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FALL 2016

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MOVING FORWARD

JOHN WILLEMIN

Transition complete! Mission accomplished! We have reorganized into six Councils! We have a great staff in place! We're done! Break out the drink tickets!

Well, not so fast. You could say that we are only wrapping up the easy part of "The Transition." More challenges await. However, we have accomplished a lot in the last few years, and I would like to recap a few highlights.

First, why did we do it? We have a rich tradition in our 78 years, but the reality facing our organization (and most other professional organizations) is that people are busy and there is a lot of competition


for their time. An honest look at how we were tracking with membership and participation told us we should rethink ourselves a bit, to see if we could improve the benefits to our members, attract more members to participate in volunteer activities, and make sure the organization remains viable and relevant into the future.

The transition, in short, consisted of the hiring of our Executive Director and staff and reorganizing our forty-three, yes, forty-three, Committees into six Councils. The first part was a natural progression of our shift from a 100% volunteer organization to paid staff. That has been a great success, with very talented and dedicated people in place. The second part is off to a great start. All of the Councils are established with a core group of volunteers who are conducting the critical business of the Section (while having some fun along the way).

Common themes emerged during the planning for the transition. These included the need to make the Board more strategic in its workings, better coordinate our educational offerings and events, make our awards consistent, and improve our visibility with legislators. The reorganization of the Committees was a way to achieve many of these goals. But it has not been easy. Not all the Committees were a perfect "fit" into the respective Councils. The Councils will need to continue to evolve.

The business side of the Section needs to continue to evolve as well. The Executive Director and the Board are still working to get the Section "in the black." While we are getting ever closer, we are still not there. We remain financially secure, due in part to the foresight of previous Boards to anticipate and plan for this time by building up reserve funds. These are being used to manage our finances until our business plan is fully implemented. The tools to achieve this goal will be many, including expanded training and consideration of a Section assessment (which is an added membership fee used by many AWWA Sections). You will be hearing much more about these in the coming months.

The transition has consumed much of the Board's time over the last four years. Additionally, much energy this past year was focused on the situation in Flint. It was a priority to devote time and attention (and resources) to this situation that has affected our industry with what are sure to be long lasting impacts. We will need to balance our continued efforts on that front while also focusing on our other priorities.

I am looking forward to the coming year as Chair. I hope to hear about your ideas for the Section in the coming months. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me, or any of the Board members, with ideas, questions, or concerns. It is up to all of us to decide what we want the Section to do and be moving forward. 

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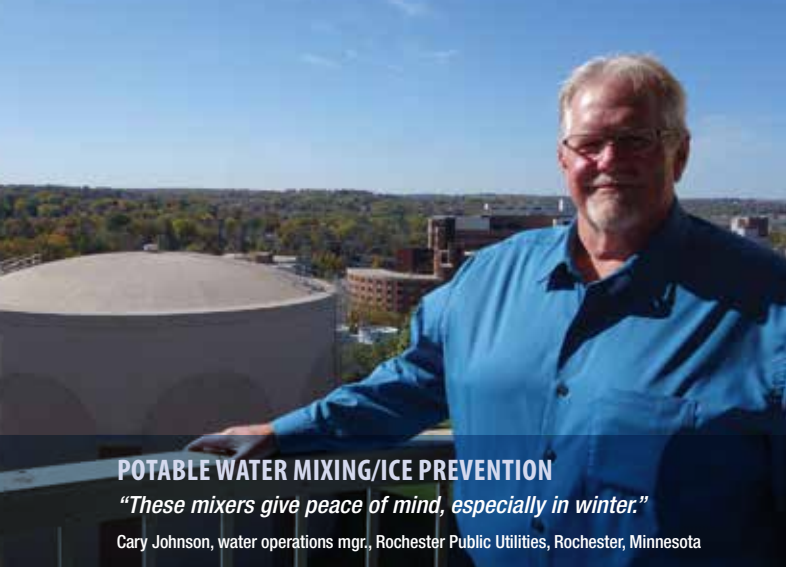
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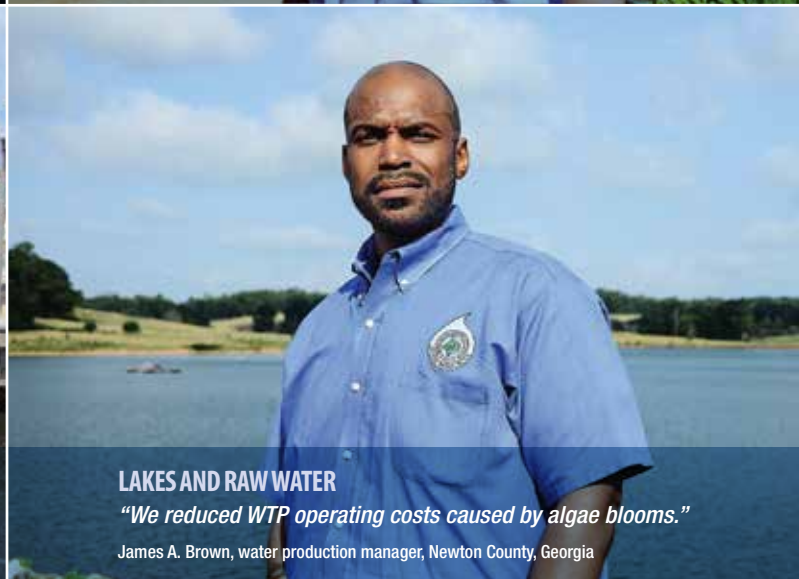
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HONORED AND EXCITED

MARK COLEMAN, DIRECTOR

Honored and excited. Two simple words, yet ones that pack a strong emotional punch!!! I am honored to have been selected by you to follow in the very large footsteps of Brian Steglitz and his predecessors to serve as the Michigan Section Director to the AWWA. I am privileged to be in this position for the upcoming three years and look forward to being an integral part of the conduit between our Section and the Association.

I attended the AWWA Board Meeting as an Incoming Director during ACE2016 and, WOW, do we have a lot of exciting and interesting stuff happening. I am very excited to be a part of these interesting and dynamic activities that are occurring. I look forward to sharing them with you and getting your feedback on the direction the Association is going in order to provide us the information, training and tools needed to be successful.

In this *Water Works News* Edition, I have selected two current AWWA initiatives to summarize, AWWA 2020 and Total Water Solutions. It is my hope that you will find this information useful in getting a handle on the direction of the Association and what they are doing to enhance your AWWA experience. In addition to updating you on their progress, my future WWN reports will touch on other important activities that are occurring within the Association.

AWWA2020: A Path to One AWWA

To strengthen the relationship between the 43 sections and the Association,

during ACE14, the AWWA Board of Directors moved to launch *AWWA2020: A Path to One AWWA*. The plan, actively developed by both the sections and the Association, is designed to unite the Association and the Sections around business processes and a common strategic plan. Think of it as a six-year roadmap toward closer collaboration designed around five strategic areas: membership, education, finance, branding and communication.

This initiative recognizes our collective impact will be more powerful if we are commonly branded, have a unified education program, pursue financial strategies that are in the best interests of all members, communicate efficiently and remain focused on bringing members together to share knowledge. Examples of the various kinds of collaboration completed to date include developing joint educational programs, creating an Education Summit, improving database access, updating the membership structure, engaging in joint goal-setting work, finding opportunities for cost-sharing and developing a suite of website and branding materials that can be used by all of AWWA.

Total Water Solutions®

In late 2012, AWWA decided to expand its relevance in the water sector by providing solutions for all issues facing water utilities today. As summarized by the AWWA initiative leader during the Board Meeting I attended: "The reality is that fresh water sources are at risk. Water sources are

stressed by population growth, climate change, land-use changes and pollution which is only intensified by aging infrastructure and natural and other manmade causes. Many water utilities provide a range of services including drinking water production, wastewater collection/treatment and stormwater management. Treated wastewater and stormwater are not only discharged into our drinking water supplies but are also being looked at as a valuable resource on their own – either to supplement an existing water resource portfolio or to supplant a currently unsustainable supply. In addition, reuse water is a viable alternative for many utilities."

Accomplishments to date include: the development and publication of online Resource Communities for wastewater, wastewater collection systems, reuse and stormwater; the creation of the *Partnership for Clean Water*, a companion program to the highly successful *Partnership for Safe Water*; and the development of AWWA standards including management standards on direct potable reuse and on stormwater management, plus four new wastewater product standards. We also participated in the January 2016 AWWA International Symposium on Potable Reuse, which included multiple water sector organizations as partners and addressed the latest innovations in treatment and monitoring technology.

Thanks for your attention! Give me a shout if you would like additional information or simply want to chat. I am looking forward to an exciting three years as your MI AWWA Director. 💧

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YOUR ACTIONS CAN IMPACT THOSE AROUND YOU

BONNIFER BALLARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If you had to boil down what one factor helped you most in your professional life, what would you say? I would have to say – the people around me.

This realization was powerful for me and has helped shaped the professional I am and the leader I strive to be. My education has been in business and leadership. Most of my classes and my work experience have been about leveraging resources. What more valuable resource than people? It is a concept that holds true whether you're working at a municipal water supply, a small startup, a global consulting firm, or a non-profit.

I thought I would share with you what I've learned about my actions as a leader that most impact those around me. Maybe you can put these ideas to work for you too.

#5 Check your ego at the door.

This is harder than you think. Yes, it can mean not worrying about taking credit for something. Stay focused on the good of the organization. However, our ego manifests in a variety of ways: ownership of a project, or our tie to a particular way of doing things. Our ego gets in the way of active listening and prevents us from seeing new ideas.

Say good job to someone who completed a hard task. Find ways for yourself to celebrate the small things you accomplish. You'll be surprised at how much this makes a difference in yourself and those around you.

#2 Care.

Weird, huh? No, I'm not talking about hugging in the workplace. I'll leave that to your good discretion. What I am talking about is showing genuine interest in those you work with and making decisions that do as much good as possible, or at least as little harm as possible, to your colleagues.

#1 Be the change.

One of my favorite quotes of all time is from Mahatma Gandhi. "Be the change that you wish to see in the world." You may have heard that old adage, "if you're not part of the solution, then you're part of the problem." Same concept. Change always starts with ourselves first. If something is wrong or broken, look to yourself first.

#4 Say please and thank you.

Simple enough but too often forgotten. Whether you're a director, a shift leader, or work on your own and have to interact with the billing clerk, treating those around you with courtesy opens the door to cooperation and collaboration.

#3 Celebrate the small things.

OK, this one might be a little warm and fuzzy for some of you. It is for me. However, I've learned that none of us can push that grindstone endlessly. We need to give ourselves and each other a break, and remember to celebrate the small things. I'm not talking a party with cake and balloons (although cake is always a good thing). Just remember to say congratulations to someone who won a promotion.

These are not original concepts. I have learned these from books and trainings as well as the amazing people that I have had the luck and pleasure to work with. And my realization that it's the people that make success - mine and my organization's - was freeing and humbling. Thank you all for being part of my success. 💧



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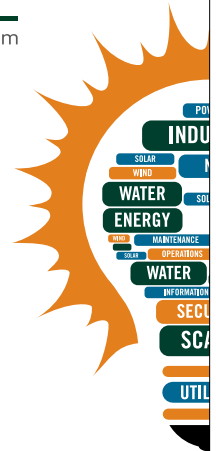
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ASSET MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

By Allen Gelderloos, PE, Technical Network Council

The Asset and Infrastructure Management (AIM) Committee, a joint committee of Michigan AWWA and MWEA, has as its first goal to provide information and training related to development of Asset Management Programs. In accordance with MDEQ guidance, Asset Management is comprised of five core components:

1. Asset Inventory
2. Level of Service
3. Critical Assets
4. Revenue Structure
5. Capital Improvement Planning

As part of its goal to provide education in Asset Management, the committee is preparing a series of articles on each of these five core components. This article will discuss the fifth component – Capital Improvement Planning.

- Benefits of Capital Improvement Planning
- Ensures the timely repair and replacement of aging infrastructure.
- Provides opportunity for public input in budget and financing process.
- Eliminates “rate shock” – sharp increases in user rates and debt levels to cover unexpected capital improvements.
- Eliminates unanticipated, poorly planned, or unnecessary capital expenditures.
- Identifies the most economical means of financing capital improvements.

A capital improvement plan (CIP) is a planning tool used to coordinate the timing and financing of capital improvements over a multi-year period. While many utilities generate 5 to 10-year CIPs, SRF/DWRF and State guidance for asset management

requires a 20-year planning period. Capital improvements refer to major, non-recurring physical expenditures for items such as equipment, tankage, structures, buildings, and collection system infrastructure. The CIP includes a brief description of proposed improvement projects, a year-by-year schedule of project costs, and funding sources.

Most municipalities identify a capital project as a new construction, expansion, renovation, or replacement project with a total cost of at least a certain amount. The amount of \$10,000 is a common threshold for small and medium municipalities, with higher thresholds for larger municipalities. The projects typically have a useful life of greater than one year.

Capital Improvement Planning is a process that can be done at any time, but typically occurs in earnest prior to updating the annual budget. Plans typically identify specific projects that are anticipated in the short-term (i.e., next five years). For example, “Replace Pumps 1 and 2 at Pump Station A” may be a CIP based on the known, current condition of the pumps.

CIPs can also include major projects 10 to 20 years into the future. Projects in this timeframe will be more general in nature and typically rely on ballpark cost estimates. For example, “Pump Station A Rehabilitation,” may be based on the fact that in 15 years, most of the equipment will be near the end of its useful and require a major renovation.

To ensure adequate funding at the time of the project, it is important to include factors for contractor installation (if a contractor is required), contingency, and inflation. Contingency (10 to 30%) can be used to cover costs that would likely be incurred, but are not yet defined. Inflation for construction projects and equipment is currently about 2.5% per year. With compounding interest, the cost of a project five years

in the future will be 13% greater than today’s cost. Check with your financial department to make sure they are not also accounting for inflation!

If your WWRF is meeting permit and your community has a stable population, CIP projects typically consist of in-kind replacement projects. Improvements, such as a more energy efficient model or replacing with the latest technology, can be included in the project when the equipment will be at the end of its useful life or based on its anticipated condition.

If your community is experiencing growth, or major portions of the plant require renovation, or you are anticipating new regulations (i.e., lower effluent nutrient level, biosolids disposal, etc.), a study or master plan should be conducted to evaluate a range of alternatives. A master plan is a more in-depth study of anticipated future conditions, evaluation and comparison of multiple alternatives and their impact on the rest of the system, and selection of the best alternative. The CIP will include projects based on the best alternative from the Master Plan.

With all the competing capital improvement needs in a wastewater collection system and WWRF, it can become overwhelming to prioritize and schedule projects within a five-year CIP. Asset management planning provides an approach for assigning criticality to each asset using a data-driven method based on both the Probability of Failure and Consequence of Failure. A previous article by the AIM Committee in *MWEA Matters* (Winter 2016) described how to assign a value to the criticality, or “Business Risk” of each asset. This approach provides a more defensible and consistent approach for prioritizing projects each year.

Capital improvements can be financed in a variety of ways. Lower cost improvements will be paid off



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on an annual basis. Larger capital improvements will require some form of debt service (bonds, State Revolving Fund loan, etc.).

The AIM Committee's goal is to build upon the guidance of the MDEQ with the Asset Management Guidance for Water and Wastewater Systems which can be found on their website at: www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3307_3515_4143-10784--,00.html.

If you are interested in joining the AIM committee, please contact Sally Duffy at sduffy@hrc-engr.com or Jennifer Drinan at jennifer.drinan@ohm-advisors.com.

If you have any questions regarding this article, please contact AIM committee member Allen Gelderloos, PE at agelderloos@fveng.com. ♠

TECHNICAL NETWORK COUNCIL (TNC) UPDATE

By Geneva Vanlerberg, Technical Network Council

The TNC has some exciting plans for this year. We are going to host multiple in-person technical networking events. Events will include a plant/facility tour or technical presentation followed by discussion and refreshments at a local restaurant. Grow your professional network, showcase your facility, and tell your story. Keep reading your Michigan Water Works Update emails for details on these upcoming events. Also visit the MI-AWWA website calendar for a list of events. If you have a facility you want to show off, please contact our Council to put you on the schedule. Additionally, this Council provides technical resources for speakers, panelists, expert review, etc. Make the TNC your "home" in the Section and grow your network. Contact Council chair, Geneva Vanlerberg for more information at gmv@lbwl.com or 517-702-6544. ♠



EDUCATION COUNCIL UPDATE

By: Robert Miller, Education and Training Council



THE HARD WORKING VOLUNTEERS OF THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING COUNCIL PULLED TOGETHER SOME GREAT IDEAS AND BUILT ON EXISTING COLLABORATIONS WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION THAT WILL RESULT IN GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS.

I hope this issue of *Water Works News* finds everyone well rested from the summer now behind us. By the time this goes to print, my kids will be back to school and we will be back to a bit more of a routine. But at the moment, I'm in the hotel lobby at the foot of the Mackinaw Bridge with my raging children in the waterpark behind me. I told my wife I had "work" to do, but really just needed a quick break from our vacation.

Before breaking for the summer season, the hard working volunteers of the Education and Training Council pulled together some great ideas and built on existing collaborations within the organization that will result in great opportunities for our industry professionals. A very exciting effort currently underway is the revitalization of the Algae and Plankton course. The ETC has formed a task force that has representation from Utility Managers, MDEQ, and academic professionals. The task force has been working with Grand Valley State University as a potential host for a 2017 offering. We are only in the planning stages, but the idea already seems to be cultivating a lot of interest. If this sounds like something you may be interested in, please let a member of the Education and Training Council know via the MI-AWWA website. Your feedback will help us for planning into the future.

Planning for the Fall Regionals is complete, and as always we look forward to everyone filling the venues for another excellent round of

distribution-themed presentations. Also underway on the technical side is a review of the content and settings of our always-popular Water Chemistry and Water Bacteriology courses. These skills are more important than ever, as it seems to be becoming more and more difficult to receive this type of training on the job. As everyone attempts to do more with less, expectations are growing ever higher for new and existing employees. A special thanks to Janice Skadsen and Jaime Fleming for assistance with this effort.

Thanks again to all who have attended and helped to provide the educational programming of MI-AWWA.

Our volunteers are invaluable and can never be thanked enough. As always, please continue to provide your feedback and communicate your ideas to ensure the future success of industry education in the state of Michigan. 💧




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2017 TRAINING CALENDAR

February

- 2/7 – 2/8** Joint Expo 2017
at Lansing Center in Lansing with MWEA
- 2/7 & 2/8** Operators' Day
at Lansing Center in Lansing with MWEA
- 2/8** Infrastructure Funding Seminar
at Lansing Center in Lansing with MWEA
- 2/21 – 2/22** Borchardt Conference
Presented by U of M and co-sponsored by MI-AWWA, MWEA, and MDEQ
- 2/22** Cross Connection Seminar – Basic
at Lansing Community College–West in Lansing with MDEQ

March

- 2/28 – 3/02** Basic Math & Hydraulics Short Course
at Gull Lake Conference Center in Hickory Corners with MDEQ
- 2/28 – 3/02** Water Treatment Short Course I
at Gull Lake Conference Center in Hickory Corners with MDEQ
- 3/7 – 3/9** Short Course in Water Chemistry
at Michigan State University in East Lansing
- TBD 2017** Small Systems SDWA
at CMU in Mt Pleasant with RCAP
- TBD 2017** Small Systems SDWA
at WMU in Kalamazoo with RCAP
- 3/28 - 3/30** Limited Treatment Short Course
at Kettunen Center in Tustin with MDEQ
- 3/28 - 3/30** Distribution Short Course
at Kettunen Center in Tustin with MDEQ

April

- 4/11** Spring Regional Meeting
at Laurel Manor Conference Center in Livonia
- 4/12** Spring Regional Meeting
at Western Michigan University Fetzer Center in Kalamazoo
- TBD** Lab Practices Seminar With MWEA
- 4/18 – 4/19** UP Water Works Institute
at Terrace Inn, Gladstone
- TBD** Distribution System Practices Seminar
at Lansing Community College–West in Lansing
- 4/18** Spring Regional Meeting
at Comfort Inn & Suites in Mt. Pleasant
- 4/19** Spring Regional Meeting
at Otsego Club & Resort in Gaylord

May

- TBD** Small Systems EFC Workshop
at CMU in Mt Pleasant with EFC
- 5/9 – 5/11** Short Course in Water Bacteriology
at Michigan State University in East Lansing
- TBD** Water Security Summit
at Eagle Eye
- 5/23** Water Sector Customer Service

June

- 6/11 – 6/14** AWWA ACE17
in Philadelphia, PA
- TBD** Small Systems Conference
in Ionia

July

- TBD** Plankton Short Course
in Muskegon

August

- 8/2** Water Sector Leadership Forum

September

- 9/6** Cross Connection Seminar – Advanced
at Lansing Community College–West in Lansing with MDEQ
- 9/12 – 9/15** MI-AWWA Annual Conference & Exhibits
at Shanty Creek, Bellaire, MI
- 9/20** Cross Connection Seminar – Advanced
in Gaylord with MDEQ
- 9/30 – 10/4** WEFTEC
in Chicago

October

- 10/3** Fall Regional Meeting
at Laurel Manor Conference Center in Livonia
- 10/4** Fall Regional Meeting
at Western Michigan University Fetzer Center in Kalamazoo
- 10/10 – 10/12** Distribution System Short Course
at Gull Lake Conference Center in Hickory Corners with MDEQ
- 10/10 – 10/12** Limited Treatment Short Course
at Gull Lake Conference Center in Hickory Corners with MDEQ
- 10/18 – 10/20** Basic Math & Hydraulics Short Course
at Kettunen Center in Tustin with MDEQ
- 10/18 – 10/20** Water Treatment Short Course II
at Kettunen Center in Tustin with MDEQ
- 10/24** Fall Regional Meeting
at Comfort Inn & Suites in Mt. Pleasant
- 10/25** Fall Regional Meeting
at Otsego Club & Resort in Gaylord
- 10/24 – 10/25** U.P. Distribution Seminar
at Ramada, Marquette
- TBD** Health & Safety Seminar
at Eagle Eye Golf Club in Lansing
- 10/26** Water Operator Review Session

November

- TBD** Asset Management Seminar
at Eagle Eye Golf Club in Lansing

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MI-ACE 2016 >

Conference Recap



Annual Conference Wrap-Up

The 78th Annual Conference & Exhibits held in September at Boyne Highlands proffered a rich experience of learning and networking. Once again, the week started with the Annual Golf Outing. Golfers came out swinging (and putting) to help raise money for Safe Water in Ecuador as well as the new One AWWA Operator Scholarship. Everyone had a great time all for a good cause. Sponsoring companies and golfers were very generous, helping the Section raise more than \$2,850.00 for the two charities.

The welcome reception was in the exhibit hall Tuesday evening, and exhibits were open throughout Wednesday. Companies who serve the water sector filled the hall and offered attendees a glimpse of what they have to offer. The exhibit hall was busy with attendees visiting booths and the SWIE chance auction, which raised more than \$1,076.00.

The education started with engaging general sessions on Wednesday with speakers like Dave Dempsey from the International Joint Commission and AWWA's very own David LaFrance. Attendees heard from the general session speakers about the factors that will have the greatest impact on treating, transporting, and delivering great tasting water. They were reminded that from those in the plants to those in the field

maintaining our infrastructure, water professionals are critical to providing clean, safe drinking water. Attendees also heard about research being done that will help us work more efficiently and improve our practices for treating water.

Thursday brought a slew of great technical breakout sessions. With tracks on Lead, Distribution, Treatment, Data and Management, attendees were able to attend sessions on the topics they cared about most. They even had the opportunity to listen in on an update about Flint with David LaFrance leading an talk show styled session. The final day of the conference began with a presentation that challenged attendees' thinking on leadership and offered a variety of topics throughout the morning. The conference closed with a video project about the Value of Water, produced by the Young Professionals.

Everyone left tired but with renewed passion for the work and full of ideas for how to improve processes in their community. A special thank you to the 2016 Program Committee for putting together such a strong program. Thank you to all of the speakers who offered their time and talent. And thank you to the exhibitors who took the time to share their wares with attendees.



Dave Dempsey



Visiting Officer Steve Dennis



David LaFrance of AWWA



**DNR Director and
Interim MDEQ Director Keith Creagh**

Finally, this is only the second year that the Section has offered sponsorships and several companies stepped up to show their dedication to the water community. Without the support of companies such as these, the Section would not be able to grow our programming. Thank you to our conference sponsors!

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BEST TASTING WATER IN MICHIGAN

The five communities that won the Taste Off at the Regional Meetings earlier this year (Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Mancelona, MHOG, and Bergland) came to Harbor Springs to compete for Best Tasting Water in Michigan. The thoughtful judges scored each entry on color, clarity, smell, and taste. The winner of the Best Tasting Water in Michigan contest is the City of Ann Arbor. A representative from Ann Arbor will compete at ACE17 in Philadelphia next June. Congratulations Ann Arbor!



Brian Steglitz and Jenna Karazim accept the Best Tasting Water trophy on behalf of the City of Ann Arbor

2016 Awards Highlights

Congratulations to the many water professionals who were recognized at the Section's Conference!

THE SILVER WATER DROP AWARD

is presented to individuals who have been members of the American Water Works Association for 25 years.



Silver Water Drop Award Winners attending the conference. For a full list of all Silver Drop award winners, please visit the Section website.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AWARD



Ray Berkin

Recognizes a volunteer for outstanding support of staff and exemplary service for the betterment of the Section.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD



Jenna Karazim

Recognizes the contributions of young MI-AWWA members whose service and achievements are exceptional for their years of experience.

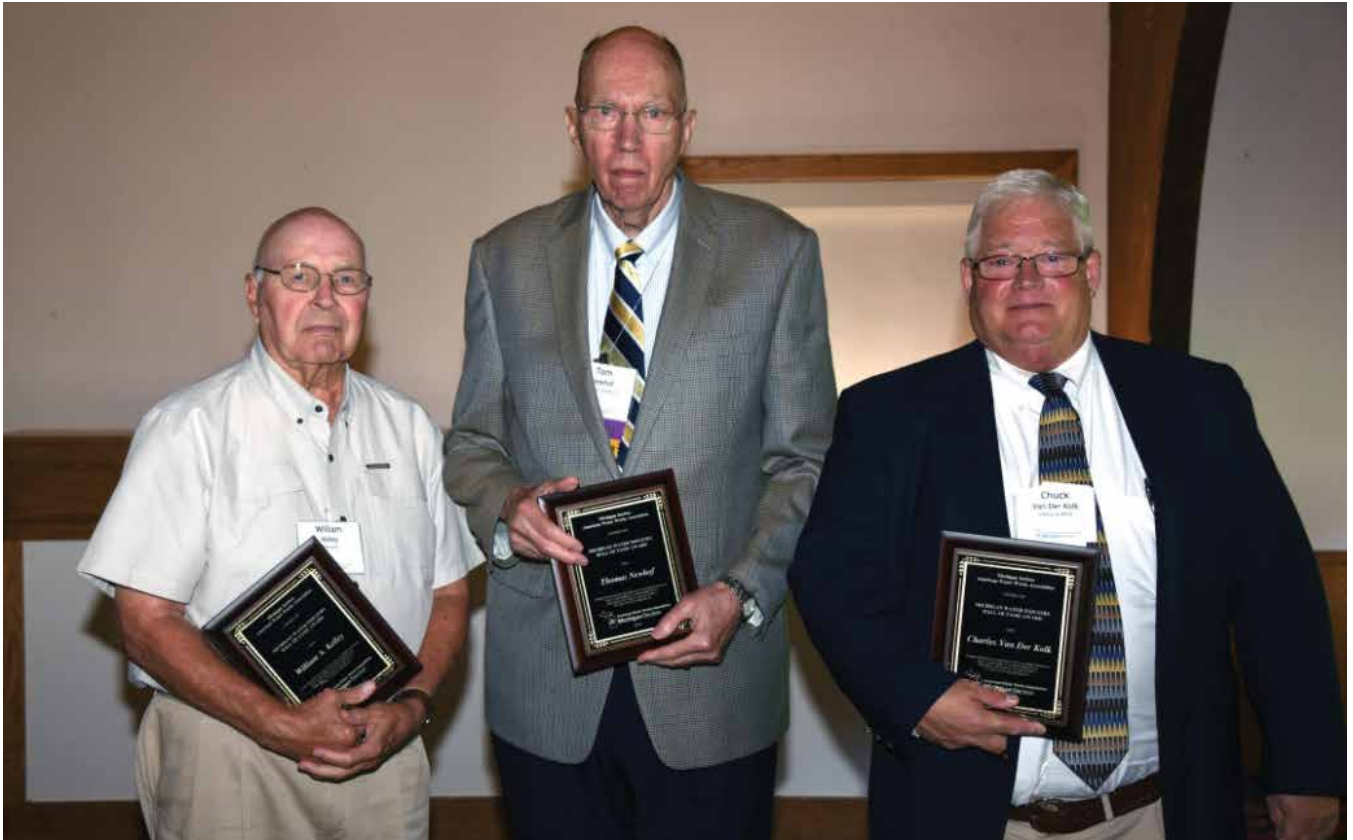
GEORGE WARREN FULLER AWARD



Brain Steglitz receives his Fuller Award from visiting guest Steve Dennis.

Presented annually to a selected member from each AWWA Section for distinguished service to the water supply field in commemoration of the sound engineering skill, the brilliant diplomatic talent, and the constructive leadership which characterized the life of George Warren Fuller. This year's recipient is Brian D. Steglitz for his faithful service to the Michigan Section as a former Trustee and Chair of the Section; his unwavering dedication to the Safe Water In Ecuador program; his commitment to the State of Michigan Governor's 21st Century Infrastructure Commission; his representation on the Michigan Section Lead and Water Summit; his representation of the Section on the AWWA Board as Director; his service as AWWA Vice President; and his coordination efforts between the Section, AWWA and the State of Michigan Governor's Office on the Flint Lead Issue.

MICHIGAN WATER INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME



2016 Inductees include (L to R) Bill Kelly, Tom Newhof, and Chuck Van Der Kolk

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EXEMPLARY WELLHEAD PROTECTION AWARD

Honors a community for its source water and groundwater protection program



Team from the Lansing Board of Water & Light, (L to R) Randall Roost, Cheryl Loudon, Angie Goodman

OPERATOR'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Recognizes individuals for special performance in the operations and maintenance of a water system



Tom Engelsma

RAYMOND J. FAUST AWARD



Brian Thurston

Recognizes one or more individuals for outstanding personal service in the water supply field. The award commemorates Raymond J. Faust for his contributions to safe public health engineering practices, his advancement of sound water supplies, and his dedication to building and promoting a waterworks industry of high esteem.

Our other Faust Award Winner this year is Malcolm Fox from the City of Mt Pleasant.

LIFE MEMBER STATUS

Recognizes individuals who have completed 30 years of membership in AWWA and are at least 65 years of age. This year's inductees are Kenneth Anderson and Rohit Trivedi.

SERVICE TO THE WATER INDUSTRY AWARD

Recognize those organization members who have provided valuable support for AWWA programs and goals through their long-standing Association membership
Chesterfield Township – for 50 years of service

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ASSOCIATION RECOGNITION

The **City of Grand Rapids** was honored with the John L. Leal Award, in recognition of distinguished service to the water profession, in particular their cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies that led to water fluoridation, one of the most efficient, effective and economical public health measures ever undertaken.

Established in 1970 to perpetuate the memory of those living and deceased who have made the most significant contributions to the field of public water supply. The names of the members of the Hall of Fame are engraved on a bronze plaque at AWWA headquarters, and a plaque signifying

membership is presented for mounting. If deceased, the plaque is presented to the institution or organization with whom the member is identified. **George Fenkell** was posthumously inducted into the AWWA Water Industry Hall of Fame, in recognition of his significant contribution to the field of public water supply and specifically to the City of Detroit.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

High School Scholarship winner –

Ashley Solle, daughter of Rick Solle

Raymond J. Faust Scholarship –

Hien Thi Thu Dang

EDWARD DUNBAR RICH AWARD

Recognizes water utility personnel for completing 25 or more years of meritorious and faithful service in providing and maintaining a safe, dependable and adequate public water supply In recognition of their years of service to the water sector in Michigan.



Edward Dunbar Rich awardees in attendance at the conference.
For a full list of awardees please visit the Section website.





MDEQ REMINDS WATER SYSTEMS OF NEW RULE REQUIRING ASSET MANAGEMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL PLAN.

By Robert Schneider, MDEQ

Beginning January 1, 2018 public water supplies with populations greater than 1,000 will be required to have an asset management program. Rule 1606 will implement this requirement which will include in the General Plan:

1. a summary detailing the system used to maintain an inventory of assets;
2. a summary describing the method used to assess the criticality of assets considering the likelihood and consequence of failure;
3. a statement of level of service goals;
4. a capital improvements plan that identifies waterworks system needs for 5-year and 20-year planning periods; and
5. a summary detailing the funding structure and rate methodology that provides sufficient resources to implement the asset management program.

An EXCEL based asset management program that complies with these new requirements can be found on the MDEQ website at www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3307_3515_3517-10784--,00.html. Also available are free "financial and asset management assessments" for communities with populations of less than 10,000 which can be scheduled through your DEQ district staff.

MDEQ is currently developing additional guidance related to the new rule, and looking into potential training and outreach opportunities.



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LANSING LETHAL LADIES CHAMPIONS AGAIN

By Kelly Gleason, Lansing BWL



The Lansing Lethal Ladies pipe tapping team did it again! For the third year in a row, they are the Champions of the AWWA National Pipe Tapping Competition. The competition took place at ACE16 in Chicago, Illinois on June 22, 2016. The Lethal Ladies had a winning tap time of 2:42 and beat ten other teams from across the nation, including additional Michigan representation, to bring home the title a third time.

One team member stated, "It's a tough competition, the ladies are all getting so good." It was a close competition - the Lethal Ladies beat the Smooth Operators from Troy, Michigan by two seconds and the Denver Ladies tap team by eight seconds.

A huge congratulation goes out to the Lethal Ladies on the three-peat championship. The winning tapping team includes Beth Zimpfer (Set-up), Kelly Gleason (Cranker), Maggie Rich (Copper), Marissa Klimkiewicz (Alternate) and Remecho Sanders (Coach). 💧



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JOINT EXPO & OPERATORS DAY

Presented by MI-AWWA and MWEA | Lansing Center, Lansing, MI | February 7 & 8, 2017

Make plans now to attend Joint Expo & Operators Day in February 2017.

Operators Day trainings are a half-day training offering topics relevant to drinking water operators and waste water operators, and include lunch in the exhibit hall. Operators can earn 0.3 CECs for attending the training and more for walking the Expo.

For managers and directors, there is a seminar on infrastructure issues being

held on Wednesday morning. This session offers water department leaders the opportunity to hear about the big issues they are facing and offers ideas and resources for addressing those issues.

The Expo is open to any water professional whether attending the training or not. Operators can earn up to 0.2 CECs for walking the exhibit hall. (Badges are required for entry into the exhibit hall so plan to arrive early to get your badge.) It offers an opportunity to

collect product information, evaluate new equipment, see new technologies, and make new contacts.

Registration information for Operators Day and the Infrastructure Seminar will be available soon at www.jointexpo.org.

Exhibit sales are now open. Visit the link above or go directly to www.mi-water.org/?page=JE to see the prospectus and purchase your booth space. 💧



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A photograph of a brown bear sitting and eating a large amount of dry hay. The bear is in the foreground, and the background is slightly blurred, showing a natural outdoor setting.

30-YEAR-OLD OPERATOR CATAPULTED TO SUPERINTENDENT

BEN ANDERSON



Job: Superintendent, Cassopolis Department of Public Works, Cassopolis, Mich.

Educational background:

S3, D3 Water System Operator License

Age: 34

Daily duties: Administrative oversight of the employees and equipment it takes to operate and maintain one water treatment/distribution system, two sewer collection systems, 12 miles of streets, various parks and recreation facilities, and one cemetery

What is the biggest challenge you've faced in your career?

After the sudden and unexpected death of my boss at the public works department, I was promoted to Superintendent on a trial basis. At only 30 years old and only having worked in public works for six years, I was young, inexperienced and



I DECIDED TO GET MORE INVOLVED WITH VOLUNTEERING AT MY SECTION AFTER SEEING THE EXCITEMENT THAT OTHER SECTION MEMBERS HAD ABOUT THE AWWA'S GOALS.

overwhelmed. All of my employees were older than me and had been working here longer. I didn't have any professional experience, a network or a mentor to help guide me. I was coming from a position that was completely different and I had to change many things about myself if I wanted to be successful. Making that transition was life altering and was the biggest challenge I have faced.

What is the most exciting project you've worked on?

Cassopolis is a small town and hasn't had much growth. It's exciting to work on the many different things that create growth in my community.

What is something unexpected you learned on the job? How to listen and understand rather than just listen for my next opportunity to talk.

Do you have a role at your Section and how did you become a volunteer?

I am a member of the Communications Council and the Young Professionals Committee. I decided to get more involved with volunteering at my Section after seeing the excitement that other Section members had about the AWWA's goals. When I found that those goals are the same issues that I believe in, I started looking for ways that I could help.

How long have you been a member and what have you gotten from your membership?

I have been a member since 2012 and since then I have gotten so many different opportunities to learn and grow in my career. From leadership techniques and community outreach possibilities, the MI-AWWA Section has taught me not just the value of water, but also the value of what I do as a professional.

Why did you decide to go into the water field?

Evidently I'm good at it. I attended a small community college for a couple years and I never really thought about having a career in the water industry; my focus was on journalism. I began to feel that I needed money more than a degree and I got a job at the public works department in my hometown. My boss noticed my



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attention to details and told me about getting state water licenses, and that's how I was introduced to the water field. I stay because I love it.

What is your biggest accomplishment? I changed maintenance and operations procedures for a sewer collection system that my department is contracted to take care of and the changes are continuing to save that Sewer Authority a lot of money.


Toughest thing about your job? Being in charge of so many different departments, most of which are completely separate, there are many different problems that arise on a daily basis. I have to constantly change gears throughout the day to try to solve as many problems as I can. The toughest part is trying to focus on one problem at a time before letting the next one move in on me.

What's your motto in life? I will, you will, or we will; it must be done.

Hobbies and outside interests: I have two sons and reading before bedtime is my most favorite part of my day. I also like to see new places, learn new things, and drink beer.

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? As a kid I never knew what all my options were and couldn't decide what to be, so I wanted to do as many things as I could. While that keeps my options open, it never allows me to master anything. But since I haven't grown up yet and have only gotten older, I think I still have time to figure that out.

What is something that people would be surprised to know about you? I'm pretty introverted. I try to smile a lot so I think people mistake me for an outgoing person, but I am really uncomfortable meeting new people.

(Reprinted with permission from the American Water Works Association.) 

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THERE'S AN AWARD FOR THAT

By Janice Skadsen, Conference and Recognition Council

Yes, AWWA offers many different opportunities for recognition. They vary from association service to historical recognition to research expertise to many other things. Visit www.awwa.org/membership/get-involved/awards.aspx to see the list and details. And check out the examples below.

Has someone at your utility performed a lifesaving act? Check out the Heroism Award - "This award shall constitute official recognition of an act of heroism on the part of an employee(s) in the water utility profession wherein he or she, in the process of aiding some other person or persons,

must have placed himself/herself at great personal risk." Or the related Courageous Service Award - "This award shall constitute official recognition of an act of courageous service on the part of an individual or group in the water utility profession."

Or perhaps your utility is eligible for the Water Landmarks Award - "To recognize and preserve an American, Canadian, or Mexican Water Landmark at least 50 years old that has had a direct and significant relationship with water supply, treatment, distribution, or technological development." We think there should be many places that qualify for this one.

In case you think these might be hard to apply for or get, the Association Service Committee is here to help. All you need to do is to contact us - e want your nominees. We will help with the nomination and the celebration of winners! So send us your ideas today. These awards are given annually. Most nomination applications must be submitted by October 1. Please contact the Association Service co-chairs with any questions or suggestions: Janice Skadsen at skadsenjm@gmail.com and Mark Coleman at mcoleman@wadetrim.com. Let's celebrate the good things happening in the Michigan water industry. 💧

2017 BORCHARDT CONFERENCE PLANNING UNDERWAY SAVE THE DATE!!

By Mark VanKuik

Planning is well underway for the 2017 Borchardt Conference. Every three years, the Borchardt conference brings together a diverse group of engineers, scientists, practitioners and students to learn about



Jack A. Borchardt,
P.E., Ph.D.

and discuss the latest issues and advances in water and wastewater technology. This high level conference emphasizes applied research and real life experience in environmental engineering and water utility operations. As in past years, this premier event will be held at the Rackham Building on the campus of the University of Michigan (UM). The dates are Tuesday, February 21, and Wednesday, February 22, 2017.

The Borchardt Conference is named in memory of Dr. Jack A. Borchardt, P.E. who originally introduced the sanitary engineering curriculum at UM, and who relentlessly pioneered water industry training and technology transfer programs in Michigan from the late 1940s until his retirement in 1982. At each triennial conference since 1983, the Jack A. Borchardt Award has been presented to

an individual "in recognition and appreciation of his or her contributions toward the continuing education of drinking water and clean water operators, engineers and public officials." In 2014, over 250 people attended the conference including 50 students from 10 colleges and universities. The 2017 Borchardt Conference is again expected to draw large attendance.

Borchardt-Glysson Water Treatment Innovation Prize

The Borchardt-Glysson Water Treatment Innovation Prize is a new honor consisting of a \$10,000 cash award to acknowledge a senior or mid-career professional whose accomplishments in water or wastewater treatment have been nationally and internationally recognized. The Prize will be presented at the Borchardt Conference. As part of the award ceremony, the recipient is invited to deliver the Borchardt-Glysson Water Treatment Innovation Lecture.

Keynote Lecturers for 2017 Borchardt Conference

Each conference day opens with a keynote lecture to set a high level tone for the day. We are fortunate indeed to have as one of our keynote speakers Dr. Janet

Stout, Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Director of the Special Pathogens Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering. Dr. Stout is an internationally-recognized authority on Legionella and Legionnaires' disease, and regularly addresses scientific and professional conferences for microbiology and infectious disease, and the water utility industry. In addition, the conference will feature as our second keynote speaker Dr. Sudhir Murthy, Innovations Chief, District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority. Dr. Murthy, author or coauthor of more than 75 peer-reviewed publications and 250 conference publications, is a Fellow of the International Water Association and Water Environment Federation, and is the 2016 Kappe Lecturer for the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists.

The Borchardt Conference Planning Committee includes representatives from Michigan Section AWWA, Michigan Water Environment Association, as well as environmental science and engineering faculty from UM, Michigan State University, Wayne State and Michigan Tech.

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