting a YP get-together at a recent Milwaukee Brewers game. We had a nice mix of YPs and SPs ("seasoned professionals", a.k.a. OFs) attend, and had a really nice time before and during the game (the camaraderie really helped us all endure a rather brutal Brewers' loss). Through this event we added several new CSWEA/WEF members and exposed at least a half-dozen new YPs to this committee and our section.

Special kudos go to Rachel Lee, chair of the committee, and Tom Mulcahy, past section chair, for all their hard work in making this event a success.

Finally, we held our summer section board meeting last week. A key item we began discussing, and which we will continue to wrestle with in coming board meetings, is identifying good ways to make use of the ample reserves our section has accumulated over the years. One of the key areas we will be considering are initiatives that support student and YP activities, for these folks really represent the future of our section and association.

In closing, thanks to all of you who are actively helping us grow and nurture our section and association, and to those not yet active, please consider getting involved – you will find it is fun and rewarding.

Protecting our water environment, amongst friends – what a great way to help people and our planet. CS



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A Busy Summer

Sue Baert

It is hard to believe the summer months have flown by and I am composing another letter for *Central States Water*. The constant traveling to baseball games, family vacations and county fairs has kept me busy. My son's 4-H project (pigs) won him the grand champion market gilt. Last year his 4-H project was chickens, I am still collecting the eggs from that endeavor. At least the pigs get sold. All this has left the summer but a haze to me, and added to that, the Illinois section has been extremely active.

One of the activities I attended with my family, was to the Kalahari in Wisconsin for the CSX planning meeting. The kids had a great time at the water park while I was kept busy with the Central States agenda. The opportunity to network with the other state members was very helpful. Thanks to all those I spoke with.

A committee chair meeting was held in mid-August, planning for the upcoming events, filling all chair positions, getting more people on each committee and the separating of the students and young professionals was the focus. Kudos to those



who came, your ideas and input were greatly appreciated. With more people involved we have the ability to keep the IL section more diverse and strong.

Late August the operations quick talk was held in Urbana/Champaign. Some of the topics covered were integrated fixed activated sludge, polymer optimization, scada, bio-solids, screw impeller pumps, facility planning, phosphorus removal, and EPA regulations. A marvelous plant tour was given at the conclusion of the day. Thank you UCSD and Tim Bachman.

Scheduled in November is the fall safety and maintenance quick talk. January is the annual government affairs meeting, co-hosted with IWEA. Watch the website for the upcoming dates. As always any help or ideas would be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing everyone at WEFTEC in San Diego. I have signed up to help judge the lab event of operations challenge with the intent to be more involved, meet new people and learn new techniques. I will let you know how that turns out. CS

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MWOA Annual Conference a Success

John Glatzmaier

It is the dog days of summer and here is what your friends and colleagues have been doing for the Minnesota Section.

The CSWEA CSX '07 was held July 19-20 at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. Several members from the Minnesota Section attended and were able to meet with their Wisconsin and Illinois counterparts to exchange ideas from committee to committee and section to section. Some of the hot topics were maintaining and growing our membership with an emphasis on students and young professionals, how to provide better support and service to our members using our available funds, and how to best utilize our publication and web page to communicate to and support our members.

The MWOA held its annual conference in Willmar, Minnesota July 24-27. Pre-conference activities included a golf tournament, fishing tournament and sporting clay shoot. The opening session started with a welcome from the mayor of Willmar. Dick Beardsley, keynote speaker, provided a very motivational talk focusing on never giving up and being persistent in life's endeavors. The technical conference provided a variety of topics for attendees to choose from including operations, maintenance, collection systems, management, exam refresher and biosolids to name a few. Randy Poore completed his responsibilities and Keith Redmond took over as the MWOA president at the banquet.

The MWOA in conjunction with CSWEA provided four student scholarships at the conference. Each scholarship was worth \$500 and one of the recipients, Rose Simons from the St. Cloud Technical College, was in attendance to receive her award. Two other students from SCTC and one from Vermilion CC received the other scholarships. The awards provided help to offset necessary expenses incurred by the students during their educational training and can be applied to tuition, books, fees, or other expenses.

The conference, once again, was successful and work has already begun on the 2008 annual conference scheduled to be held in Mankato, Minnesota next July. We hope to see you there.



Upcoming events in the Minnesota Section include:

The co-sponsored CSWEA/MWOA Fall Collection System Workshop to be held at the Owatonna WWTP on September 19, 2007. The topic will be Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG).

The 22nd Annual Conference of the Environment to be held November 8, 2007 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center. Please

contact Marion Graham if you are interested in volunteering to plan this event.

The Co-sponsored CSWEA/MWOA 25th Innovative Approaches To Wastewater Operational Problems Seminar to be held at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud, MN on February 26, 2008.

The CSWEA 81st Annual Meeting will be held in Bloomington, MN in 2008. The MN Section is hosting this event and the Local Arrangements Committee is looking for good people and great ideas. If you would like to get involved, please contact Eric Evans.

If you want to grow professionally and give back to the community, please consider joining one of the many committees or activities of Central States. For further information, contact any of the MN Section Committee chairs found on the website: www.cswea.org. CS

Plan to attend the 22nd Annual Conference on the Environment, November 8, 2007 at the Earl Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. The keynote speaker will be climatologist and meteorologist Dr. Mark Seeley of the University of Minnesota. Session topics include climate change, energy optimization and minimization, system sustainability, regulatory updates, wastewater process case studies, stormwater and conveyance. Go to www.CSWEA.org for more information.

OCTOBER - 2007

- 13-17 WEFTEC '07 - San Diego, CA
 14 CSWEA Executive Committee Meeting,
 WEFTEC '07 - San Diego, CA
 14 CSWEA/IWEA Welcome Reception
 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Elizabeth Ballroom
 Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, CA

JANUARY - 2008

- 23-24 3rd Annual Midwest Water Industry Expo
 Chula Vista Resort and Convention Center,
 Wisconsin Dells, WI

MARCH - 2008

- 13-15 CSWEA hosts WEFMAX'08 - Twin Cities
 Sheraton Bloomington Hotel - Bloomington, MN

APRIL - 2008

- 1 CSWEA Annual Education Seminar - Madison, WI
 19-22 81st CSWEA Annual Meeting
 Sheraton Bloomington Hotel - Minneapolis, MN

JULY - 2008

- 17-18 CSWEA Committee and Section Exchange, CSX'08
 Kalahari Resort and Conference Center,
 Wisconsin Dells, WI
 July 18 CSWEA's 1st Annual Young Professionals
 Exchange, YPX'08, Kalahari Resort and
 Conference Center - Wisconsin Dells, WI

OCTOBER - 2008

- 18-22 WEFTEC'08 - Chicago, IL

CSWEA Illinois

Fall Operation Quick Talks
 November, 2008
 Illinois

Government Affairs Seminar
 January 2008
 Lisle, IL

CSWEA Minnesota

22nd Annual Conference on the Environment
 Thursday, November 8, 2007
 Earl Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, MN

CSWEA Wisconsin

WWOA Annual Conference
 October 23-26, 2007
 LaCrosse, WI

Spring Biosolids Symposium
 March 18, 2008
 Stevens Point, WI

Collection System Seminar South
 Early June, 2008
 Watertown, WI

Industrial Pretreatment Seminar (premiere)
 June 18, 2008
 Oshkosh, WI

Collection System Seminar North (premiere)
 August 14, 2008
 Marshfield, WI



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Employment Information								
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Environmental Focus				Other (please specify)				
Signature (required for all new memberships)							Date	
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Membership Information								
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<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE							\$ 102.00	
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			b WEF Highlights Online b Central States Water Magazine					
			YP=<35 yrs of age, < 10 yrs work experience can receive 50% discount for 1 st three years of membership				\$51.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONS							\$ 64.00	
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			<input type="checkbox"/> Water Environment Laboratory Solutions					
			b WEF Highlights Online b Central States Water Magazine					
<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT							\$ 30.00	
Students enroll for a minimum of six credit hours in an accredited college or university. Must provide written documentation on school letterhead verifying status, signed by an advisor or faculty member.			<input type="checkbox"/> WE&T (including Operations Forum)					
			b WEF Highlights Online b Central States Water Magazine					
<input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATE							\$ 270.00	
One person is entitled to receive member benefits. Companies engaged in the design, construction, operation or management of water quality systems. Designate one membership contact.			b WE&T (including Operations Forum)					
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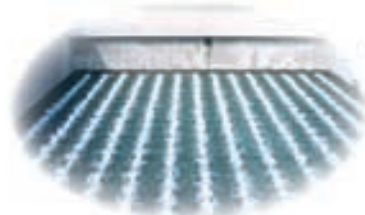
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