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



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FEATURES

83rd Annual Meeting Review	10
Plant Profile: Green Bay MSD	32
Radebaugh Paper	36
Student Design Competition	41
Stockholm Junior Water Prize	47
Biologicals for FOG Pretreatment	52



DEPARTMENTS

Messages

President's Message	6
Executive Director's Message	8

CSWEA News

Education Seminar Review	24
WEFTEC Reception	27
Digester Foam Committee	28
Calendar of Events	59

Section News

Illinois Chair Message	54
Wisconsin Chair Message	55
Minnesota Chair Message	56

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THINK GREEN

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Looking to the Future

By Jim Miller



I trust that all of you who made it to Madison for the 83rd Annual Meeting have made it safely back to your respective states. The committees that pulled together this year's conference did another great job. Thank you to all of you who contributed to this conference.

Speaking of contributing – committee members and executive board members will be meeting in July at CSWEA-CSX'10 (July 15 & 16 at the Kalahari Resort) to discuss ways to improve the association and will also likely be attacking the budgetary issues facing the CSWEA. This is your opportunity to help improve your association, so if you have concerns or areas where you think we can improve, or maintain the level of service you receive from the association, please pass them along to your respective State Section representatives or one of the executive board members for further discussion at this year's CSX. Thanks also to Eric Lecuyer (and family) for the fine job at this conference and throughout the year.

I mentioned very briefly at the annual banquet that I was looking for ways to expand and improve efforts to bring more meaningful exchange for our operations, maintenance, collection, lab, engineers and young professionals. I am serious about finding better ways to get more people involved in the organization. I believe one of the ways is to provide educational opportunities to help improve our performance in those areas. We need to make certain that we have at the state and association level – conferences and

workshops that can benefit our members existing and prospective members. Working with a number of engineering firms, I have heard that there isn't much to offer to new engineers that will help them with their duties and career. I hear similar comments from operations, maintenance, collection, and lab folks as well. We have had a number of very informative workshops like the digester foaming topics this spring. That is why I am seeking to continue that Ad Hoc Committee another year to continue to find ways to assist our members with those issues. I would encourage all of you to think of ways that we can provide timely and meaningful information to our members. Having made my way up the ladder from small WWTPs to larger ones and then crossing over to the consulting side – there are a lot of people who are not involved with CSWEA (WEF) who

should be. We need to find ways to get those non-involved folks interested in our association.

I know the next year will go extremely fast. It seems like just a month ago I was elected as 2nd Vice President. Now I have moved into the office which so many talented and influential people have held over the years. I do feel quite humbled to be able to represent you and this organization for the coming year. I will try to make a difference and take your thoughts and suggestions seriously when it comes to improving our organization.

The 2011 Annual Conference will be in Brooklyn Park, MN – on the northwest corner of the twin cities. I urge you to start making plans to attend and also encourage you to invite some of your co-workers and neighboring facilities to send members to the conference. [CS](#)



“I would encourage all of you to think of ways that we can provide timely and meaningful information to our members.

We need to find ways to get those non-involved folks interested in our association.”



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Passion

Eric R. Lecuyer



One of the most remarkable experiences I had at the 83rd Annual Meeting was the clear demonstration of passion by so many of those of us in attendance. The best demonstration was from our Farewell Breakfast Speaker, Richard Meeusen, CEO of Badger Meters and his passionate discussion of "Water: Wisconsin's Blue Goldmine". Clearly Richard Meeusen is a man with a great vision and a man on a mission. It was my great fortune again this year to have my family along as, more or less, slave labor in assisting (running) registration, handling the photography and in general making me look good. It was their fortune to see Mr. Meeusen's passionate presentation and my daughters were both moved by the experience. Long gone are the times when they knew dad did something with water and that meant they had a roof overhead and four squares. Their level of sophistication and understanding of our association's passion for water was elevated through this experience; they left the 83rd Annual Meeting very proud of what we all do and proud to be part of it in a small way.

Passion for our profession was clear from the second of the opening keynote address by Dr. Russell Cuhel, Senior Scientist for the Great Lakes Water Institute. Dr. Cuhel's work extends well beyond the study of the impact of mussel establishment on the water chemistry of our lakes – it extends to impassioning the many students, from middle school through grad students in the water field. His passion draws students like a magnet

"So many of our folks have dedicated their professional lives, and spent full careers to ensuring that our water environment is ever improving and is sustained in all respects."



to this incredibly important research and he acknowledged the accomplishments of some past CSWEA students, including Megan O'Brien, a past SJWP contestant who made CSWEA proud with her runner up project: "The Light Factor: The relationship to bivalve shell composition and color". Clearly Megan was drawn to study this issue due to Dr. Cuhel's passion.

But passion for our life giving and sustaining water industry is not limited to superstars like Dr. Cuhel or Richard Meeusen; it is clearly imbedded in all of those committed to the profession. So many of our folks have dedicated their professional lives, and spent full careers to ensuring that our water environment is ever improving and is sustained in all respects. Passionate people have taken up the pen to provide comments to

USEPA on issues from remarkably low phosphorus limits to Mississippi River TMDL's for total arsenic that are many times lower than the drinking water standards. Their perspective is clear, a passionate desire to protect public health and the environment without the potential to redirect billions of available funding from much more critical infrastructure renewal and sustainability needs. CSWEA's comments on these rule making issues can be found at www.CSWEA.org.

Take pride in the passion you have for your profession and take time to pass that passion along to the next generation(s). Too much has been taken for granted by the public at large with regard to our nation's waters and it is our passion that will help open eyes and lead the way. Passion is power! **CS**



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83RD ANNUAL MEETING

Award Winners

Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award

This award recognizes individuals for outstanding performance, professionalism and contributions to the water quality analysis profession. This award was established in 1993 and our winner this year is: **Judy Theon** City of Watertown, WI

William D. Hatfield Award

The William D. Hatfield Award is presented to operators of wastewater treatment plants for outstanding performance and professionalism. The award was established in honor of Dr. William D. Hatfield, Superintendent of the Decatur, IL, Sanitary District, who was President of the Central States Sewage Works Association in 1944-46

and served as President of the Federation of Sewage & Industrial Wastes Associations in 1958-59. From 1946 to 1954 this was a Central States award presented to recognize the best annual treatment plant operating report and now is awarded in recognition of outstanding professional service in both facility operations and public education. This year's winner is: **Dan Lynch** City of Janesville, Wisconsin

George W. Burke, Jr. Facility Safety Award

Recognizes an active and effective safety program in municipal and industrial wastewater facilities. This year's winner is the: **Glenbard Wastewater Authority** Accepting is Gary Scott

Arthur Sidney Bedell Award

This award acknowledges extraordinary personal service to CSWEA over many years. This year's Bedell Award winner has served in many roles as a leader in CSWEA and within the Illinois Section, including serving as president in 2005-06. He has continued to serve the association beyond his presidency as Treasurer and WEF Delegate. He was instrumental in developing our Student Chapters in Illinois and remains an active mentor to the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana Student Chapter. Your Bedell winner is: **Scott Trotter**, Trotter and Associates, St. Charles IL

Awards were presented by Chris Browning, WEF Treasurer



Judy Theon



Dan Lynch



Gary Scott



Scott Trotter



Phil Parsons (Quarter Century Operator)



Rusty Schroedel



Sue Baert



Phil Parsons (Honorary Life Member)

Photos by Emily Lecuyer



WEF Honorary Life Members

Honorary Life Membership is conveyed to people who maintain their WEF Membership continuously for 35 years.

Robert Hoffman

Glenn Wentink

Ralph Pfister

Phil Parsons (Phil was also inducted into the Quarter Century Operators Club this year)

WEF Service Awards

Presented to CSWEA members who have served as a Past Director to the Federation, as a Director at Large, or as a Committee Chair, or MA President.

Terry Krause WEF Delegate '06-09

Rusty Schroedel CSWEA President, '09-10

CSWEA Service Awards

Sue Baert IL Trustee, '08-10

Patti Craddock MN Trustee, '08-10

Rachel Lee YP Rep '08-10

Carol Strackbein Treasurer '08-10

Operations Award

The Operations Award is given in recognition of outstanding wastewater treatment plant operation (one operator per year for each of the member states of the Central States WEA).

Minnesota Section

Rick Ashling City of Albert Lea, MN

Wisconsin Section

Dave Lefebvre Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage Dist, WI

Illinois Section

Gary Sowma North Shore Sanitary District, IL

Collection System Award

The Collection System Award is presented to an association member from each Section in recognition of outstanding contributions in advancing collection system knowledge and direct or indirect improvement in water quality.

WI Section

Tim Zimmerman Village of Germantown, WI

MN Section

Greg Guerrero City of Duluth, MN

Awards were presented by Rusty Schroedel, CSWEA President



Patti Craddock



Carol Strackbein



Rachel Lee



Rich Ashling



Dave Lefebvre



Gary Sowma



Tim Zimmerman



Greg Guerrero



Mark Eddington



Steven R. Reusser



Rich Hussey



Professor Daniel R. Noguera

Photos by Emily Lecuyer

**IL Section**

Mark Eddington DeKalb Sanitary District, IL

Gus H. Radebaugh Award

Given to the author(s) of a deserving technical paper presented at an annual meeting of the Central States WEA. Established as the "Best Paper Award" in 1933, and changed to the "Gus Radebaugh Award" in 1941. This year we honor the paper selected at the 79th Annual Meeting.

Steven R. Reusser Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
"Caution – Advanced Digestion Processes"

Industrial Environmental Achievement Award

This award is presented to an industry in recognition of outstanding contributions in waste minimization, pollution prevention, environmental compliance and environmental stewardship.

Frito Lay, Inc. Beloit, WI
Accepting is Aubrey Wells, Mike Stahl and Guy Kasbohm

Young Professional of the Year Award

Established in 2007, this award recognizes the contributions of young water environment professionals for significant contributions to CSWEA and to the wastewater collection and treatment industry. This year's winner is:

Rich Hussey, PE LAI, Ltd

Bill Boyle Educator of the Year Award

Established in 2007, this award recognizes accomplishments in the education and development of future water environment professionals by

educators at all levels, from primary grades through graduate students. This award honors Professor William C, Boyle, a Professor Emeritus of Environment Engineering at the University of Wisconsin, Madison where he served as mentor to many CSWEA members. Beyond his role as educator, researcher and mentor, Bill Boyle has served the CSWEA throughout his career as a tireless promoter of ongoing education and training and a facilitator of many successful technical programs and events. We are pleased to present this year's Educator of the Year award to:
Professor Daniel R. Noguera, Ph.D
University of Wisconsin, Madison

Academic Excellence Award

This award is presented to an Annual Meeting Host State College or University student selected by their professor for having exhibited outstanding academic career. This year's winners have been judged to be outstanding students in the water environment field. In addition to this plaque, CSWEA awards a \$250 cash scholarship award, one year paid Student Membership and complimentary registration to this Annual Meeting.

Forrest Bishop University of Wisconsin, Madison

Student Design Competition

The Design Competition is intended to promote "real world and hands on design experience" for students interested in pursuing an education or career in water or wastewater engineering. Teams select a design problem with judges choosing the best overall design concepts and presentation of a solution. This is our Fifth Annual Student Design competition.

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Beth Baumgartner, Flory Olson, Forrest Bishop & Charles Otis

Project: The North Plant

In 2009, CSWEA has established a second category for the Student Design Competition for humanitarian projects which focus more on bringing safe drinking water and sanitation to people around the world.

University of Illinois

Urbana-Champaign, Engineers With Out Borders:

Ian Bradley, Anthony Straub, Alyssa Sohn & Paul Folwarski

Project: Removal of Waterborne Viruses Using Iron-Amended Bio-sand Filters

Student Paper Winner

Megan Corrado University of Wisconsin, Madison

"Optimization of Phosphorus and Magnesium Release from Waste Activated Sludge"

Central States Water Scholarship Award

(Presented by Cheryl Parisien and Al Whalen)

New for 2010, our publisher of *Central States Water* magazine, Craig Kelman & Associates have provided a Scholarship Award in the amount of \$500. The scholarship is to be awarded annually to a student at any level whose work as published in *Central States Water* is judged to be the best published student paper.

Jamie Molloy

Divine Savior Holy Angels High School, Milwaukee, WI

"The Effect of Nano Metal Oxides on Sentinel Organisms in the Aquatic Environment"



Paul Folwarski, Anthony Straub & Ian Bradley with Rusty Schrodell



Aubrey Wells, Mike Stahl, Dan Lynch & Guy Kasbohm.



Forrest Bishop & Rusty Schrodell



Al Whalen, Jamie Molloy & Cheryl Parisien

Photos by Emily Lecuyer

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At the CSWEA 83rd Annual Meeting, my company, Craig Kelman & Associates, had the privilege of easing the financial burden of a young scholar by awarding the *Central States Water* scholarship to Jamie Molloy. She was chosen for this new scholarship for her paper *The Effect of Nano Metal Oxides on Sentinel Organisms in the Aquatic Environment*. She is a humble and deserving award recipient and we were proud to contribute to her education.

Craig Kelman & Associates is the publisher of *Central States Water*. We work closely with Executive Director Eric Lecuyer and the association in publishing a top-notch communication tool which provides networking opportunities to share new ideas, generate new business, and, most of all, to educate this industry in cutting edge technology and better ways to use the resources we have to recycle wastewater.

We established this scholarship not only because we feel very strongly about this industry but we also wanted a way to give

back to the industry and the environment. We recognize that water is our most precious resource and that we need to take steps to protect it.

This scholarship is also the direct result of the advertisers who make this great publication possible. We sat down at the beginning of the year and came up with the idea to use a percentage of the advertising revenue to put towards this scholarship. So it is our valued advertisers who should be commended, not only for supporting the publication and making it possible, but also for allowing us to go that extra mile and create this scholarship. It is a credit to our advertisers who are so very passionate in this industry that, even through these tough economic times, we are able to provide such an award. To that extent we commend you.

If your company is interested in being part of this scholarship and at the same time advertising to the wastewater audience, please contact me directly for more information.

To reach water industry professionals in Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin through *Central States Water* magazine and its targeted readership, please contact me at



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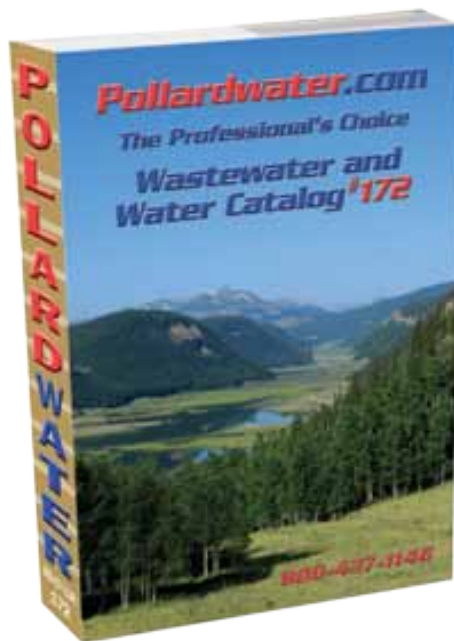


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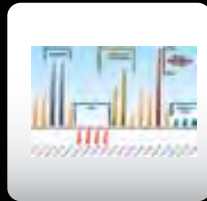
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83RD

ANNUAL MEETING







15th Annual CSWEA Education Seminar: Managing Biosolids in Our Energy Conscious Era

Our 15th Annual CSWEA Education Seminar was held on April 6, 2010 at the beautiful Monona Terrace in Madison, Wisconsin. With record attendance, outstanding world-renowned speakers, and an enthusiastic crowd, the 15th

Education Seminar was among the best ever. Be sure to watch www.CSWEA.org as well as *Central States Water* and mark your calendars for the 16th Education Seminar in April 2011.

Increasing demands for advanced

treatment, rising energy costs, emphasis on sustainability, renewable energy, and carbon footprint, and public concerns about biosolids reuse are putting the "squeeze" on biosolids processing and disposal at the dawn of the 21st century.

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This requires critical evaluation and sophisticated operations for biosolids management programs. Those who attended the 15th Annual CSWEA Education Seminar at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison, WI heard both internationally recognized and regional experts who provided an exceptional program, with passion. Suffice to say, no one left early! [CS](#)



Dr. Art Unble



Dr. Jenkins




Tom Sigmund



Dr. Sally Brown




Attendees at the reception



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CSWEA/IWEA to host 15th Annual WEFTEC Welcome Reception at WEFTEC '10

CSWEA and **IWEA** members are invited to join us for this year's WEFTEC '10 CSWEA/IWEA Reception, Sunday, October 3, 2010. The reception will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Our joint WEFTEC Welcome Reception has become a not-to-miss event for members and friends attending WEFTEC and offers an outstanding kick-off each year. The reception will be held in the Salon C Room of the WEFTEC '10 Headquarters hotel in New Orleans. All members and supporters of CSWEA and IWEA are invited to attend.



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DIGESTER FOAMING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

By Jeff Brochtrup, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Anaerobic Digester Foaming

The ad hoc committee on anaerobic digester foaming has completed its work the year.

ACTIVITIES

Our primary accomplishments were to implement a survey of WWTPs in the states of Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin; host a discussion session with Dr. David Jenkins on digester foaming on April 7, the day after the Education Seminar; and plan and hold a workshop on digester foaming on April 21.

All three activities were successful. The survey was responded to by 94 of 216 WWTPs identified as having anaerobic digesters, a response rate of 44%. The results showed that 53% of the survey respondents and a minimum of 23% of all plants with anaerobic digesters in the three states had problems with digester foaming. The April 7 discussion was attended by 25 persons, the April 21 workshop was attended by 47 persons and the great majority of attendees at both events indicated that the events were worth their time to attend.

The brief presentations by Randy Wirtz, Krishna Pagilla, Sharon C. Long and Amanda Siebels are posted at www.CSWEA.org.

THANKS

I would like to acknowledge and thank a number of individuals and organizations for their efforts on behalf of the committee:

- Randy Wirtz for handling local arrangements for the April 7 and April 21 events
- Strand Associates for allowing use of their office facilities for the April 7 and April 21 events at no cost to the association.
- Rusty Schroedel and AECOM for contributing use of the AECOM teleconferencing capabilities at no cost to the association.
- All the committee members:

Al Parrella, Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, MN

Bob Stark, City of Red Wing, MN

Jim Huchel, City of Crystal Lake, IL

Scott Trotter, Trotter & Associates, IL

Steve Reusser, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, WI

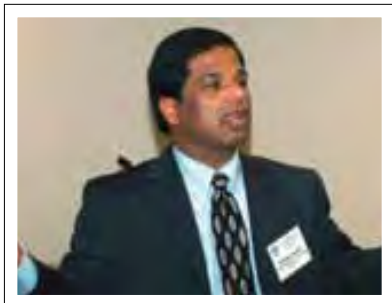
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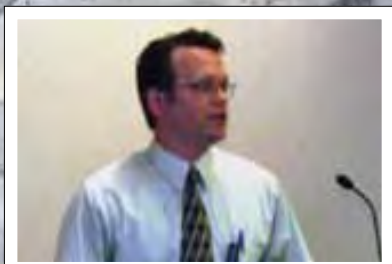




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GOLF OUTING

The second annual Northwoods Collection System Seminar pre-conference golf outing will be held on Wednesday, July 28 in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Location: Holms Riveredge Golf Course
10191 Mill Creek Drive
Marshfield, WI 54449

Cost: \$55.00 per person includes:
- 18 holes of golf with cart
- Dinner (rib eye with potato)

Time: 12:30 shotgun start
4 player scramble

Date: Wednesday, July 28

Sponsor fee:
\$25.00 required per firm attending, includes any non-municipal attendee.
Donated prizes are welcome in addition to the fee.

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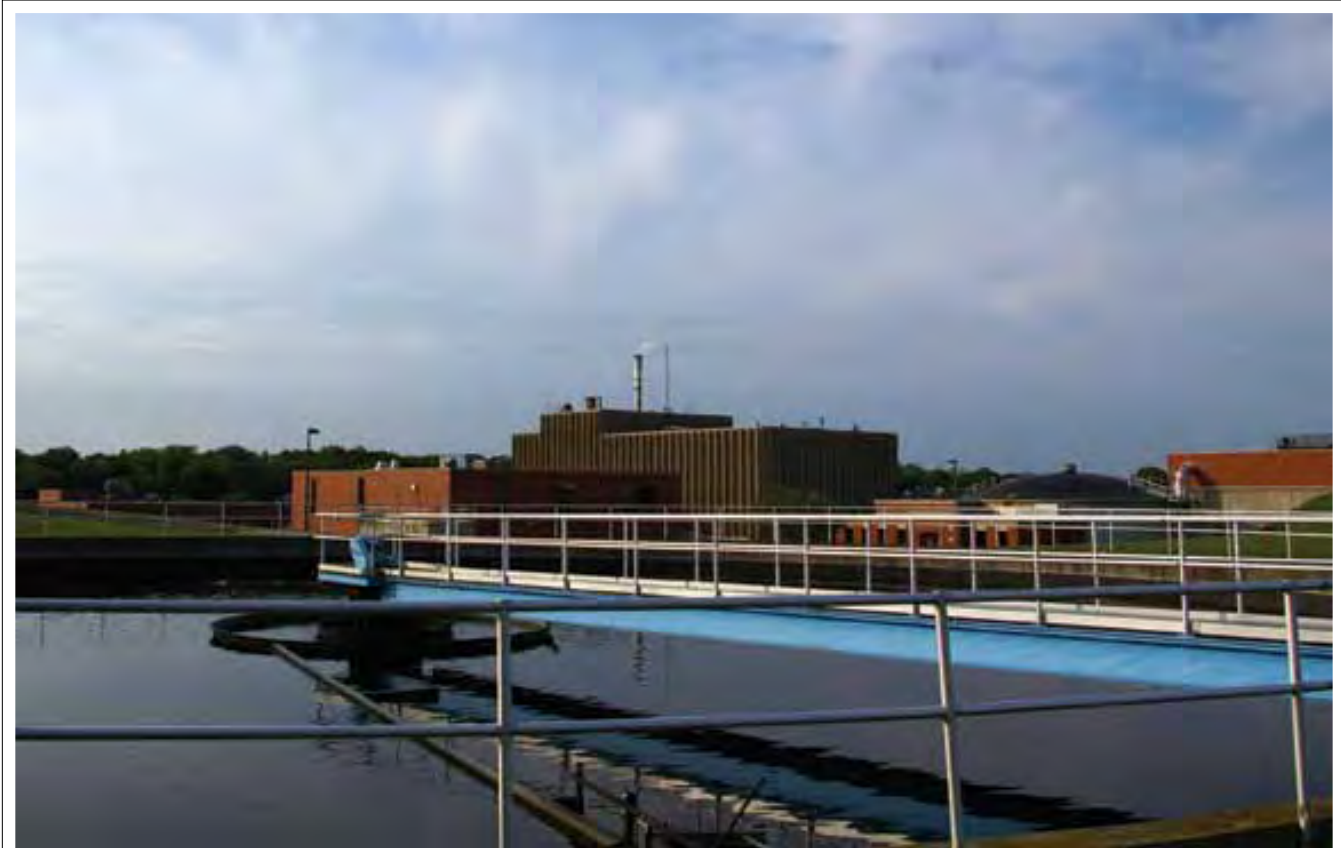
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Green Bay MSD

Dave LeFebvre and the operating staff of the Green Bay MSD received CSWEA's Operations Award for Wisconsin at the 83rd Annual Meeting.



The Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District (GBMSD) owns and operates two wastewater treatment facilities in Green Bay and De Pere, WI. Combined, the facilities on average treat 39 million gallons per day (mgd), 30 mgd at the Green Bay facility and nine mgd at the De Pere facility. GBMSD provides service to over 219,000 people over a 285 square mile area. The service area includes the cities of Green Bay and De Pere; the villages of Allouez, Ashwaubenon, Bellevue, Hobart, Howard, Luxemburg, Pulaski, and Suamico; the towns of Green Bay, Humboldt, Lawrence, Ledgeview, Pittsfield, Red River, and Scott; and contract customer Procter & Gamble Paper Products Company.



Both facilities are modern, well-maintained sewage treatment plants. The Green Bay facility is designed for 49 mgd and operates two multiple hearth incinerators. The De Pere facility is designed for 14.2 mgd and solids are sent to the Green Bay facility for processing. GBMSD has 85 miles of interceptor pipes. GBMSD has net assets of \$158 million and an annual operating budget of \$26 million. GBMSD currently employs 87 full-time employees.

Green Bay and De Pere facility profiles

Pump Station – both facilities

Municipal wastewater arrives at the Green Bay facility's pump station through a 108" interceptor. The objects in the wastewater are removed with 2 1/8" size bar screens. From this first screening point, one of four large pumps lifts the wastewater to the next step in the treatment process. Separately, wastewater flows in from Proctor & Gamble through a 42" inceptor. The mill wastewater is pumped to the next step in the treatment process and is combined with the municipal wastewater.

As the wastewater enters the De Pere facility, it passes through 1/4" fine screening devices. The material collected is washed, compacted, and sent to a landfill for disposal. Large centrifugal pumps convey the wastewater to the Preliminary Treatment Units for further processing.

Preliminary treatment units (PTU) – De Pere

As wastewater flows through the PTUs, the flow speed is slowed to one foot per second, allowing sand and other coarse material to settle to the bottom. The settled material is removed, washed, and disposed of in a landfill. The oil and grease that rises to the surface is skimmed off the top of the tank for further processing.

Headworks – Green Bay

Headworks are often considered the beginning of the treatment process at the Green Bay facility. Within, step screens provide preliminary treatment, and degritting equipment separates and removes inorganic material from the waste streams. Incoming wastewater passes through four fine step screens,

"The Green Bay facility has four primary clarifiers that hold about one million gallons each."



which trap the debris. Once trapped, the solid objects are removed, washed, compacted, and sent to a landfill.

Primary clarifiers – Green Bay

From Headworks, the wastewater flows into the primary clarifiers. The Green Bay facility has four primary clarifiers that hold about one million gallons each. In the primary clarifier, the wastewater is slowed which allows the solids in the water to settle out. The floating material is collected by an arm skimmer and sent on for further processing. Nearly 60% of the solids are removed in this process before the wastewater moves on to the aeration basins.

Aeration basins – both facilities

Wastewater flows to the aeration basins where air is supplied by a compressor through fine bubble diffusers that lay at the bottom of each basin. The aeration

systems utilize the activated sludge process, which is single stage nitrification/denitrification with biological phosphorus removal. For successful treatment, the operators must insure there are sufficient numbers of microorganisms present to completely breakdown the influent waste, ammonia, and phosphorus.

Final clarifiers – both facilities

After the wastewater leaves the aeration basins, it enters the final clarifiers where any solid material is again settled out to the bottom of the basins. The solids either are sent back to the aeration basins as return activated sludge or are wasted to the gravity belt thickeners. The water that flows over the weirs is sent to the disinfection process.

Disinfection – both facilities

As the wastewater prepares to leave the Green Bay facility, sodium hypochlorite

is injected into the water through a mixer at the very beginning of the disinfection chamber. The mixer is used to help distribute the chemical evenly in the water. Next, the water flows through a series of channels to make sure that there has been sufficient time and contact to kill bacteria. At the end of the last pass, sodium bisulfite is added to remove any residual chlorine.

The effluent chlorine residual is monitored and controlled through a computer control system. This system measures the residual chlorine just prior to the injection of sodium bisulfite and controls the amount of sodium bisulfite used. The operators conduct tests to verify that the residual chlorine has been removed from the effluent.

As the wastewater prepares to leave the De Pere facility, it goes through a disinfection process to kill remaining bacteria. The De Pere facility uses an ultraviolet light disinfection system that is capable of treating 15 mgd. The liquid chlorine treatment process is still retained and used during periods of high flow.

Solids processing

Connected by a pipeline, the De Pere facility sends its solids to the Green Bay facility for processing.

Gravity thickening

There are four gravity thickener basins. The basins receive sludge and scum flow from the four primary clarifiers along with the scum from the ten final clarifiers.

The gravity thickeners provide a quiescent condition to thicken the sludge prior to pumping to the sludge holding tanks (SHT) in the solids processing building. The quiescent condition in the gravity thickeners also allows the scum and grease to float to the surface of the basin.

A rotating collector mechanism scrapes the bottom sludge toward a center sump for removal and skims the floating material into a scum manhole. Scum pumps transfer the scum from the manholes to the scum concentrator in the solids building. This scum is then further thickened and pumped to the incinerator as a fuel source.

Gravity belt thickeners

The gravity belt thickeners (GBT) thicken the waste activated sludge from the final clarifiers. To aid in de-watering the sludge, polymer is added to the sludge at the front of the GBT. Flocculation occurs



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when the solids start to separate from the liquid. The filtrate drains to a pan below the belt and is pumped back to the beginning of the treatment process. The sludge on the belt is turned continuously by chicanes. The chicanes move the sludge back and forth allowing the water to fall through the belt to the drain. Near the end of the belt, a ramp contacts the belt at its leading edge causing the sludge to roll back on itself. The ramp is adjustable to enhance further the thickening of the sludge. The thickened sludge is sent to the sludge holding tanks to mix with the primary sludge and next to the belt filter presses.


Belt filter presses

Thickened primary and waste activated sludges are dewatered and thickened prior to incineration. The sludges are combined in sludge holding tanks and mixed to keep them well blended. The blended sludges are conditioned with polymer before being fed onto the belt filter presses (BFP).

The sludge moves along the BFPs on a porous cloth belt, which allows the water to drain. The solids on top of the belt,

quickly concentrate as the water drains away. The belts move through a series of rollers applying more than 500 pounds of pressure, to squeeze out as much water as possible. The solids coming off the BFPs are conveyed to the incinerators.

Incineration

The dewatered BFP sludge is burned to an ash within two multiple hearth incinerators. Burning the sludge reduces the weight and volume, resulting in less expensive landfill tipping and hauling fees. Incineration at the Green Bay facility takes place on a continuous basis. Operators control and monitor the incineration process 24/7 from the solids control room. 



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CAUTION:

Advanced Digestion Processes

By Steven R. Reusser, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

Editor's note: Steven Reusser received the Radebaugh Award at the 83rd Annual Meeting for his paper, which is summarized here. The full paper can be found at www.CSWEA.org.

INTRODUCTION

In 2000 the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District completed a facility plan for expansion of the district's anaerobic digestion facilities at the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant. Loadings had exceeded mesophilic digestion capacity and frequent winter foaming problems were causing serious operational difficulties. As a result of facility planning, associated bench scale digestion studies at the district, and subsequent bench scale studies by Santha, et al, at Iowa State University during pre-design, the selected plan for expansion was to operate a "batch" TPAD digestion system. The process was described in a publication by Fronek et al. The operation would consist of batch, fill and draw cycles at 12-hour intervals from

three existing reactors operated at the thermophilic temperature of 135 degrees F, then recover heat in the process of reducing the temperature in transfer to a new, single mesophilic reactor. The sludge would then be transferred to three smaller existing mesophilic digesters. The goal of the digestion system design was to produce a Class A sludge within the digestion system itself. Thus any portion of the sludge could be dewatered and used to create a dry product for recycle. The district has operated a successful liquid land application program for over 30 years. The need for additional winter storage, and narrowing windows of time for land applying the liquid product were making the production of a dry Class A product within the digestion system a cost justifiable alternative.

The Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant is a biological nutrient removal plant, which uses a variation of the UCT process. A schematic of the secondary biological treatment system is shown in Figure 1. The typical operating SRT for the secondary system is approximately 9.0 days. The average effluent total phosphorus concentration from the system over the last 10-year period has been 0.35 mg/l, and ammonia nitrogen has been 0.08 mg/l.

The waste activated sludge is thickened in DAF flotation thickeners to approximately 4.2% solids, and primary sludge is thickened in gravity thickeners to 4.5% solids. The thickened sludges are combined and fed to the anaerobic digesters. Current 2009 waste sludge production averages approximately 49,000 lbs/day, and primary sludge production approximately 61,000 lbs/day.

Design of upgrades for the anaerobic digestion facilities was completed in 2003. A schematic of the digestion system as designed is shown in Figure 2. Start-up of the advanced digestion system was begun in February, 2006. Design data for the system is given in Table 1.

The selected operational strategy included pre-heating the sludge to 135 degrees by pumping through two tube and shell heat exchangers in series. The tube and shell heat exchangers became the first operational problem as, even though the level of grease in the district's raw wastewater is not considered atypical, the heat exchanger tubes would rapidly coat with grease and the heat exchanger capacity would drop 40% or more within several hours

TABLE 1

DIGESTION DESIGN INFORMATION		
	2002	2020
Sludge Flow (gpd)	233,000	389,000
Solids Feed (lbs/day)	91,000	153,000
Thermophilic SRT (days)	13.0	7.4
Mesophilic SRT (days)	13.2	7.9
Solids Loading Rate (Lbs VSS/cf)	.08	.135
Minimum VS Destroyed (%)	55	55
Maximum VS Destroyed (%)	63	63

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and prohibit pre-heating to required thermophilic temperatures. Because of this the digestion system was never started-up as designed. A process alternative incorporating acid phase digestion was implemented as part of the advanced digestion system in order to mitigate the grease problem. The grease problem, though, was only one of several unanticipated problems encountered with advanced digestion system operation. These problems included:

Grease in the primary sludge and primary skimmings quickly coated the heat exchanger tubes as described above.

The new 6 mm fine screens at the plant headworks were not removing rags to a high enough degree to prevent plugging in these same raw sludge heat exchangers.

Headlosses in the raw sludge heat exchanger were much higher than vendor predictions.

When the digesters were batched for an extended time, gas would accumulate in the pipes. The gas would bind the centrifugal pumps upon withdrawal causing the operators to spend much time bleeding gas from the pump volutes.

Struvite (magnesium ammonium phosphate) precipitation occurred at a greatly accelerated rate in the recovery exchanger, pumps and piping downstream from the thermophilic digesters. The district's biological nutrient facility provides an excess of phosphorus for struvite precipitation. The struvite accumulation, which has always been a problem in the district's anaerobic digestion system, became a much more pronounced problem.



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Vivianite (ferrous phosphate) formation in the second stage heat exchanger reduced heat exchange capacity due to iron added to the plant recycle streams. This iron dosage had been part of the district's strategy for the last 10 years to reduce phosphorus recycle to the biological phosphorus treatment system, and to help prevent struvite problems in the anaerobic digestion system.

Foaming problems continued to plague the digestion system.

Operation at higher digestion temperatures resulted in much higher moisture content in the digester gas, and higher resultant H₂S and siloxane levels. This resulted in a major failure of one of the district's generator engines.

Significant odors resulted from conversion of digester 7 to an acid digester.

The new "step down" mesophilic digester shown in Figure 2 was converted to an acid digester to hydrolyse grease and allow heating of the sludge in two stages to alleviate heat exchanger problems and to assure foaming would not occur in the thermophilic digesters. The system thus became a three stage, acid-thermo-meso system. See the revised process schematic in Figure 3.

From Sept. 2006 through July 2008, the district operated the modified three stage system. Strategies were developed and changes implemented to deal with problems encountered. This paper will describe those strategies and the results of those efforts. Eventually, though, mixing problems in the retrofitted acid digester interfered with operation to the degree the system was returned

to single stage mesophilic operation.

The following are the periods of operation which will be discussed:

September, 1, 2006 to mid-November, 2006 – Start-up of the acid digester and two of the three thermophilic digesters; acid digester problems in mid-November

December 1, 2006 to April 1, 2007 – Interim operational mode with acid digester out of service for mixer repair; all three thermophilic digesters were in service

April 1, 2007 to about September, 2007 – Continuous period of acid/thermo/meso operation; acid digester problems beginning mid-July

September, 2007 to February 2008 – Interim operational mode with acid digester totally out of service from December 1 until February 1, 2008

February, 2008 to July, 2008 – Acid/thermo/meso process in operation until abandoned because of acid digester failure. Single stage mesophilic digestion re-implemented starting in July

Process performance of the three stage system was as good or better than anticipated from a bacteriological standpoint with indicator fecal coliform levels generally less than 20 mpn/100 ml on a weight wet basis, and volatile solids reduction exceeding 60%. This is even with total detention times less than 12 days total and two-hour batch times. It was found the three stage system could perform quite well from a process standpoint, but many materials handling factors must be carefully considered in the design of such a system.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY

The advanced digestion process implemented in Madison went through several iterations of problems and solutions. Grease coating the tubes of raw sludge heat exchangers was initially the problem to overcome, and an acid phase digester was employed to mitigate the problem. A muffin monster was installed ahead of the heat exchangers because new 6 mm opening band screens at the headworks were not adequately removing raggy material plugging the heat exchangers. Gas binding of centrifugal pumps made batching the thermophilic digesters difficult because of gas production in the suction pipes when sludge was not being withdrawn. The centrifugal pumps were replaced with progressive cavity. Struvite and vivianite scaling in heat exchangers, pumps, and pipes became an extreme problem and was related to the biological phosphorous removal process employed at the plant. This problem was much more severe than with single stage mesophilic digestion previously employed at the plant. The district was unable to resolve this problem with current ferric chloride dosing locations, but if acid digestion problems had not forced shutdown of the process, piping changes would have been made to add ferric chloride directly to the thermophilic digesters. The impacts that this change would have made are not known. Moisture, siloxanes, and hydrogen sulfide contaminants in the gas caused problems with digester gas utilization in the district's two generator engines and blower engine. A proprietary gas treatment system was fast-tracked and started up to alleviate these problems.

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The process was ultimately discontinued because the district was unable to keep a retrofitted digester operating as an acid digester. As performance continued to be problematic it was decided to pursue a facility plan to decide on future upgrades to the digestion system and

to provide capacity to the year 2030. Alternatives for digestion and producing a Class A product are again being considered. Planning is being carried out with consideration of the problems encountered while implementing the three stage advanced digestion system. [CS](#)

FIGURE 1

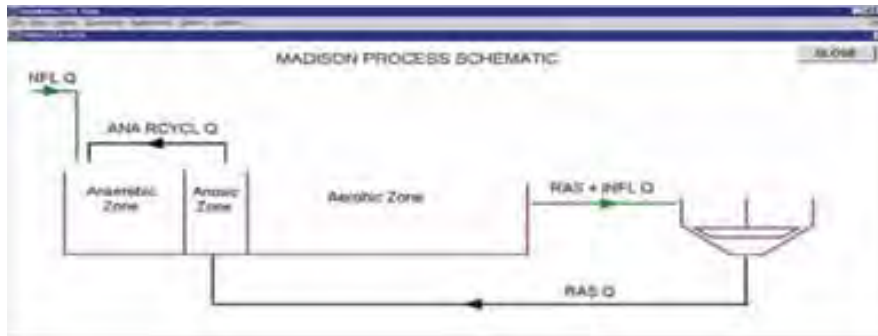


FIGURE 2

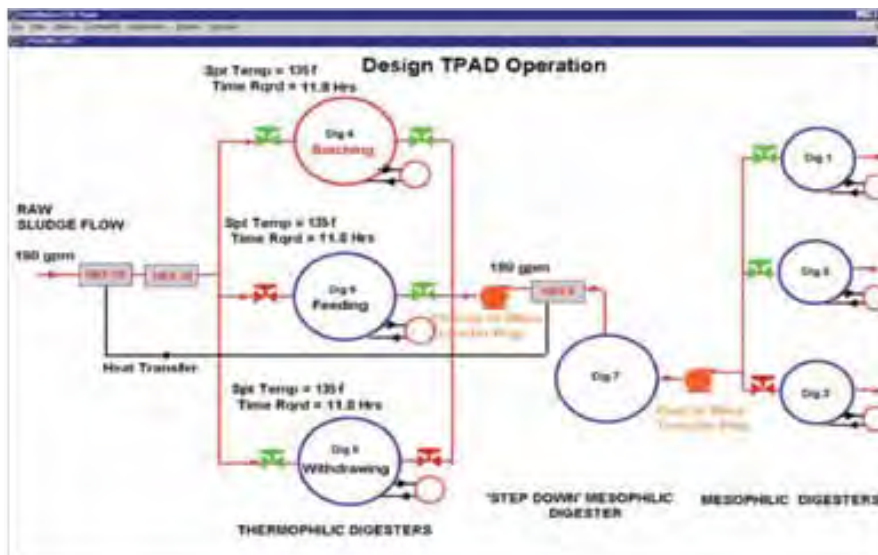
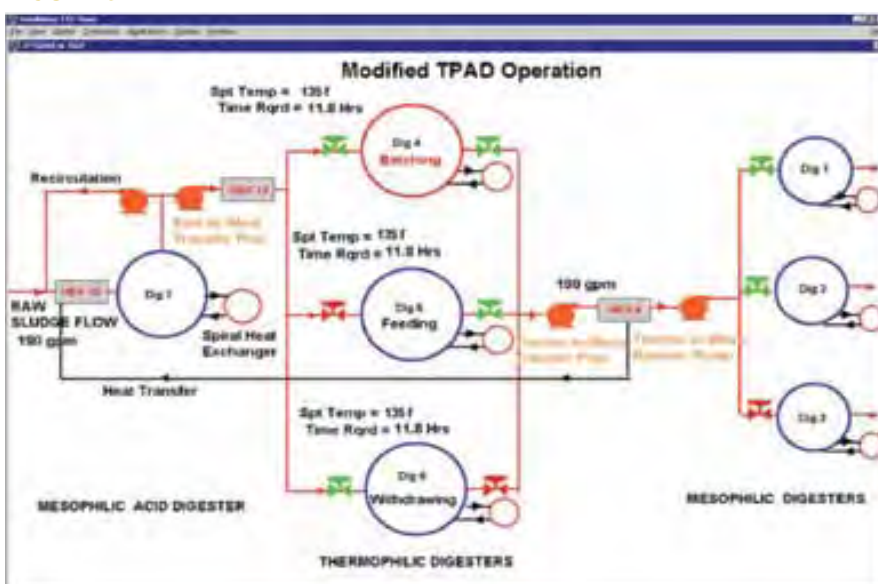


FIGURE 3



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Student Paper Competition

Editor's note: Megan Corrado will represent CSWEA in WEF's Student Paper Competition at WEFTEC '10 in New Orleans. Below is an introduction to her paper. The full paper can be viewed at www.CSWEA.org.

OPTIMIZATION OF PHOSPHORUS AND MAGNESIUM RELEASE FROM WASTE ACTIVATED SLUDGE

Megan M. Corrado

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Wisconsin – Madison



ABSTRACT

Several options were studied in an effort to maximize phosphorus concentrations as the first step in a phosphorus removal process upstream of anaerobic digestion. Experiments were conducted according to the procedures described in Chaparro and Noguera (2003) using various combinations of wastewater streams, pH modification, and enhanced fermentation. In addition to evaluating phosphorus release, magnesium release from WAS has been quantified. When combining waste activated sludge (WAS) and primary sludge, a mixture of 43% WAS and 57% primary sludge, by mass, was chosen as optimal. Out of all of the combinations, the 100% WAS with an acetate addition of 200 mg/L mixture finished with the greatest phosphorus concentration, 98.2 mg P/L. Higher normalized P concentrations were achieved in the enhanced fermentation (Acid Sludge) experiments (28.4 mg P/g TSSWAS) than the acetate experiments values (11.3 to 14.7 mg P/g TSSWAS) because the initial P concentrations (67 mg P/L) were comparatively higher than in the acetate experiments (0.5 to 7.8 mg P/L). However, the greatest P release was seen in the mixture of 43% WAS and 57% primary sludge, by mass, with an addition of 200 mg/L acetate (23.4 mg P release/gTSSWAS). When modifying the pH in the 43% WAS and 57% primary sludge, it appears that pH 5.5 only yields a 12.6% increase in normalized P release, from 11.3 to 13.6 mg release/gTSSWAS.

INTRODUCTION

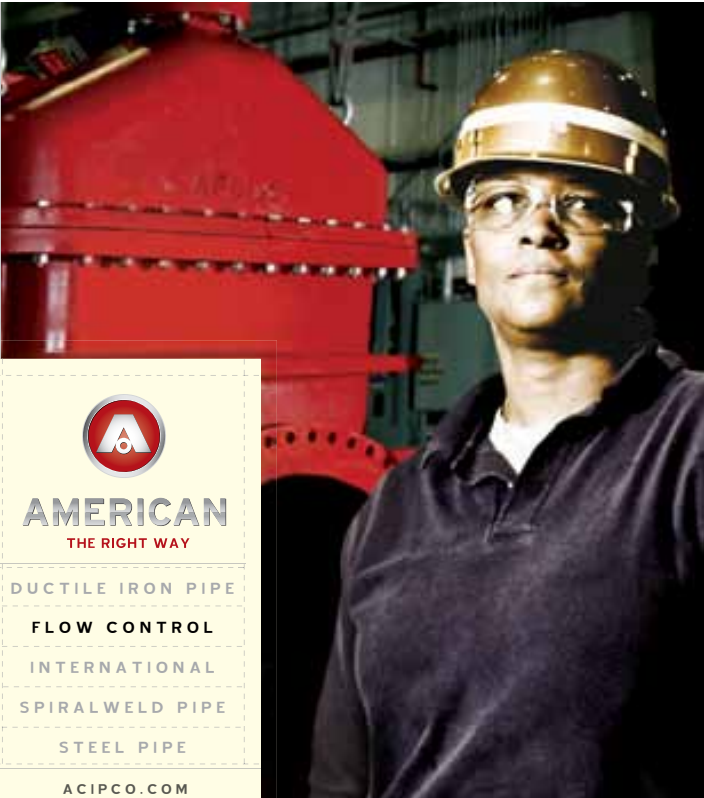
Enhanced biological phosphorus removal (EBPR) is a process commonly implemented in wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) because it is cost effective for maintaining low phosphorus effluents and good water quality in receiving waters. In EBPR, there is a net uptake of soluble phosphate as a result of intracellular polyphosphate accumulation (Grady et al. 1999). In addition, because polyphosphate is negatively charged, magnesium and potassium cations are also taken up by cells during EBPR (Wu et al. 2006).

When waste activated sludge (WAS) from EBPR plants is anaerobically digested, the soluble concentrations of phosphate, magnesium, and potassium inside the digester increase because of polyphosphate degradation. Furthermore, WAS digestion also releases ammonium from protein degradation, and therefore, high concentrations of ammonium, phosphate, and magnesium often result in the chemical precipitation of $MgNH_4PO_4 \cdot 6H_2O$ a crystalline solid called struvite (Corre et al. 2009). Excessive struvite precipitation leads to pipe scaling and equipment clogging in anaerobic digesters and side stream pipes, thereby increasing maintenance costs at WWTPs.

While addition of iron salts has traditionally been used to chemically fix phosphorus through precipitation of insoluble phosphate compounds (Corre et al. 2009), iron phosphate precipitates, such as vivianite ($Fe_3(PO_4)_2 \cdot 8H_2O$), can also

cause serious scaling problems (Frossard et al. 1997). Therefore, there is a need for the development of original processes for minimizing chemical precipitation in anaerobic digesters. Chaparro and Noguera (2003) proposed the controlled release of phosphorus from WAS prior to anaerobic digestion as an alternative for reduction of phosphorus input to the digester. They suggested that combining WAS with either primary sludge, or the supernatant from a primary sludge dewatering process, could induce biological phosphorus release from WAS. Following phosphorus release and a subsequent sludge settling step, a phosphorus-rich side stream would be generated and could be chemically treated to precipitate phosphorus and produce a potentially marketable material. The dewatered sludge would then go to the anaerobic digester, carrying a reduced phosphorus load.

For this process to effectively control phosphorus levels inside the digester, the maximum possible phosphorus release should be achieved. In this study, we compared the approach of combining WAS with primary sludge described in Chaparro and Noguera (2003) with additional approaches, such as adding acetate to WAS in an anaerobic reactor, adding acetate to WAS/primary sludge mixtures, adjusting the pH of WAS/primary sludge mixtures, and mixing WAS with sludge from acid phase digesters. In addition to evaluating phosphorus release, we also quantified the release of magnesium from WAS. **CS**



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PROBLEM STATEMENT

Currently, the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant located in southeastern Madison serves the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District's wastewater needs. The Nine Springs plant serves 43 municipal customers, and has experienced a significant increase in average daily flows in recent years. In order to treat future flows due to predicted population increase and promote retaining and reuse of water within the Yahara River Watershed, the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District 50 Year Master Plan discusses decentralizing treatment through the construction of satellite treatment plants.

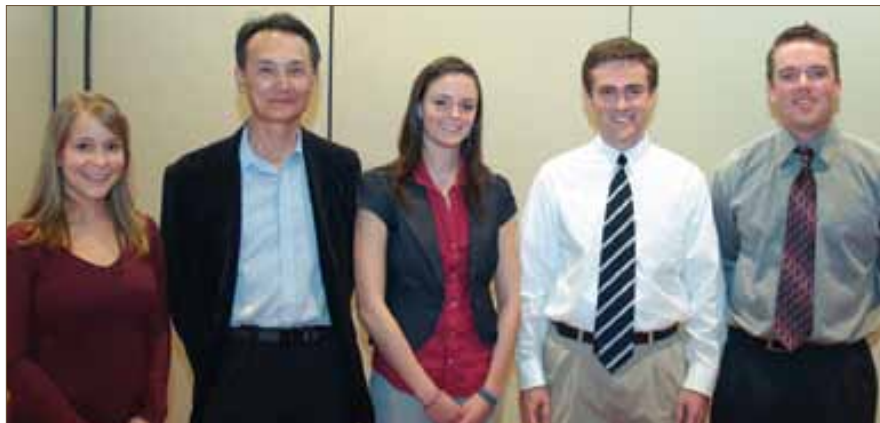
One of the decentralized high quality effluent treatment facilities proposed would be located northeast of the Dane Co. Regional Airport, which is the plant we have chosen to design. The effluent would be used for streamflow augmentation, wetland restoration at the Cherokee Marsh, groundwater filtration, or industrial reuse of water.

For this competition, a preliminary wastewater treatment plant design will be completed to address the issues stated above. The estimated influent and effluent characteristics to be considered in the design, which were established by the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

The goal of the wastewater treatment plant design is to meet the stringent regulations pertaining to Lake Mendota nutrient loading with low cost, proven technologies. The project will be nearly phosphorus neutral by discharging less phosphorus than the effluent requirements, thereby reducing the effects of eutrophication on Lake Mendota. [CS](#)

TABLE 1. Influent Characteristics

Inflow 5.18 MGD
Peak Hourly Flow 16 MGD
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5) 185 mg/L
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) 175 mg/L
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) 27 mg/L
Total Phosphorus (TP) 6.3 mg/L



L-R Beth Baumgartner, Jay Park, Flory Olson, Forrest Bishop & Charles Otis

TABLE 2. Effluent Characteristics

Specification	Influent	Effluent (Limit)	Decentralized Plant
Effluent			
BOD5	185 mg/L	7.0 mg/L	< 2.0 mg/L
TSS	175 mg/L	10.0 mg/L	< 5.0 mg/L
TKN	27 mg/L		< 3.0 mg/L
TN	4.0 mg/L		< 3.0 mg/L
TP	6.3 mg/L	0.05mg/L	0.04 – 0.05 mg/L
Bacteria			> 5 log removal
Virus			3 log removal
Turbidity			< 0.1 NTU

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Student Design Competition

Design Team: Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Authors: Ian Bradley, Sheila Markazi, Peter Maraccini, Kim Parker, Thanh H. Nguyen

Design Title: Removal of Waterborne Viruses Using Iron-Amended Biosand Filters

PROBLEM STATEMENT

1.1 billion people lack access to clean drinking water. Point of use (POU) water treatment technologies provide potable water for millions of people in developing countries that would otherwise not have access to it. Nearly 500,000 of the POU technologies in use today are biosand filters (BSFs), a household scale, intermittently operated slow sand filter. Although BSFs are effective against bacteria, protozoa, and helminthes, only 0.5-2 log removal of viruses has been shown. Students from the University of Illinois (UIUC) have formed the Guatemala Water Project, an Engineers Without Borders group, to directly address this problem. Implementation of BSFs in a rural Guatemalan village is being conducted in conjunction with the research and development of an improved filter. Laboratory studies were performed to determine if iron-amended BSFs could be designed to effectively remove human enteric viruses from source water while maintaining the original efficacy of the BSF. Iron oxides formed during iron corrosion create positively charged surfaces to which negatively charged virion particles are adsorbed and inactivated due to electrostatic interactions. Initial studies were performed using three glass columns to simulate a daily, one pore volume charged BSF using different orientations of iron. These columns were pumped with aquifer water seeded with MS-2, a bacteriophage commonly used as a surrogate for human enteric viruses, and tested for long term efficacy. After 71 days, each column had approximately 6-log removal, compared to 0.5-log removal by a fourth column with no iron. Plastic BSFs with and without mild steel nails as a source of iron were tested for the removal of MS-2 and Escherichia Coli. Then, concrete BSFs with and without commercially available iron particles were tested for the removal of MS-2. After approximately one month, the filter with iron particles sustained nearly complete



L-R. Alyssa Sohn, Paul Folwarski & Anthony Straub

removal of MS-2, between 5 and 7-log (99.999-99.99999%). All large-scale filters were also tested for pH, alkalinity, dissolved oxygen (DO), nitrates, ammo-

num, chloride, turbidity, iron, and other parameters to ensure World Health Organization

standards were met. With the successful removal of viruses, iron-amended filters provide a simple, economical, and effective solution to one of today's most pressing issues. With 350,000-500,000 BSFs in current use, and an estimated eight users per filter, between 2.8 and 4 million people could attain higher quality water and see drastically reduced rates of infection. [CS](#)



“Students from the University of Illinois (UIUC) have formed the Guatemala Water Project, an Engineers Without Borders group, to directly address this problem.”



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Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Editor's note: Christopher Welker is the WI Section CSWEA's representative to the Stockholm Junior Water Prize 2010 competition in Saint Louis this June. Presented here are the highlights of his project. The full project can be viewed at www.cswea.org.

THE EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT GENERA OF ALGAE ON THE PHOSPHORUS EXCRETION AND OXYGEN DEPLETION OF QUAGGA MUSSELS (*DREISSENA BUGENSIS*)

By Christopher Welker

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Harvey A. Bootsma, PhD and Ms. Erin Wilcox. Dr. Bootsma is an associate scientist with the Great Lakes WATER Institute, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is an expert in the areas of algal ecology and aquatic food web dynamics and I had the good fortune to be able to work with him. Ms. Wilcox is a research specialist in Dr. Bootsma's lab. I am very grateful for their help and ideas. They donated their laboratory space, equipment and, most importantly, their precious time to help me succeed.

I would also like to thank Mr. Stresman, my Biology teacher, for meeting with me at the beginning of the project and suggesting that I meet with Dr. Bootsma.

Finally, I would like to thank my Mom and Dad. They supported, drove, encouraged, and helped me so much, thanks to you both.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*) is an invasive species whose

population is growing rapidly in the Great Lakes water system as well as other inland lakes and rivers throughout the United States and even the world. Quagga mussels are efficient filter feeders, they have razor sharp shells, they reproduce quickly, they have no natural predators, and they can easily adapt to extreme conditions. As proficient filter feeders, Quagga mussels siphon certain algae which upset the Great Lakes food web. This siphoning increases water clarity levels which cause the filamentous green algae, *Cladophora*, to grow. *Cladophora* washes up on beaches causing a noxious smell and unpleasant sight. *Cladophora* also increases phosphorus levels in lakes which, in turn, increase blue-green algae blooms which produce a toxin that, if ingested, can create liver problems. As good adaptors, Quagga mussels can live in either shallow or deep water and have been found at depths of up to 130 meters. When people swim or play in near shore areas, they are subject to cuts from Quagga mussel shells. In deeper water, Quagga mussels clog underwater intake pipes and grates

for water treatment plants and other facilities. This reduces the pumping capabilities of these businesses which is costly to repair. This experiment is intended to help science determine which algae Quagga mussels ingest the most. Algae ingestion can be determined by measuring the mussels' phosphorus excretion and oxygen depletion. Scientists can use this knowledge to understand more about Quagga mussels and their contribution to the Great Lakes ecosystem.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to help scientists find out about the highly invasive, nuisance Quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*) by investigating its diet in a controlled laboratory environment, which has not been done before. It was predicted, based on observations in their natural environment, that Quagga mussels would eat more of certain genera of

algae, *Selenastrum*, *Cyclotella* and *Peridinium* than of the



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“In deeper water, Quagga mussels clog underwater intake pipes and grates for water treatment plants and other facilities. This reduces the pumping capabilities of these businesses which is costly to repair.”



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yanobacterium, *Gleocapsa*.

Consumption of algae by Quagga mussels requires the utilization of oxygen and results in the excretion of phosphorous. Therefore, two separate measures of consumption were used as dependent variables in this experiment: (1) SRP (Soluble Reactive Phosphorus) samples, and (2) dissolved oxygen samples. The independent variables were the four different genera of algae. The experiment took place in a controlled environment with a temperature of 15 degrees Celsius, in 20 liter tanks, with equal numbers of Quagga mussels per tank, constant light conditions, and equivalent concentrations of algae per tank. Two significant differences in the SRP category were found by using an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) followed by multiple t-Tests. These results showed that the consumption of *Selenastrum* and *Peridinium* was greater than that of *Gleocapsa*. There were no statistically significant differences in the measures of dissolved oxygen. Based on the measures of SRP, the experimental hypothesis was correct. *Gleocapsa* was the least consumed algae; this is thought to have happened because *Gleocapsa* has been found to be poisonous to Quagga mussels. *Selenastrum* and *Peridinium* were the most ingested; they are both nutritious for Quagga mussels. If this experiment were to be repeated, it is recommended that the sample size be increased and that temperature and depth of water be varied. It is possible there were no differences in the measures of dissolved oxygen because the Quagga mussels had been separated from their sources of algae for two hours because the SRP testing occurred first. This may be too long to wait to measure dissolved oxygen. Next time the Quagga mussels could be reintroduced to the algae and the dissolved oxygen testing could be performed immediately. [CS](#)



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Editor's note: Logan Pallin is the MN Section CSWEA's representative to the Stockholm Junior Water Prize 2010 competition in Saint Louis this June. Presented here are the highlights of his project. The full project can be viewed at www.cswea.org.

ENGINEERING A RAIN GARDEN TO CONTROL ROAD RUN-OFF IN SCANLON CREEK AND AN ASSESSMENT OF RAIN GARDENS AS THE BEST STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICE – Phase IV



Logan Pallin

Environmental Management, Grade 12, Cloquet, Minnesota

Advisor: Cynthia Welsh

Rain Garden built by researcher on Scanlon Creek

ABSTRACT

The objectives were: to reengineer a new rain garden that can treat a 25-year rain event, determine the effect a rain garden has had on the health of a trout stream, macroinvertebrate predator/prey interactions over four years, if modified Hester-dende samplers can predict the effects of construction generated road run-off on macroinvertebrate populations, and if rain gardens are the best storm water treatment process. Water quality sampling was done from a 10 meter reach before and after a rain garden construction site over a four-year period. Modified Hester-dende samplers were again used to simulate an embedded and non-embedded stream situation (allowing/limiting predation). Infiltrometer readings were compared to other local rain gardens. As an expansion of last year's study a new rain garden design was engineered and implemented. When the road run-off treated section of the stream was compared to upstream (during phase one and two of this study) the rain garden had a positive effect on temperature, discharge, pH, conductivity, Family Biotic Index (FBI), macroinvertebrate density, and diversity of food processing groups. During phase three the rain garden's positive effect diminished for some variables: oxygen, temperature, discharge, conductivity, pH, and clarity. After rain garden maintenance during phase four, oxygen,

and temperature levels improved. Scanlon Creek's rain garden infiltration rates were significantly lower than all rain gardens in the area for the past two years, positively affecting FBI and diversity. The reengineered rain garden size was increased by 108 square feet to accommodate a 25-year rain storm event.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

While doing research projects and participating in science fair events, I have been very fortunate to work with many in the community. Two years ago Dr. Kris Evans, an environmental engineer, helped develop an environmentally appropriate rain garden design based on the stream site. Larry Shelton, an excavator, was sent a grant proposal asking for his assistance in building the rain garden. Shelton Excavating then decided to support this project. On the day the rain garden was built Shelton provided the large machinery and professional operators to run them as well as the materials needed for the garden. The Shelton Excavating Co. has also been there to make repairs when necessary. I would like to thank Patricia Fowler, from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, for granting permission to build the rain garden near the designated trout stream. Larry Shelton and Dr. Kris Evans also emailed Patricia Fowler with their support of the

design. Without the help of Shelton Excavating, Dr. Kris Evans and Cloquet city planner James Prusak, the planning, organizing and construction of the rain garden would have been impossible. I'd also like to thank Amber Westerbur from Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD), for allowing me to test their rain gardens, and David Vlassin from the Ramsey Soil and Water Conservation District for his assistance on infiltrometer use. As a ninth-grader I was not knowledgeable enough to plan the actual rain garden design, because I want to be an Environmental Engineering one day, this year, Jerome Flogel mentored me through the design process and construction. And most of all, I'd like to thank science teacher Dr. Cynthia Welsh, my mentor. She has put many hours into helping me with my project; I couldn't have been so successful without her.

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) believes that storm water run-off is the main source of fresh water contamination. Road run-off may not only contain chemical contaminants, but a tremendous amount of sediment. This sediment covers the benthos (bottom of the stream) altering macroinvertebrate habitats. Embeddedness rates the degree to which rocks, gravel, cobble,

and boulders are covered or sunken into the stream benthos. As rocks become embedded, the surface area available for macroinvertebrates and fish decreases. Kick nets are often used to collect macroinvertebrates. The net is placed in the stream allowing the water to flow through the net while capturing the insect larvae. Furthermore, storm water run-off often carries the embedding sediments created from human interactions within a stream's watershed.

Society is expanding at a rapid rate. This expansion occurs during the rapid construction of homes and roads. Construction zone run-off is considered one of the main non-point source pollution contributors. Non-point source pollution is created when rainfall or snowmelt drains over hard surfaces and through the ground. While moving, this drainage water picks up and carries away natural sediments, as well as human-made pollutants. Ultimately, the pollutant-laden water flows into our lakes, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters, polluting and finding a way into our underground sources of drinking water. These pollutants include sediments mixed with excess fertilizer, oil, grease, acid drainage from abandoned mines, and bacteria from animal waste.

As far back as 1972, biologists were not the only group concerned, but the general public began to notice the degradation of our nation's waterways. This concern led the federal government to enact the *Federal Water Pollution Control Act*. In 1977, this law became known as the *Clean Water Act (CWA)*. Originally, CWA's main focus was point-source (industrial effluent) pollution. By the late 1980s, an effort to assess the impact polluted non-point source run-off was having on our waterways increased. Volunteer programs were established to determine a baseline water quality level while also monitoring local waterways. A regulatory approach has now been established to monitor "wet and dry weather point sources" that may be entering through urban storm sewer systems and construction sites.

Initially, after a building site is cleared and before construction is initiated, surface erosion begins to occur, often at a rate 150 times greater than before work began. Consequently, during a short period, building sites can contribute more non-point sediment to waterways and drainage

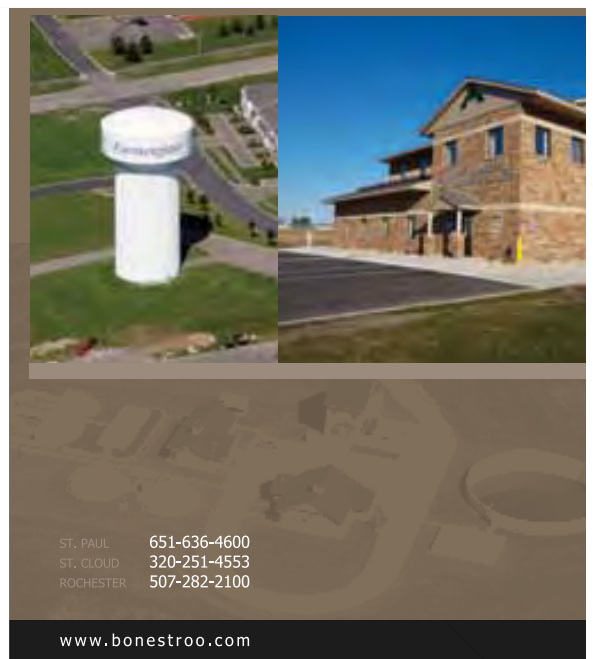
systems than would normally be deposited over several decades. The specific effects of non-point source pollutants on waterways vary and are difficult to fully assess. However, scientists know that these pollutants are negatively impacting our world's drinking water supply, water recreation, fisheries, and wildlife.

Rain gardens serve as one impervious pavement run-off treatment that may help to minimize embeddedness. Rain gardens capture, slow down, and infiltrate the rain run-off that flows from roads, roofs, and other hard surfaces. They are planted with native vegetation which then uptake some of the water and pollutants from the run-off. Rain garden plants use rainwater run-off, thus conserving water, as well as helping to protect the water quality of our lakes and rivers. These plants are naturally found near aquatic ecosystems so they are hardy and low maintenance.

There are a wide variety of ways to construct a rain garden. For a standard rain garden, a shallow depression is dug into the ground. The circumference of the rain garden depends on the calculated volume of water that one would expect to flow into the rain garden during a storm event. A shallow swale (ipraff) covered in blast rock directs rain water toward the rain garden. The variety of native plants planted in the garden depends on the type of soil and soil moisture levels. Some plants grow better in soils with higher moisture content while others prefer a

dry environment. The native vegetation planted in the center of the rain garden requires more moisture, while vegetation planted on the outside of the garden requires less water. Depending on the soil type, soil moisture, and the characteristics of the area, different layers and materials are added to the rain garden.

Currently, the education of landowners near waterways has increased, including the availability of tools shown to stop sediment from flowing into rivers. Such tools include rain gardens, pervious pavement run-off treatments, and for bigger parking lots and/or run-off entry sites, infiltration islands and grass overflow parking areas. One way to examine the efficiency of rain gardens is to calculate and compare their soil moisture content and infiltration rates. Infiltration measures the volume of water that can flow through the soil in millimeters/hour. Over time rain garden infiltration rates may decrease as urban expansion and road run-off increases. Consequently, methods need to be developed that allow stream ecologists to proactively predict the impact of non-point source generated run-off, as well as determining if rain gardens are the best way to manage storm water run-off. Even with the increased efforts to educate the public and regulate run-off, little is known concerning the impact that road run-off and non-point source pollution are having on stream ecosystems. [CS](#)



Biologicals for FOG Pretreatment: TO DOSE OR NOT TO DOSE?

By Michael Boschitsch

The debate of whether to allow the use of biologicals at source to deal with FOG (fats, oils, and grease) rages on. It does so in large part, because of an inadequate understanding of both the biochemistry involved as well as the statutes around it. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing and developing effective FOG statutes requires more than just a little dangerous knowledge.

First let's understand what we mean by biologicals. For FOG pretreatment, these are typically divided into two main categories: enzymes and bacteria. Enzymes are not a live "biological" per se, in fact they are typically a protein generated by live organisms and act as a catalyst for other reactions. For instance when we chew food, our saliva contains enzymes that break down the food for easier digestion. For FOG control, lipase, the enzyme of choice, breaks down fat molecules into their smaller components of glycerol and fatty acid for consumption by bacteria. Used alone, however, enzymes only do half the job. Because they are not live organisms, they don't actually consume FOG – they simply break it down or emulsify it. Emulsification is when the fat that goes into the drains is converted into tiny little droplets that essentially

become one with the water that carries it away. What this means in food service is that grease traps that rely on the separation of fat from water become ineffective as the emulsified fat passes straight through the trap and into the city sewers where dilution allows the fat to recombine. As far as municipal operations are concerned this is not the best solution as FOG producers simply pass the problem along to them.

Bacteria, in contrast, are living organisms. Bacteria secrete their own enzymes to break down the fat molecule into bite size pieces, and the bacteria then complete the job by consuming the glycerol and fatty acids leaving behind mainly water and minute amounts of CO₂. Don't worry about the CO₂ though, because amounts are negligible compared to the impact of pumping out the drains and sewers, disposal and processing of the effluent, periodic overflows into storm drains and disposal of fat into landfill.

But not all strains of bacteria are created equal. Bacteria can be broken down into spore formers and non-spore formers. Spore formers protect themselves in harsh environments by surrounding themselves with a protective outer layer or spore. If conditions become uncomfortable, such as high or low pH, high tempera-

ture, turbulence, etc. the spore comes on and the bacteria hunkers down and weathers out the storm. The downside is that in its spore state, this bacteria doesn't consume but becomes dormant until conditions become more civilized. Spore formers are the bacteria of choice in digestion ponds at waste water treatment facilities where conditions are pH balanced, with average temperatures and little turbulence.

In a dynamic system such as a kitchen or food service establishment, however, conditions are unfavorable throughout the day. Discharges from sinks, dishwashers and floor drains tend to be caustic, hot, surfactant laden water with significant turbulence as the water runs through the pipes. Once the spore is formed, it can take up to 36 hours before the bacteria becomes active again and until then, no fat is being consumed and many of the bacteria are simply washed away with little effect other than adding to the biomass that already exists within the sewer system. As a result, spore forming bacterial systems are often dosed at night. Without any actual water flow through the drains, however, spore formers can't move very far and are slow to colonize before being washed away again by the next day's activities.

Non-spore formers, as the name would suggest, don't form spores. They tend to be hardier and are active within a larger range of environments and unless frozen or dead, they exist in a perpetually active state. What this means is that as soon as they are introduced into a drain or sewer system, they go to work right away, consuming many times their volume in FOG. They too, will die and add to the biomass, but not before converting significantly

more FOG into water. As a result, for dynamic systems as typically found in food service environments and even municipal sewer systems, non spore forming bacteria are most effective.

Another area of confusion is that of the statutes themselves. Many jurisdictions state that no additives may be introduced to the grease trap or may be used in order to pass grease through the grease trap. This makes perfect sense, in that a grease trap is supposed to trap grease and prevent it from entering into the sewer system. An enzyme, as an emulsifying agent does exactly that – moves the FOG through the grease trap and beyond. Adding bacteria to a grease trap is not helpful in that the trap is a very poor environment for bugs to colonize or be effective. Instead, they simply add to the biomass. Where bacteria are useful, is in keeping the drain lines clean leading up to and away from the grease trap. Without proper maintenance, a grease trap will allow FOG to pass through at the best of times and bacteria go a long way to mitigating the impact of FOG that moves past the grease trap.

Unfortunately, many inspectors and regulators read the restriction to mean that the use of any biological in the drain system is 100% forbidden, which is very rarely the case. Disallowing all biologicals because some applications are harmful is like disallowing all vehicles on public roads in order to reduce traffic accidents. The severity of the impact of FOG on public infrastructure and funds, demands that municipalities explore every proven means available to combat this silent demon. As with any effective solution, we simply have to use the right tool for the job and to do that we must educate ourselves as to what tools there are and how they work. [CS](#)

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Outreach and Engagement

By Eddie McCall

It is a great honor for me to serve as your Chair of the Illinois Section of CSWEA. I have big shoes to fill, left behind by the Chairs of years past. Nonetheless, I embrace this challenge and I am eager to lead the Section forward over the coming year. To facilitate this endeavor, I will be working closely with the talented individuals on the Section committees. The unique skills and expertise of each committee member will be instrumental in building the Illinois Section into an even stronger, more vital, and far reaching organization. As Franklin D. Roosevelt once wrote, "People acting together as a group can accomplish things that no individual acting alone could ever hope to bring about."

Under the leadership of Gary Scott, the past year proved to be very successful for the Illinois Section. My goal as this year's Section Chair is to continue to build on Gary's success by focusing on the following:

- Continuing to brand the organization
- Continuing to build strong committees and technical seminars
- Continuing to increase member recruitment and engagement

I will work with the Section committees to continue to brand the Illinois Section of CSWEA as a place where professionals come to network, gain knowledge, and obtain their professional development credits. In these difficult economic times where budgetary constraints are all too common, it will be even more important to emphasize the value that membership and



involvement in our organization affords each individual.

As we learned from the success of the recent one-day educational seminar in Madison, Wisconsin, and from other Section events, a strong program is critical for the success of our technical seminars. I will work with each committee Chair to recruit individuals to help build even stronger programs for the technical seminars. The talented and committed professionals currently serving as committee Chairs (Mark Eddington, Gary Scott, John Szewdo, Roger Gyger, Mary Dressel,

Rich Hussey, and Scott Trotter) will ensure the success of this endeavor.

Finally, the future success of every great organization depends not just on the involvement of its existing members but also on the recruitment and engagement of new members. I will continue to encourage young professionals from all backgrounds to actively participate in Section events. In addition, continued engagement of more senior professionals from the municipal and private sectors will be a critical success factor. Over the course of the current year, my goal is to continue to increase outreach and engagement such that the success of the past will be carried into the future.

In closing, I am very excited to lead this Section and, with the support of all of you, I am looking forward to taking it to an even higher level of success. **CS**

"I will work with the Section committees to continue to brand the Illinois Section of CSWEA as a place where professionals come to network, gain knowledge, and obtain their professional development credits."

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Drag Someone Along

By Keith Haas

I have always looked at life as a passport booklet getting my book stamped from every turn my career takes me. It's kind of like visiting all the countries at EPCOT and getting your passport stamped as you pass through the park. This year I received a stamp of approval to become the Section Chair for the Wisconsin Section of Central States. I am honored to have been handed the gavel in Madison in May 2010. The Section is in great shape thanks to the leadership of Jim Beier and the continued dedication of David Arnott to keep us on an even and consistent keel. Our other assets are the membership and the committees that we have. We continue to provide excellent programs throughout the year for our members and colleagues.

My theme for the next year is "Drag someone along". Ten short years ago someone dragged me along to a CSWEA annual meeting and today I am the Chair. I have met many great people in the industry in the past ten years and continue to meet a select group of dedicated professionals who have shaped and molded our section to what it is today.

Summer is finally here and seems shorter every year. While the economy is slowly recovering, we are facing issues of phosphorus, arsenic, SSOs and more mandates from our regulators. Where will it all end? One thing is for sure, we will all be a lot smarter when we are done with the process of dealing



with the legal aspects of wastewater treatment.

The annual meeting in Madison at Monona Terrace was a great event. The local arrangements committee did an excellent job despite cool weather. David Arnott ran the Wisconsin State Section breakfast meeting and did an admirable job. Special thanks to outgoing chairperson Jim Beier who infused his energy into the section over the course of the past year. The technical program was interesting and covered the gamut of many projects and issues we are dealing with in our industry. Special thanks to the exhibitors as

well who showed me several interesting new products that are available to help our industry move into the next decade.

The CSWEA CSX-YPX event is scheduled for July 15 and 16 in the Wisconsin Dells at the Kalahari Resort. We hope to see you and your family there for some fresh ideas about our future and a relaxing inner tube float on the lazy river. WEFTEC is in New Orleans October 2-6 for any of you fortunate enough to attend.

In keeping with our theme for 2010, when you plan to attend your next technical seminar offered by CSWEA remember to "drag someone along". For many of us we will be handing the reigns of our careers and service work to a younger member of our profession in a shorter time frame than you might think. It is important to keep an enthusiastic perspective with our younger members as our future is in their hands. **CS**

**"My theme for the next year is "Drag someone along".
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Blueprint for the Coming Year

By Ted Field

As the new chair of the Minnesota section, my first thoughts are about the size of the shoes I have to fill. Jason Benson did a wonderful job guiding the section last year and set a standard I will try to match in leading the section this year.

In the coming year the Minnesota section will be served by other new leaders, John Friel as Vice-Chair, Alison Sumption as Secretary/Treasurer, and John Glatzmaier as Trustee. Together, along with several other volunteers who are continuing their service to our cause, we look forward to maintaining successful traditions and supporting new ideas and initiatives.

Many of us are returning to our routines after having attended the 83rd Annual CSWEA meeting in Madison. Despite a slight decline in attendees, the meeting was a success, with a great variety of events and programs, including no shortage of strong technical presentations that spanned the breadth of relevant issues our industry faces today, from new technology to tried-and-true management practices. Through it all there was fellowship and fun. The Minnesota section is looking forward to hosting next year's meeting with the same success at the Northland Inn in Brooklyn Park.

Already, the section is talking about the subjects we want to tackle in the coming year. Greg Johnson will take the lead of the Government Affairs Committee and has begun to address the regulatory issues that impact our region. One of the first orders of business will be to work with the other sections to review and comment on the draft arsenic TMDL for a segment of the Mississippi River.

We're in the planning stages for our annual Conference on the Environment, which we co-host every fall with the Air and Waste Management Association. The conference is Tuesday, November 9 at the Earle Brown Center in Brooklyn Center. And, of course,



before this summer ends, we will be gathering in Grand Rapids the last week in July to learn, celebrate and exchange ideas at the MWOA Conference, at a great venue for outdoor activities where the sun, water, forests, and fairways beckon.

In his message this past spring, Jason wrote about an upcoming project on which I'd like to expand. The project is *Blueprint Minnesota: Liquid Assets*, a film documentary the Minnesota section of CSWEA is strongly promoting and is taking a lead in contributing funds toward its production. I look forward to being part of this important project.

If you stopped by the CSWEA exhibit table at the annual meeting in Madison you may have viewed part of the video that was on display. The video was *Liquid Assets, The Story of Our Water Infrastructure*, and was produced by Penn State Public Broadcasting with the support of numerous organizations including WEF, ASCE, and AWWA. The video, which provides a conceptual outline for our documentary, illustrates and describes the water and wastewater systems on which our lives depend. It educates general audiences about the many pipes under our busy streets, what they do, where they go, and how vital they are to society and our way of life. Its audience includes schools, various public-interest groups, interested citizens, and civic leaders – in other words, the stakeholders who use these systems and want them to perform well.

But the video also sounds an alarming message that our infrastructure is suffering from neglect and that without a strong commitment to keep it whole our future could be in trouble. So, the video is also a call to action. Its audience can also include legislators and policy makers.

Our goal is to produce a similar documentary, but one with a more regional focus. The documentary will demonstrate the value of Minnesota's water resources, our pride in these resources, and what must be done to protect them. When it's done our *Liquid*

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Assets will be aired several times on public television and copies will be made available to distribute and show to interested groups. So far, we have raised a little over half of the \$30,000 needed for its production. Everyone can help in a variety of ways, but the immediate need is expanded sponsorship. Check out www.blueprintMN.com for more information.

Lastly, our section provides numerous opportunities for everyone to serve, opportunities to grow professionally and give your time and talents back to our great organization. Check out the list of committees and committee chairs at www.cswea.org/minnesota. Contact the chair of the committee you'd like to join and offer your help. They'd love to hear from you. [CS](#)

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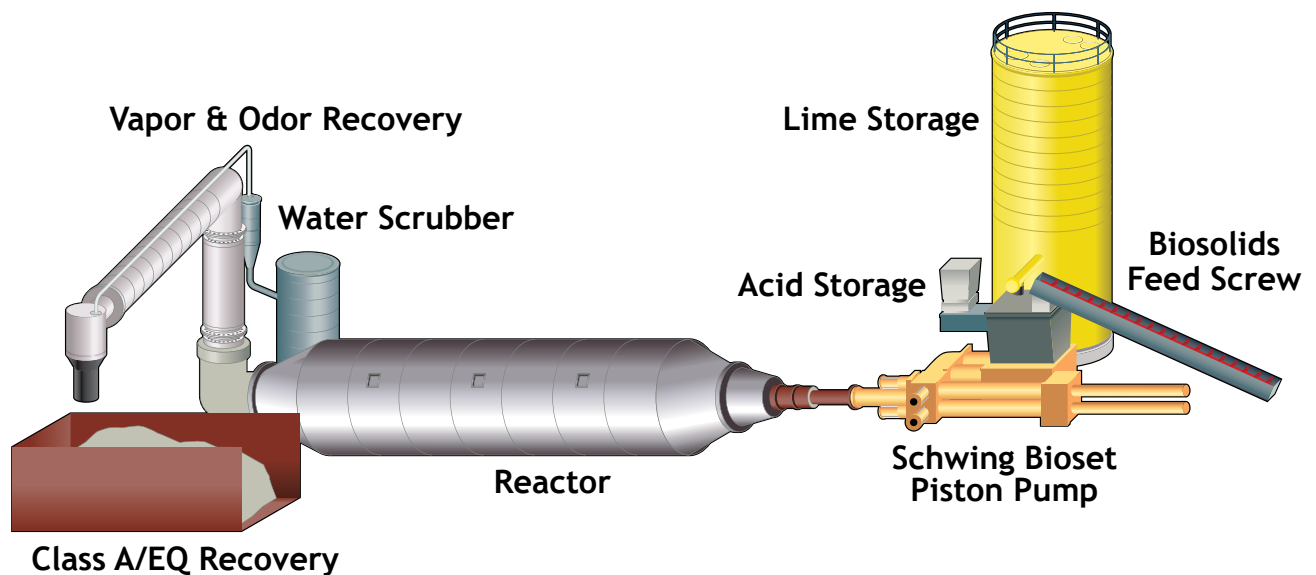
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Late Summer, 2010
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MWOA 34th Annual Conference

July 27-30, 2010
Grand Rapids, MN

WI Section Collection System Seminar Northwoods

July 29, 2010
Marshfield, WI
Pre-conference Golf Outing

AUGUST

WI Section Management Seminar

August 5, 2010
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Richfield, WI

OCTOBER

WEFTEC 2010

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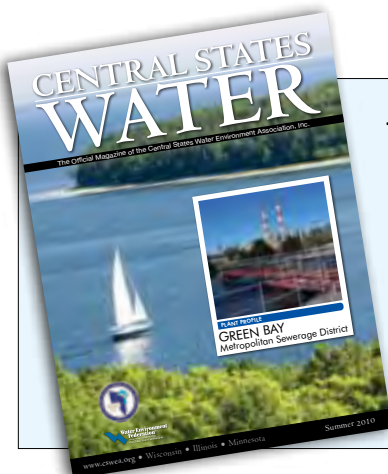
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