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WATER WORKS NEWS

The *Michigan Water Works News* is a quarterly publication of the Michigan Section, American Water Works Association.

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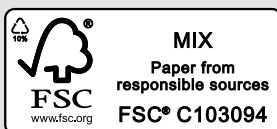
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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

KELLY GLEASON

Fall 2016 *Michigan Water Works News* was the first issue I co-edited and I just completed the Fall 2017 editing as I write this. This year has flown by. I experienced my first MI-ACE conference last year at Boyne Highlands and had a great time attending many educational sessions and networking with water colleagues. It opened my eyes to

many resources available to a water professional as well as the number of volunteers the Section has and still needs.

The weather became colder, winter set in, and Joint Expo & Operators Day was on the horizon. I always experience the Joint Expo from the competition aspect with my game face on since I am part of the Lansing Lethal Ladies tapping team.

This year however, I enjoyed a few smiles and socializing too. I had extra time this year and stopped to greet many vendors and colleagues attending. The YPs always make things exciting with the scavenger hunt and networking event following day one.

Just following Joint Expo, I attended the Borchardt conference, a 2-day conference held every three years that displays the latest advances in water and wastewater treatment technology. It's amazing how far the industry has come.

As spring bloomed into summer my scheduled ramped up with both work and physical training. Summer sampling peaked as I fine-tuned my new instrument (I am a chemist) and the pipe tapping national competition was fast approaching. ACE17 in Philadelphia proved to be one of the best so far... I think I said this for California and Chicago too... probably every Annual Conference I've attended. The team brought home the 4th straight Pipe Tapping National Championship Title... I couldn't be more proud of the hard work we put in.

And now we are back into fall, my favorite season with crisp air, colorful trees and warm bonfires. New Section leadership is taking their places and settling in for the long haul. I imagine only great things to come as the activities of the Section are kept aligned with core purposes of advancing water.

Enough about me, I'd like to hear more about you, our members. Tell me what you've been up to in the water world, send pictures, stories and updates to kelly.gleason@lbwl.com with the subject line *Water Works News*. I look forward to hearing from you. 💧

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THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING

CHRISTINE SPITZLEY, CHAIR



THE MEANING OF LIFE IS TO FIND YOUR GIFT.
THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS TO GIVE IT AWAY. - WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Being a volunteer is more than simply showing up or completing a task. In this organization, our members provide leadership, share technical expertise, serve as mentors and provide professional support. Serving as a Michigan Section American Water Works Association (MI AWWA) member for over 20 years has played an instrumental part in my development as a professional, and it began with an invitation to volunteer.

Shortly after I began my career, I was invited to a MI AWWA conference. I hadn't been in the water sector for very long, and I knew very few people. With a bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning and only three years' experience in economic development, I felt out of place. I was impressed to discover the depth of knowledge and experience of Michigan's water professionals. That conference introduced me to colleagues who were interested in learning more about what I did, and how we could work together. I had found a true professional community.

Soon after the conference, I was asked to volunteer for the Youth Education Committee. For me, this was an opportunity to become a part of MI AWWA by both sharing my expertise and learning from other members. Through various volunteering experiences on that committee, I became part of a network of talented, generous professionals who become mentors, colleagues and friends. Eventually, I became Chair of the Youth Education Committee, served on other committees, became a Trustee in 2002, and now the MI AWWA Chair. These experiences helped

build my leadership skills and technical expertise. I connected with a national professional network that I regularly reach out to for information and assistance. My journey with MI AWWA has been transformative; and it all began because I said yes to volunteering.

I'm only here because somebody asked me to volunteer. They asked for my time. They asked for my talent. They told me I had something of value to share. The support I received from the organization gave me the opportunity to take on new roles and responsibilities. And with each new task or role, my skills, network and knowledge grew.

The MI AWWA depends on volunteers. Every single day the MI AWWA community of water professionals is dedicated to treating, delivering, and protecting clean, safe water for Michigan communities. As you begin to look ahead to 2018, please consider ways you can volunteer your time and talents, and encourage others. Include volunteer efforts in your work plan. Think about specific people to reach out to. Bring guests to meetings. Call someone and ask them to attend MI-ACE, a regional meeting or Joint Expo. Greet a new face. Author an article for *Michigan Water Works News*. Submit a conference abstract. The MI AWWA needs and welcomes what you have to offer, and in return it may just grow and shape your professional journey. 💧



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NO LITTLE PLANS

BY CHRISTINE SPITZLEY, CHAIR

Excerpted from remarks given during the passing of the gavel at MI-ACE 2017.

Thank you John for a year of gracious leadership. Your service this past year was stellar and your dedication and integrity appreciated. I am grateful to follow in your footsteps and happy to know we have another year of your expertise and experience on the Board.

[I would like to] start with the most asked question over my years in the Section, “Wait, what do you do?” and the standard response, “Oh, you’re a planner... huh...” So yes, my degree is Urban and Regional Planning from Michigan State University. I like flip charts, sticky dots, community forums, colored pencils and group consensus. I’ve spent my career in planning including economic development,

transportation, solid waste, public health, air quality, trails, fair housing, sustainability and water. 26 years at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission in Lansing, followed by an odd six month detour into Healthcare IT, and most recently now with OHM Advisors in an environmental/water resource/planning position. There are not a lot of urban planners in AWWA. So far, I believe I’ve met one. So for those of you steeped in [water operations,] engineering, chemistry, drilling and manufacturing here is a little planning history.

Daniel Burnham is considered the founder of the planning profession. As an architect and urban designer a few of his many notable commissions include: the World’s Columbian Exposition known as the White City, which set the stage for city planning in Chicago; the train stations in Chicago, Pennsylvania, and Washington DC; the Flat Iron building in New York City; and in Detroit – the Dime, Ford, and Majestic buildings.

“Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men’s blood and will not themselves be realized.”

– Daniel Burnham

His plans were big. His successes and challenges were many. He failed to get into Harvard and Yale. The World’s Columbian Exposition caused panic around the world when it became over budget and behind schedule. Yet in the end his career has become a legacy.

Like Daniel Burnham, the Michigan Section of AWWA has no little plans. Hundreds of people have

“It is going to be an amazing year!”



volunteered and worked together for decades to bring the Section to where we are today. In the end, they share the vision for MI-AWWA to strive to be a “vital community of water professionals, leading the advancement of water knowledge and improving the value and quality of water in our lives.”

There is much to be done in the coming years. We’ve begun a Michigan Water Academy to improve and expand the education and training available to water professionals.

We want to grow our ranks with young professionals who bring creativity and big plans of their own. Many of you have heard the stories of my journey as the mom of two sons for the last 20 years. It was

my second big job I started with little experience. As they have gotten older they have become my day-to-day touchstone of how differently their generation thinks and responds to the world around them. Their world is big. Their skills expansive. I am proud the Section has committed to the investment of growing our young professionals. We need to look for ways to meaningfully engage them.

I am equally proud of the Section’s commitment and growing activities in the support and promotion of diversity.

We have a Council of Past Officers who meet annually to stay connected to the Section and each other. They are busy people, but they have a historic knowledge we need to remember, appreciate and consider.

I was asked this week what do I want to see happen this year? I want to see our big plans realized. We have a lot of volunteers, but we need more. Volunteers come from personal asks. [Please] introduce yourself to a stranger, welcome new people, bring a guest to a meeting, invite a colleague to a training, take a YP to lunch, reconnect with a retiree. Tell someone why MI-AWWA is important to you and the water profession. Share with them why you are willing to give your time and [talent].

“Remember that our children and grandchildren are going to do things that would stagger us.”

– Daniel Burnham

It is going to be an amazing year! 💧



ASSOCIATION INITIATIVES

MARK COLEMAN, DIRECTOR

Since 2004, AWWA has formally tracked issues and trends in the water industry and published the results in an annual *State of the Water Industry Report*. The report information is drawn from a survey that is designed to:

- Identify and track significant challenges facing the water industry that includes potable water, wastewater, stormwater, and reuse.
- Provide data and analysis to support water professionals as they develop, implement, and communicate strategies to address current and future issues.
- Inform decision makers and the public of challenges faced by the water industry.

In the fall of 2016, the 2017 survey was sent to more than 70,000 e-mail addresses of both members and non-members involved in the water industry. 1,768 responded with 55% representing water and wastewater utilities, 17% from consultants and the remainder from various other career categories none of which were individually more than 4%. While the report contains many informative findings, the five that I think are of the most interest to the Michigan Section include the following:

- The top five most important issues facing the water industry haven't substantively changed in the last three years:
 - Renewal and replacement of aging water and wastewater infrastructure (#1 in 2016 & 2015)



- Financing for capital improvements (#2 in 2016 & 2015)
- Long term water supply availability (#4 in 2016 & #3 in 2015)
- Public Understanding of the value of water systems and services (#3 in 2016 & #3 in 2015)
- Public understanding of the value of water resources (#5 in 2016 & 2015)
- The most important issue within the area of infrastructure removal and replacement was justifying renewal and replacement programs to ratepayers along with their oversight bodies (board, council, etc.).
- Both utility and non-utility personnel consider the industry's communication somewhat ineffective.
- When asked how their utilities were responding to cost recovery needs in the face of changing water sales and consumption patterns, shifting from consumption-based fees to fixed fees within the rate structure was the most repeated response followed by changes in growth related fees and shifting the rate design to an increasing block rate structure.
- In terms of the gender, while 76% of the total respondents were men, the gender gap significantly diminished as age decreased. Of the respondents who were age 65 or older, only 7% were women. However, in the group of respondents between the ages of 34 and 25 approximately 40% were woman and 68% of those who responded in the age group 25 years or less were women.

As I mentioned, the report contains a lot of useful information and is free to members. To obtain the full report simply go www.awwa.org, type in 2017 *State of the Water Industry Report* in the search box and hit go, and then click on the very first line that is at the top of the listing of references that says "Recommended: Webpage: *State of the Water Industry Report*" and follow the prompts to get a copy.

Thanks for your attention! Give me a shout if you would like additional information or simply want to chat. My contact information is mcoleman@wadetrim.com or you can easily find me on our Michigan Section website (www.mi-water.org).



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BONNIFER BALLARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I joined AWWA and the Michigan Section as Executive Director in 2014. A few short months later, the Flint water crisis would make national news. Since then, water professionals have taken a great deal of abuse as a fallout from that crisis.

To be sure, there is blame to go around in that situation and it was truly a tragedy for the people of Flint. It certainly brings into painfully sharp focus just how important our jobs are as water professionals. My point is that water professionals are generally really good people who truly want to protect public health by providing clean, safe drinking water. I think it's time we became our own champions and help the public to see that 99% of the time we get it absolutely right.

Take pride in what you do, no matter the part you play in delivering safe, clean water to community members. It takes many people to bring water from its source to the tap. Sure, some customers complain about their water rates. We'll get to that in a future issue. For now, embrace the fact that you help deliver hundreds (in some cases thousands) of gallons of water to every customer every hour of every day.

Keep up on the latest regulations and best practices to ensure you're doing all you can to keep safe, clean water flowing. For operators, this is part of maintaining your license. For all of us, it is a key part of being able to serve our customers consistently well.



EACH OF US, WHETHER WE REALIZE IT OR NOT, IS A SPOKESPERSON FOR WATER.

Go beyond the minimum because it's about more than the license. I regularly encounter water professionals who do more than what is required and seek out new information and new technologies that might improve their systems. It is one of my favorite aspects of AWWA. I encourage all of us to give conscious thought to how we may need to go beyond the licensing requirements to ensure the safest, cleanest water for our customers. We have an important charge. We do important work. We must do all we can to make sure our customers have safe, clean water coming from their taps.

And part of going beyond may mean going outside our comfort zone. Each of us, whether we realize it or not, is a spokesperson for water. With every interaction, we have the opportunity to help people understand better the value of water. We each need to figure out how to use our everyday interactions with those around us to advance people's knowledge and value of water. The Section will help with that. There will be trainings in 2018 to help you with just this. For now, think about small ways in which you can be your own water champion. 💧



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2017 PLANKTON AND ALGAE COURSE

The MI-Section AWWA held a Plankton and Algae identification course recently in partnership with Grand Valley State University (GVSU).

This is the first plankton class in almost 10 years and replaces the class historically held on Beaver Island. Course content not only included plankton sampling and identification, but treatment and operation procedures, with case studies as well. Filter clogging, taste and odor, and harmful algal blooms (HABs) were all topics covered. Instructors were from GVSU, Ohio EPA, Frenchtown Township and Hazen and Sawyer. Shown here are operators, instructors, and council members posing for a group photo aboard the *W.G. Jackson*, a research vessel from the Grand Valley State University's – Robert B. Annis Water Research Institute (AWRI) in Muskegon, after a morning of plankton sampling on Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan.

The Section wants to thank Grand Valley State University for all their support. The AWRI staff was outstanding and the location and resources were remarkable.

The Section hopes to repeat this training next year, perhaps in other areas of the state. Registration is limited, so if you or your water utility are interested in attending future classes, let the Section Education and Training Council know! 💧

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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL UPDATE

By Molly Maciejewski, Chair, Government Affairs Council

The Government Affairs Council has had an active few months. In the last issue of *WWN*, Vice Chair Andrew Reynolds provided a summary of the Section's participation in the annual AWWA Legislative Fly-In event. Legislative advocacy is more important than ever and the recent passage of WIFIA is a testament that advocacy can make a difference.

We have also been busy tracking and commenting on proposed legislation at the state level. Section and Council leadership along with individual members and communities came out in force to advocate against a bill that would have required local units of governments consider all pipe materials when designing and bidding projects. The bill had the laudable goal to ensure communities were being competitive in bidding and pipe material selection in construction projects. However, the bill is attempting to legislate a problem that does not currently exist, and takes away local control. Many communities already have provisions to ensure fair bidding practices are in place. Those same



SECTION AND COUNCIL LEADERSHIP CAME OUT IN FORCE TO ADVOCATE AGAINST A BILL THAT WOULD HAVE REQUIRED LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER ALL PIPE MATERIALS WHEN DESIGNING AND BIDDING PROJECTS.

communities also have standard specifications based on sound engineering and design from local experts who understand the environmental conditions that drive material selection.

The Council is also participating in the MDEQ's Lead and Copper Proposed Rule Revision Process. The MDEQ held their first stakeholder meeting in July and it was encouraging to see so many member communities there to voice their comments and suggestions as MDEQ considers potential major revisions to the rule. The stakeholders all seemed to agree that the current rule is flawed and overly complex. Consensus on this point is a good first step in the process! MDEQ is looking at making changes to the rule now, ahead of any changes that may be made at the federal level. The jury is still out on whether this strategy is prudent. Proponents of immediate rule changes in Michigan feel that action is needed now and that the EPA planned revisions are untimely. Proponents also feel that Michigan could serve as an example for the EPA, and changes in sampling protocol or Action Level at the state level could positively influence similar changes at the federal level. Those stakeholders who do not support state level revisions now argue that Michigan could get caught in a situation where eventual EPA rules may be more stringent than changes made at the state level. Michigan would be viewed as being too lenient, and it would force Michigan to go through the

rule making process twice. The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for September. Stay tuned for more updates on this important issue!

In other Council news, a committee of the Council is working with Section leadership to draft an RFP and review proposals for lobbying services. Once in place, the firm will assist the Council in tracking legislation. The Council's long term goal is to employ the new firm to aid the Council in developing legislative educational events and organized advocacy meetings at the state level. The Council already performs advocacy on an informal or as-needed basis. Hosting educational events and planning an annual advocacy effort similar to the AWWA's D.C. Fly-In event would take us to the next level in our evolution from the days of legislative luncheons (for those of you around long enough to remember those!) to a more targeted, issue-based education and industry outreach approach to advocacy. For the moment, the Council continues its efforts at the micro level by reacting as needed to specific issues like the pipe bill, and keeps in regular contact with the Michigan Municipal League.

The Council has no shortage of tasks and we are pleased to report that member engagement has increased over the last year. Thanks to all the Section members who have rallied so quickly at our recent "calls to action." Your support and participation is vital to the success of our efforts! 💧

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MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE



Attracting Talent/Promoting Diversity Networking Event

The Membership Council's Diversity Task Force was delighted to host a gathering of water professionals involved in hiring and managing staff. The task force used this venue to begin a dialogue on methods to increase diversity in the ranks of water professionals. It was attended by representatives from the Great Lakes Water Authority, Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner's Office, Lansing Board of Water & Light, and many engineering firms. The MI-AWWA Board was very well represented by

the attendance of five board members, indicating the importance the board attaches to the topic. Craig Covey, Diversity Trainer for Oakland County's Water Resources Commissioner's Office, facilitated the discussion by asking the group whether they thought group diversity was more like a salad or a melting pot. He encouraged audience participation by asking attendees to venture out onto the street and bring back an example of the various types of diversity they found in Ferndale. After a half-hour spent exploring Ferndale's

main street, participants came back to share their findings with the group. They discovered that various ethnic, religious and socio-economic groups make Ferndale their home.

Although the dialog was started on this important issue, more discussion is needed; and another networking event is planned for late October in the Lansing area. The Diversity Task Force gained a few new members and will begin building on various suggestions, including making "unconscious bias" training available to public utilities. Increasing diversity in the water industry workforce will involve encouraging young people to view it as a viable career path and providing training to those who are motivated but lacking in technical skills. Practical suggestions on how to address these issues are welcome, even if you do not have time to join the task force.

Please contact Alando Chappell via email Alando.Chappell@lowl.com or by phone 517-242-6797 with suggestions or to join the task force.

"Diversity: the art of thinking independently together." 💧

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL UPDATE

The Young Professionals have been keeping busy this summer! They have hosted networking events and plant tours, and have more exciting events planned for the fall. If you would like to be included in any of the future events, please email Jenna Karzim at jenna.karzim@glwater.org.

In recognition of Water Awareness Month, the YPs partnered with MWEA and hosted several 'No Water No Beer' events in May of 2017. Several water professionals along with members of the community came out to celebrate the importance of water, and attendees were treated to special presentations at each location. Some presentations



included specific improvements made to the water industry in their community, and others included question and answer sessions with local brew masters. After the presentations,

many community members approached the attending water professionals with additional questions about the industry.

ARTICLE CONTINUED ON PAGE 18.



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ARTICLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17.

It was great to see the community taking an interest in the water industry, and the knowledge that these events were passing along to the public. Since these events were so popular, we are looking forward to possibly hosting these events next year too! If you would like to be included in the planning and/or sponsoring, please contact Jenna Karazim.

The YPs also hosted a plant tour at the Wyoming Drinking Water Plant on July 27, 2017. Several attendees from different areas of the field, and different areas of the state, all came out to participate and network. We held an update meeting prior to the tour where we discussed upcoming events and ways to get involved. These tours also gave attendees the opportunity to ask questions and meet other young professionals in the field. The overall response to the event was highly positive, and the networking was invaluable. Attendees with varying years of service in the industry met professionals at these events that came from several different backgrounds, and they were able to further build their network in the field. While this type of networking is valuable to all attendees, it is particularly valuable to the YPs that are just starting out.

Since the Wyoming plant tour had such an amazing turnout, we have decided to have the next YP tour at the Wyoming Wastewater plant on November 2, 2017. Remember that all members of the industry are welcome to attend any of our plant tours! There will be a formal announcement of the event in September, but be sure to save the date if you are interested! 💧





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Conference ➤ Recap

MI-ACE 2017

Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire, MI
Sep 12-15, 2017

Highlights

The Section's 79th Annual Conference & Exhibits was a great success. Hosted at the Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, more than 320 water professionals came together to discuss water treatment and distribution issues in Michigan.

The Conference featured keynotes from brew master Tyler Glaze from Shorts Brewery and communications professional and author Melanie Goetz among others. Attendees learned through 39 possible sessions over 2 ½ days. The Conference also featured an exhibit hall of some of Michigan's most dedicated and prominent vendors in the drinking water sector.

"It was great to reconnect with old friends and meet new people at this year's annual conference," said Pat Staskiewicz

of Ottawa County Road Commission. "I was amazed to learn about the challenges Waukesha is overcoming to solve their water problems, but wary of our new challenges, such as PFAS."

The Section held its annual business meeting during the conference, on Thursday, September 14, where new Board members were voted on. And of course, the conference presented the opportunity to recognize award winners from across Michigan for their various contributions to the water sector and service to the Section.

Proceedings from the conference are available online to those who attended. A special thank you to Gold Sponsor Thompson Pipe and Victaulic.

Save the date – MI-ACE 2018 is scheduled for Sep 11-14, 2018 in Kalamazoo. 💧





Recognizing Accomplishment

THE SILVER WATER DROP AWARD AND THE LIFE MEMBER STATUS



Pictured are Bill Dixon (Life) and Tim LeTourneau (Silver) with John Willemin and Ray Baral Jr.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AWARD



Pictured is Gary Wozniak with Bonnifer Ballard; not pictured is Scott Schmidt.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD



Pictured is Tony Cecchini with John Willemin and Ray Baral Jr.

GEORGE WARREN FULLER AWARD

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.



Past Fuller Awardees wait to greet this year's awardee.



Pictured is the 2017 Fuller Awardee Tim McNamara with Brian Steglitz.

MICHIGAN WATER INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME



Pictured are inductees Gary Logsden and Janice Skadsen each with John Willemin.

EXEMPLARY WELLHEAD PROTECTION AWARD



Pictured is Brian Klassen of the Village of Holly with John Willemin and Ray Baral Jr.

RAYMOND J. FAUST AWARD



Pictured are Bryce Feighner and Glenn Maggard, each with John Willemin and Ray Baral Jr.



OPERATOR'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD



Pictured is Burt Straley with John Willemin and Ray Baral Jr.

JOHN LECHNER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE AND VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Pictured are Tom Idema (*Lechner*), and Chuck Vanderkolk (*Volunteer*) with John Willemin and Ray Baral Jr.

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MDEQ EDWARD DUNBAR RICH AWARD



Pictured are Annie C. Philip, Kandarp Trivedi, Charles B. Bellmore, and Robert Coon with John Willemin, Ray Baral Jr., and Gary Wozniak

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AWWA WATER LANDMARK AWARD



Pictured are Molly Maciewjewski, Brian Steglitz, Robert Coon, Jeff Keown, and Ryan Justin with John Willemin and Ray Baral Jr.

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Recognizing Accomplishment

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. The AIM Committee's goal is to build upon the guidance of the MDEQ with the Asset Management Guidance for Water Systems, which can be found on their website. This article provides a case study of software tools available for small to medium communities to use for development of their asset management program.

Practical and User-Friendly GIS Work Order Software is Key to the Successful Implementation and Operation of Asset Management for Michigan Communities

By Brigid Forlenza, Chairman of the Wastewater Board, Deputy Supervisor, Ontwa Township, Michigan



It is widely publicized that America's infrastructure is rapidly deteriorating and reaching the end of its useful life. In its 2013 report on the condition of America's infrastructure, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave America's infrastructure an overall grade of "D-plus" and reported that the nation would need to spend an additional \$3.6 trillion by 2020 to raise the national infrastructure to a state of good repair. The Trump Administration has announced that they will unveil a \$1 trillion investment plan, to be invested over 10 years to upgrade America's transportation, energy, water, and potentially the broadband and communications infrastructure.

In his 21st Century Infrastructure Commission Report, Governor Rick Snyder announced a 50-Year vision and recommendations for improving Michigan's infrastructure across water, transportation, energy and communications infrastructure. Michigan ranks in the lowest states

for infrastructure spending. Between 2002–2013, Michigan had the third largest decline in state and local infrastructure spending and Michigan's annual investment of 4% of their total budget in 2013, ranked them in the lowest spending states. The goals of the 21st Infrastructure Commission are to create infrastructure systems that are built within a culture of strategic investment through asset management, utilizing continuous improvement models and risk-based approaches to ensure that infrastructure needs are prioritized and funded.

The **Trump Administration** has announced that they will unveil a **\$1 TRILLION** investment plan, to be invested **OVER 10 YEARS** to upgrade **America's transportation, energy, water, and potentially the broadband and communications** infrastructure.



The Wightman GIS Work Order application is browser-based, which makes it accessible on any desktop computer and mobile device.

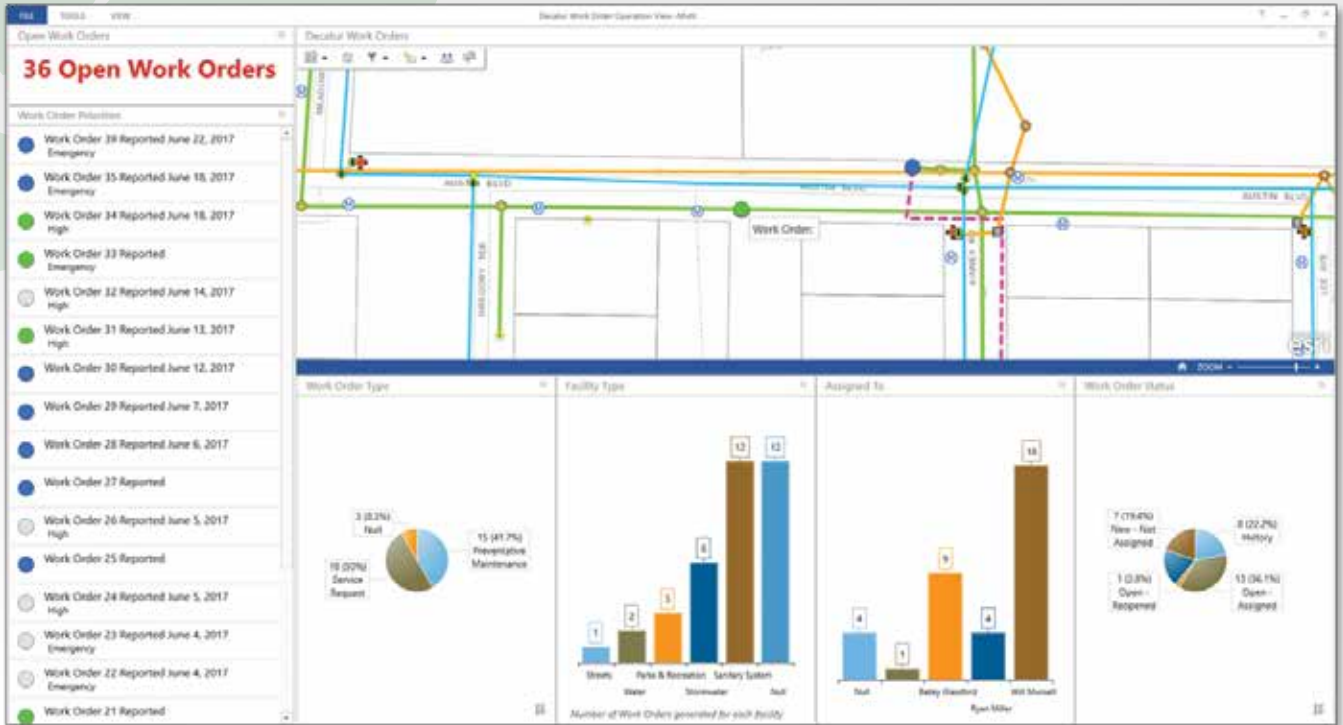
Infrastructure systems across the Nation are in need of an immediate investment to upgrade the condition of assets, along with an investment in more sophisticated systems to better manage the assets in the future. Asset management is critical for managing infrastructure spending, maintenance and repair, and for creating more predictable conditions during daily operations. The first step of basic asset management is knowing what you own and where it is located. GIS, or “Geographic Information Systems,” are rapidly becoming the backbone of asset management systems, providing the ability to accurately locate, map, and inventory a system’s assets. GIS is a tool commonly used by organizations to help collect, manage, analyze, and display geographic data. GIS helps an organization capture and pass on institutional knowledge, break down data silos, assist with communication, and allows staff to make more informed decisions.

Asset management software is a critical platform for managing infrastructure and making data-based decisions. Many platforms provide technology and processes for making decisions based on long-term financial goals, strategic planning and operations, life cycle costs of system assets, and ongoing repair and maintenance. Core to the success and efficiency of leveraging such a platform, is investing in a package that will meet the needs of your organization. Public utilities are rapidly adopting GIS and work order software to manage their infrastructure. They are quickly moving from hardcopy, paper-based systems to software-based systems for asset tracking and maintenance.

In order to implement a successful asset management system, it is very important to find a solution that combines a flexible and user-friendly interface with the ability to leverage GIS. This combination provides a tool that allows users to visualize problem areas spatially on a map versus a conventional spreadsheet.

“Core to the success and efficiency of leveraging such a platform, is investing in a package that will meet the needs of your organization.”

GIS provides the ability to analyze complex spatial relationships and form predictive solutions for infrastructure assets. The recent Storm Water, Asset Management and Waste Water (SAW) Grant program, managed by the MDEQ, provided the ability for its funded municipalities to invest in GIS and asset management software to help municipalities move from a “fix it when it breaks” mentality into more preventative and predictive maintenance and management.



Supervisors using the Operations Dashboard for ArcGIS app can view the current status of work orders and quickly address issues.

“Software packages on the market today are missing the mark on providing a solution for small to medium-sized communities.”

There are many GIS and asset management products on the market today. However, often times these systems are very robust and complex to operate. Their target clients are often very large municipalities who have dedicated staff to program and manage the software. Even with dedicated GIS and IT staff, end users often find these solutions difficult to operate. Software packages on the market today are missing the mark on providing a solution for small to medium-sized communities.

Infrastructure Alternatives, Inc. (“IAI”) of Rockford, Michigan, a leading Michigan operational services provider, manages the wastewater systems of Ontwa and Porter Townships and has been using a custom GIS and work order software platform developed by Wightman & Associates, Inc. provided through the State of Michigan

SAW program. The software provides a full range of operational processes that are focused on the core basics of asset management. With the small to medium-sized community in mind, the software development focused on scalability, ease-of-use, and cost effectiveness.

Ray Galovich, Project Manager for IAI explains, “We were very happy to work with Ryan Miller and Frank LaPierre at Wightman as they were building this user-friendly software. It not only provides the maps and data of our clients’ wastewater system, it also provides an easy-to-use, preventative maintenance program. What we are really excited about is the ability to schedule, track and monitor routine, preventative maintenance programs, with a complete reporting support system.”

Ryan Miller, GIS Manager at Wightman, who led the development of the software, shares his vision. “Wightman felt that we needed to provide a complete GIS software platform to support the SAW program for our clients that was focused on usability after the lifecycle of the SAW grant. Our GIS team has been working with key strategic partners such as IAI, to build a solution that would meet their needs on a day to day basis. The beauty of the application is that the use of it can be integrated into other departments of each municipality such as stormwater, water, facility management, transportation, compliance, among others.

Custom tools (widgets) were built on top of an online GIS platform. The GIS-based approach provides the user a simple interface to log work performed

on assets, assign tasks to other users, schedule and receive notifications for preventative maintenance tasks, and create reports for developing metrics and summarizing data. Users have access to many out-of-the-box GIS tools along with the custom ones. The image at left shows a screenshot of the GIS-based application, which can be used on any device from a desktop PC to any mobile device.

Some key solutions that are included in the application include the ability to create and assign work orders to users in your organization. A notification email and text is sent to the assignee containing pertinent information, along with a link to the location of the work order on the map. Users have the ability to attach pictures and other important documentation to work orders as well. A dialog containing all open and closed work orders is easily accessible through a table in the application. Preventative maintenance tasks can be easily scheduled, reminding the user to proactively maintain assets. Finally, among other tools, the user can export custom reports, providing a summary of activities over a pre-defined time period. Calculations can be performed on how much time is being spent on certain tasks or how often certain equipment is being used, which is highly beneficial to supervisors looking to make informed decisions.

Initially, the target audience for the application were communities that received SAW grants, who are focused on sewer and stormwater infrastructure. The application can be utilized with other assets that an organization manages (i.e. water systems, roads, trees, zoning compliance, etc.). The GIS-based approach provides extreme flexibility and customization potential. In other words, anything that can be mapped on the earth has the ability to leverage and benefit from the tools in the application. Another useful solution, when combined with the GIS application, is Operations Dashboard for ArcGIS. The image at

left shows how a supervisor can utilize the dashboard to view the current status of work orders in a community. Operations Dashboard for ArcGIS is also a highly configurable solution that can be setup to meet individual client needs.

M. John Bossler, Waste Water Board Of Directors member, Ontwa Township, also likes the software. "Through the training program provided by Wightman, we can now track our emergency response activity along with our ongoing, preventative maintenance. We meet every Tuesday to review the past weeks maintenance and to plan the upcoming weeks schedule. Dashboard tools in the software provide us with an efficient way to track and monitor our system condition and maintenance activities.

"While there are many emerging software solutions available on the market today, the more user and operator-friendly products are gaining momentum and increased acceptance by users across the country."

Eventually, we would like to integrate Wightman's work order software with our SCADA system."

The use of GIS and asset management software is growing rapidly by public and private entities of all sizes in order to effectively and sustainably manage their assets. While there are many emerging software solutions available on the market today, the more user and operator-friendly products are gaining momentum and increased acceptance by users across the country.

The Author

Brigid Forlenza is Chairman of the Wastewater Board and the Deputy Supervisor of Ontwa Township, Edwardsburg, MI.

Mr. Ray Galovich is the Project Manager for Infrastructure Alternatives, Inc., a Wastewater and Water Operations Service provider headquartered in Rockford, MI. Ray is responsible for managing the Wastewater system and plant for Porter Township and Ontwa Township, in Southwestern Michigan.

Mr. John Bossler is a member of the Waste Water Board for Ontwa Township. He provides consulting services on the day to day wastewater operations of the Township that implemented their SAW Grant with completion in 2017.

Ryan Miller is the GIS Manager for Wightman & Associates. He is a certified GIS professional (GISP) with extensive experience in project management, data analysis, problem solving, creativity and presentation. Ryan has 8 years of prior municipal experience in GIS-related projects with the Van Buren County.

Frank LaPierre is Infrastructure Manager for Wightman & Associates. He manages the Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater programs for Wightman and is a member of the Asset Infrastructure Management committee of the Michigan Chapter of the Water Environment Association. 💧

If you are interested in joining the AIM committee, please contact committee Co-Chairs Sally Duffy at sduffy@hrc-engr.com or Jennifer Drinan at Jennifer.drinan@ohm-advisors.com, or committee Secretary Deann Falkowski at defalkowski@ftch.com. If you have any questions regarding this article, please contact AIM committee member Frank LaPierre, at flapierre@wightman-assoc.com.



Great Lakes Water Authority's All-New Electrical Instrumentation Control Technicians Apprenticeship Program

In June, 12 new apprentices joined GLWA as part of its inaugural Apprenticeship Program. GLWA partnered with Focus: HOPE and Henry Ford College to develop this three-year program to hire and train Electrical Instrumentation Control Technicians (EICT).

After the successful completion of initial testing, screening and intake processing, the apprentices began work at GLWA on Monday, June 12, 2017.

In addition to working full-time, the EICT-I apprentices will begin classes at Henry Ford College in August. As part of the apprenticeship, each apprentice's tuition will be paid for by GLWA. The apprentices will complete the EICT-I certification program and earn a nationally recognized certification. The coursework was specifically designed to meet the needs of our organization.

Stephanie Stevenson, Organizational Development Director, oversees GLWA's apprenticeship programs and manages recruitment initiatives.

"I'm very excited about the apprenticeship program. It's my goal for it to become something that all GLWA team members are so proud of that they refer new talent to future groups of the program," she said.

Apprentices will rotate locations every six months and work one-on-one with a GLWA Journey worker in order to learn about the entire water treatment system in preparation for their future roles within the Authority.

Johnny Thackthay, EICT-1, is currently mentoring Etaune Johnson, an apprentice at Water Works Park. Thackthay explained that although there's only one mentor, teaching the apprentices is a team effort.

"As an EICT, I work hand-in-hand with the electricians, water techs, and the maintenance team. It's important that Etaune understands this partnership. These team members have come together to help teach him," Thackthay said.

One month into the program, Johnson said there's been a steep learning curve, but he feels supported by his mentor and team members through the process.

"Sometimes I feel overwhelmed trying to make sense of it all, but Johnny does a great job of explaining things and making sure I understand the process behind the project," Johnson explained.

Despite the learning curve, Johnson enjoys the program and said his favorite part has been the completion of long-term projects.



"So far, we've been involved in a few lengthy projects and it's been neat to see the process of diagnostics and trouble-shooting, but the coolest part so far is when we finally succeed in finding a solution," Johnson said.

Thackthay emphasized the importance of communication for both mentors and apprentices.

"I always make sure to explain the purpose or goal of a project we're working on, and ask Etaune follow-up questions to make sure he has a clear understanding. Sometimes the work takes a little longer, but it's important to have those conversations," Thackthay said.

"In addition to asking a lot of questions, I encourage the apprentices to utilize all of the resources available to them; webinars, videos and manuals. It will help build foundational knowledge." 💧



ACE¹⁷ in Philadelphia

The Michigan Section was well-represented at the AWWA's Annual Conference & Exposition, where approximately 14,000 water professionals converged on Philadelphia this year. Michigan Night kicked off the week at the trendy Smokin' Betty's, bringing together Michigan water professionals with their colleagues from across the state and around the country.

This year's conference displayed success for the great state of Michigan. Chuck Van Der Kolk and Tom Idema did Michigan proud. Chuck received the award for Volunteer of the Year which recognizes an individual AWWA member who has advanced AWWA Denver or D.C. through their volunteer time and efforts and has been a support to AWWA staff. Tom received the Lechner

Award of Excellence which recognizes a section Service Provider Member (SVP) who has demonstrated exemplary service to the drinking water community as well as AWWA's mission and goals.

Within the busy week of technical sessions, the state also gained national recognition for Michigan's 2016 Fuller Awardee Brian Steglitz from the City of Ann Arbor. George Warren Fuller Awards are presented annually by the American Water Works Association to the sections' respective selected members for their 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.

Competitions were tough this year, but Michigan still represented well. Troy's Rick Greenwell gave it a good run during Meter Madness and Battle Creek sent a team to compete in the momentum gaining, newer competition of Hydrant Hysteria. Pipe Tapping is also a growing competition and out of a total of 36 teams competing, three were from Michigan including our defending champions and current state title holders the Lansing Lethal Ladies (Lansing Board of Water and Light), the Smooth Operators (City of Troy), and the state title holding men's team the Michigan Tappers (Lansing Board of Water and Light).

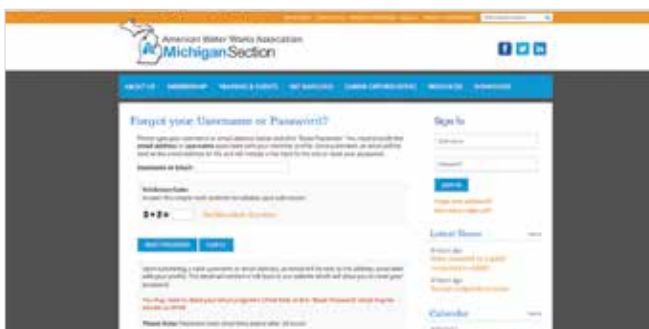
The pipe tapping competition in Philadelphia was marked by loose machines and thus an extraordinary number of no taps. That did not hinder the Lansing Lethal Ladies though, as they ran an impressive 2 minute 22.25 second run to take their fourth straight national championship title, setting the bar higher for the number of consecutive wins by a single team. The Lethal Ladies won by 18.65 seconds over second place Smooth Operators (Troy, MI) and 44.53 seconds over third place Ductile Iron Divas (Cincinnati, OH). The men's team did not fare as well, as the loose machines deterred them from completing their taps and they were unable to advance to the finals.

ACE18 is scheduled for June 11-14 in Las Vegas, NV. 💧

“This year's conference displayed success for the great state of Michigan.”



MI-AWWA Online: getting the most out of *www.mi-water.org*



The Section's current website is just over two years old. It will likely be going through some refreshing early next year. However, there are a number of features that the website offers that you might find useful now and in the future. This column will highlight a feature of the Section website each issue of *Michigan Water Works News* to help you get the most from it. Let's start with the basics.

Your Profile. Everyone who is a member of AWWA or who has attended a Section event has a profile. That means that it is very likely you have a user name and password. To find out your username and password, members can check the bottom of the weekly email, Michigan Water Works Update. Non-members get this email approximately once each month. Your username is always listed at the bottom.

To reset your password, go to the website and click on [Click here to reset Password](#). Using the email at which you receive Michigan Water Works Update, enter your email and enter your validation code (a simple math problem that helps keep web bots off the site). You should receive an email within a few minutes that provides a custom link to reset your password.

Once you successfully login, you are often deposited on your Profile Home page. This information is viewable to any member who does a search in the Member Directory. To change your information, including your username and password, go to your Manage Profile page and click on [Edit Bio](#).

NEXT ISSUE:

more on managing your profile


JOINT EXPO & OPERATORS DAY

The premier water conference of the Midwest, Joint Expo & Operators Day, is scheduled for February 6 and 7, 2018 in Lansing. Exhibitors can reserve exhibit space beginning on October 16. Any company interested in exhibiting is encouraged to view the full prospectus online or download a pdf for all current policies and procedures.

The Operators Day Committee is in the process of finalizing the training agendas and registration will open before Thanksgiving. Operators Day is a half day seminar that provides the latest education for Drinking Water and Wastewater Operators and Supervisors. The agenda is different each day so a person can receive .3 CECS for both DW and WW each day they attend.

The Infrastructure Finance Seminar is moving back to Tuesday and registration will also be opening online before Thanksgiving. The Infrastructure Finance Seminar provides funding information and tips for Utility Managers and Consultants.

Continuing education credits for both exhibits and trainings are approved for both drinking water and wastewater. Professional engineers and others are eligible to receive professional development hours for the trainings.

Joint Expo & Operators Day is a joint conference hosted by MI-AWWA and MWEA. Visit the Joint Expo & Operators Day page at www.jointexpo.org for details on all aspects of the show. 





Politics as a Lagging Indicator

Why Washington is the way it is.

By G. Tracy Mehan, III, Executive Director, Government Affairs, American Water Works Association, June 2017

This column is derived from remarks delivered to the AWWA Board of Directors at ACE '17 in Philadelphia, PA this summer.

Washington, D.C. is sometimes referred to as 68 square miles surrounded by reality. An old joke for sure, but things are unusually unsettled in the Federal City these days for a variety of reasons, many of which having to do with the last election. But there are other trends, longstanding and persistent, welling up from the very nature of contemporary American society that are driving current political behavior with often unsettling outcomes. There are also disturbing elements of the federal government's fiscal situation making everything more contentious as liberals and conservatives, Republicans and Democrats face an endless stream of lose-lose choices when it comes to funding their preferred yet competing priorities.

This needs to be kept in mind as the water sector pursues new initiatives, say, for water infrastructure financing, in the days ahead. Every federal dollar spent for every purpose faces scrutiny and even good ideas rarely make it out of the political scrum. The fact that the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, AWWA's signature legislative achievement, was funded for the first time this year is something to celebrate. Further, with budget cuts looming large, State Revolving Loan Funds have remained largely untouched and have even grown. This is good news, and perhaps a rare glint of common sense in today's troubled political waters.

The Blue State-Red State divide is not a purely political phenomenon.

It is, at root, cultural, religious, social, racial and economic. The fact that now President Donald Trump pulled together a coalition, a plurality not a majority, sufficient to win the Electoral College was a stunning electoral event universally testified to by all. My home state of Missouri normally is a bell-wether state. Between 1904 and 2004 it always goes with the winner except for Adlai Stevenson and Barack Obama.

Trump won all but four Missouri counties. He lost Jackson (Kansas City), Boone (Columbia, the university town), St. Louis County and St. Louis City (a county-level jurisdiction). In the other 111 counties, he won all but 4 by margins of 60 percent or better, many in the 70-80 percent range. Urban, middle-class, racially diverse and more secular communities, were overwhelmed by white, rural, small-town counties, many suffering from the loss of light manufacturing due to globalization. The President won the state with 56.4 percent of the vote versus Secretary Clinton's 37.9 percent. Mitt Romney won by 9.4 percent in 2012.

Recall too that, nationally, President Trump won over 80 percent of Evangelicals.

So it should not come as a surprise that only 20 percent of Americans today "say they can trust the government in Washington to do what is right 'just about always' (4%) or 'most of the time' (16%)," according to the Pew Trust's National Election Study. Pew has been doing these surveys since 1958. Then, "about three-quarters of Americans trusted the federal government to do the right thing almost always or most of the time."

What makes these data even more challenging is that so many citizens distrust the government for different reasons. What agitates a Bernie Sanders voter is very different from what a Ted Cruz supporter finds disturbing. Thus, consensus is illusive. Again, this is all compounded by regional, cultural and economic differences and a general sense of disconnection from Washington. With one exception. Most Americans receive, or expect to receive, substantial transfer payments from the federal government. It is not an accident that President Trump, Secretary Hillary Clinton and Senator Bernie Sanders pledged not to touch or cut entitlements during their respective political campaigns.

Polarization and gridlock are not just functions of a nation divided by culture, economics, religion, race and the like. There is a sharp divide on budget and fiscal matters due to the straight jacket created by resistance to more taxation and a disinclination to restrain the cascade of entitlement spending—Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, mandatory not discretionary spending, along with payment on the national debt with low interest rates soon to rise if the Federal Reserve is to be believed.

According to the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) report, *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2017-2027* (January 2017), things are not looking so good for the federal fisc: "The Congressional Budget Office projects that over the next decade, if current laws remained generally unchanged, budget deficits would eventually follow an upward trajectory—the result of strong growth in spending for retirement and

health care programs targeted to older people and rising interest payments on the government debt, accompanied by only modest growth in revenue collections," states the CBO. "Those accumulating deficits would drive debt held by the public from its already high level up to its highest percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) since shortly after World War II."

While we are talking big numbers here, a \$559 billion budget deficit for FY 2017 and a national debt of over \$19 trillion (with a "t"), this is just the bond debt held by the public. It is entitlement spending, as noted above, which is the very real Death Star looming over the nation and the economy.

Niall Ferguson, a Harvard economic historian and host of the PBS television documentary, "The Ascent of Money," argues in his book, *The Great Degeneration: How Institutions Decay and*

Economies Die (2012), that "the statistics commonly cited as government debt are themselves misleading, for they encompass only the sums owed by the government in the form of bonds."

"But the official debts in the form of bonds do not include the often far larger unfunded liabilities of welfare schemes [sic] like... Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security," writes Ferguson. "The best available estimate for the difference between the net present value of federal government liabilities and the net present value of future federal revenues is \$200 trillion, nearly thirteen times the debt as stated by the U.S. Treasury." (Emphasis added).

Everyone in Washington wants more of something but, again, usually very different things: more benefits, more tax cuts, more defense spending, more infrastructure, more subsidies. But the inherent limits of the budget process, along with current law,

rigorous budget scoring congressional rules (PAYGO or "Pay-As-You-Go"), are forcing tough trade-offs. Any new spending requires a reduction in spending elsewhere or new revenue. There is no rising tide to lift all the boats to flip Jack Kennedy's famous quote on its head. The budget process is barely functioning anymore and is another fraught political interaction between the Democratic and Republican caucuses looking for very different things for their respective Blue and Red constituencies.

These are not harmonious times in Washington, D.C. and the nation at large. Politicians are as much a result of the current national distemper as a cause. Politics in the nation's capital is a lagging indicator. AWWA's voice, advocating for smart water policy and promoting public health and the environment, has never been more critical. 💧

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ASSET MANAGEMENT DEADLINE IS FAST APPROACHING

All community water systems that serve more than 1,000 people must complete an asset management program by January 1, 2018. The MDEQ held a series of training sessions earlier this year to provide background on asset management and the DEQ's expectations regarding the upcoming requirements. Guidance materials, including the slides from the training sessions, are available on the MDEQ's community drinking water website. Rule 1606 within Michigan's Safe Drinking Water Act defines the requirements

for these Asset Management Programs. The rule has five requirements:

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 five-year and 20-year planning periods.

5. A summary detailing the funding structure and rate methodology that provides sufficient resources to implement the asset management program.

Visit the MDEQ website at www.michigan.gov/drinkingwater and click on "Community Water Supply Home Page" where you will find a link to asset management reference materials. Please contact your MDEQ District Engineer if you have questions about asset management. 💧

2018 DEADLINE FOR BACKFLOW PREVENTER TESTING REQUIREMENTS

The Part 14 Rules were updated in 2015 to improve public health protection through strengthening the State of Michigan's cross connection requirements. Among the rule revisions is a change in *Rule 1405 Backflow preventers; tester qualifications and corrections*. Starting January 1, 2018 backflow assembly testing results will only be valid if performed by a tester certified in accordance to ASSE Standard 5110 and listed as such at www.asse-plumbing.org. The changes

are aimed at improving the quality of testing and standardizing certification and renewal requirements.

To acquire the new certification, an individual must have sufficient relevant experience to qualify for the required 40-hour course. Following the course, the individual must pass an exam by demonstrating proficiency in testing. To keep an ASSE 5110 certification active, testers must obtain continuing education and renew their certificate every three years.

What does this mean to community water supplies? It means that after January 1, 2018, backflow prevention assembly test forms are only valid if performed and signed by an ASSE 5110 certified tester. Water system operators are encouraged to communicate these changes to local testers to ensure tester availability. Water purveyors are also reminded that repairs of any backflow preventers still must be completed by a licensed plumber. 💧

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REVISED TOTAL COLIFORM RULE REVIEW OF LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) became effective April 1, 2016. An acute maximum contaminant level (MCL) for *E. coli* still exists under the revised rule, however there is no longer an MCL for total coliform (TC). If TC is verified through repeat monitoring, an assessment must be conducted and any sanitary defects identified and corrected. There are two levels of assessments based on severity or frequency of the problem; however, both are designed to “find and fix” conditions that might indicate a pathway for contamination of the drinking water.

A **level 1 assessment** may be completed by the water supply’s certified operator-in-charge or the owner. A level 1 assessment is triggered if any of the following occur:

- Two (2) or more routine and repeat samples in a month are TC positive in a supply that collects less than 40 samples per month
- Greater than 5.0% of routine and repeat samples in a month are TC positive in a supply that collects 40 or more samples per month
- Failure to collect ALL repeat samples following a TC positive routine sample

For community water supplies, a **level 2 assessment** must be conducted by MDEQ staff with a representative of the water supply present. A level 2 assessment is triggered if any of the following occur:

- An *E. coli* MCL violation
- A second level 1 trigger within a rolling 12-month period
- MDEQ determines a level 2 assessment is appropriate

Level 1 and 2 assessments must be conducted as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the triggering event. If sanitary defects are identified during an assessment, the water supply must correct the defect(s) within 30 days of the assessment trigger. Failure to complete and submit an assessment by the deadline is a treatment technique violation, requiring Tier 2 public notification within 30 days.

Example Level 1 Assessment

A groundwater system with 2 wells is required to collect 1 TC compliance sample each month. The operator in charge (OIC) collects the routine sample as required. The following day he receives a TC-positive result. The OIC collects 3 repeat samples and 2 triggered groundwater source samples within 24 hours and according to the Sample Siting Plan (SSP). The routine and downstream repeat sample locations are TC-positive; the upstream repeat and triggered well samples are TC-negative. This is the supply’s first positive bacteriological event in 12 months.

Because the supply had more than one TC-positive sample during the monitoring period, a level 1 assessment is triggered. The OIC has 30 days to complete both the level 1 assessment and any corrective actions. The sooner the level 1 assessment is conducted, the more time will remain for any defects to be corrected.

Using the level 1 assessment form available on MDEQ’s website, the OIC conducts the assessment immediately upon receiving the repeat positive result. While reviewing all items on the assessment form, the OIC notices a missing casing vent screen on one well. Additionally, after discussion with the owner, the OIC learns the system was depressurized earlier in the month for replacement of backflow preventers.

Corrective actions:

- Due to the system-wide pressure loss, a boil water advisory (BWA) is distributed;
- The distribution system is thoroughly flushed;
- Efforts are made to install temporary chlorination if flushing does not resolve the issue;
- The casing vent screen is replaced;
- A plan is established to ensure property management informs the OIC when maintenance activities are being performed on the water system;

- After 2 consecutive rounds of TC-negative samples, the BWA is rescinded.

Example Level 2 Assessment

A city on groundwater collects 50 compliance samples per month from designated sample stations. One routine sample result is *E. coli*-positive. As required, the OIC immediately calls MDEQ to report the *E. coli* result and collects repeat and triggered source samples. One of the repeat samples is TC-positive/EC-negative; all other repeat and triggered well samples are TC-negative. This is an *E. coli* MCL violation, which requires Tier 1 public notification and triggers a level 2 assessment. After informing the MDEQ, the OIC places the city on a BWA that includes required Tier 1 public notice language. An MDEQ representative meets with the OIC the following day to conduct the level 2 assessment.

During the assessment, a crack is found in the protective casing of the sampling station where the EC-positive sample was collected. Bird droppings around the cracked casing are also observed. Free chlorine residuals are lower than normal. No other issues are identified.

Corrective actions:

- A BWA and Tier 1 public notice is distributed;
- Chlorine is increased to bring residuals back to normal levels;
- The sample station casing is replaced;
- Thorough flushing is performed;
- After 2 consecutive rounds of TC-negative samples, the BWA is rescinded.

There are many scenarios that trigger level 1 or 2 assessments, and corrective actions are situation-specific. It is recommended you call the MDEQ after positive results to assure proper actions are taken and to assess whether a boil water advisory should be distributed.

The Level 1 Assessment form is located on the DEQ webpage at www.michigan.gov/drinkingwater. Click on Community Water Supply Home Page, then Reporting Forms. If you have any questions, please contact your DEQ district office. 💧



MDEQ OPERATOR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION UPDATE



In the last year the Operator Training and Certification Program has made many changes, including new staff, updated forms, and an updated website. We would like to share some of these changes with the AWWA community.

Ariel Zoldan, Environmental Quality Analyst, joined the Operator Training and Certification team in November 2016 after completing her Master's in Public Health in Environmental Quality and Health at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She also brings valuable knowledge about the drinking water field from her five years of experience at NSF International. Ariel is responsible for managing the activities of the Advisory Board of Examiners, as well as CEC approvals, assisting with

training and exam applications, and operator questions.

Koren Carpenter, Environmental Manager, has worked for the State of Michigan for 16 years. She worked in Operator Training and Certification for over six years and spent over five years in the Water Resources Division as a senior Environmental Engineer. Koren holds a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from Michigan State University and undergraduate degrees in both Biology/Environmental Science and Civil/Environmental Engineering. She is the manager for the program and will be assisting with training and operator issues as well as managing day to day program operations.

The program is also embarking on a LEAN process improvement project which started in August. We will be evaluating our processes and coming up with ideas for how to be more efficient and better serve drinking water operators in the state. We look forward to continuing to improve our program and our ability to serve you better.

We also updated our forms on the internet to simplify them, and make them ADA compliant. We also updated the website itself. If you logged-on this summer, you saw a separation of the Drinking Water and Wastewater websites; the format was changed and the content reorganized. Hopefully this will make information easier to find. Watch for more changes over the next year.

In addition, we are bringing some of our courses on the road! Be on the lookout for math courses in the Upper Peninsula and Southeast Michigan. 💧



FINANCING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Many communities are dealing with how to finance their water and wastewater infrastructure. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Revolving Loan program offers pre-planning consultations with both Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF) and State Revolving Fund (SRF) experts free of charge.

Michigan's DWRF and SRF programs help communities address public health or water quality concerns with drinking

water and wastewater infrastructure by providing low-interest loans for planning, design, and construction of drinking water, wastewater, and nonpoint source projects. To date, the programs have funded over \$5.6 billion in projects, with interest rates set annually ranging between 2 and 3 percent.

Project managers will guide potential applicants through the types of projects that are eligible and help the community decide if the

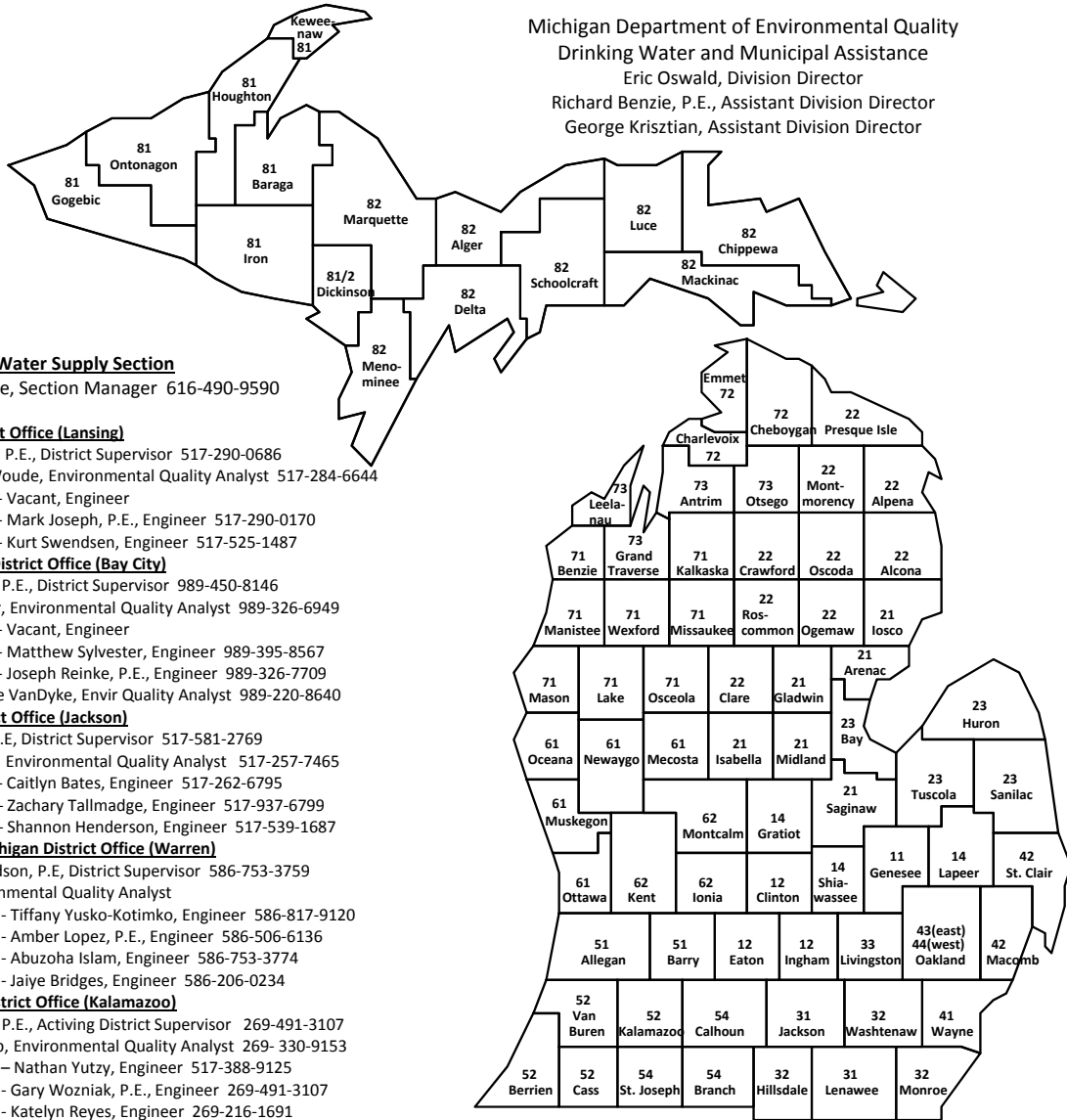
program(s) would be the best fit for them. Also, the SRF and DWRF can now be used to fund up to \$2 million for asset management activities if they are combined with an eligible project.

If your community is interested in learning more about these funding opportunities please visit, www.michigan.gov/cleanwaterrevolvingfund, www.michigan.gov/drinkingwaterrevolvingfund, or contact the Revolving Loan Fund staff at 517-284-5433. 💧



COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM

09/18/2017



Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
 Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance
 Eric Oswald, Division Director
 Richard Benzie, P.E., Assistant Division Director
 George Krisztian, Assistant Division Director

Community Water Supply Section

Amy Lachance, Section Manager 616-490-9590

Lansing District Office (Lansing)

Bethel Skinker, P.E., District Supervisor 517-290-0686
 Ryan VanDerWoude, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-284-6644
 District 11 - Vacant, Engineer
 District 12 - Mark Joseph, P.E., Engineer 517-290-0170
 District 14 - Kurt Swendsen, Engineer 517-525-1487

Saginaw Bay District Office (Bay City)

Daryl Gotham, P.E., District Supervisor 989-450-8146
 Rebecca Kaiser, Environmental Quality Analyst 989-326-6949
 District 21 - Vacant, Engineer
 District 22 - Matthew Sylvester, Engineer 989-395-8567
 District 23 - Joseph Reinke, P.E., Engineer 989-326-7709
 MHC* - Sue VanDyke, Envir Quality Analyst 989-220-8640

Jackson District Office (Jackson)

Pat Brennan, P.E, District Supervisor 517-581-2769
 Taryn Johnson, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-257-7465
 District 31 - Caitlyn Bates, Engineer 517-262-6795
 District 32 - Zachary Tallmadge, Engineer 517-937-6799
 District 33 - Shannon Henderson, Engineer 517-539-1687

Southeast Michigan District Office (Warren)

Kristina Donaldson, P.E, District Supervisor 586-753-3759
 Vacant, Environmental Quality Analyst
 District 41 - Tiffany Yusko-Kotimko, Engineer 586-817-9120
 District 42 - Amber Lopez, P.E., Engineer 586-506-6136
 District 43 - Abuzoha Islam, Engineer 586-753-3774
 District 44 - Jaiye Bridges, Engineer 586-206-0234

Kalamazoo District Office (Kalamazoo)

Gary Wozniak, P.E., Acting District Supervisor 269-491-3107
 Heather Bishop, Environmental Quality Analyst 269- 330-9153
 District 51 - Nathan Yutz, Engineer 517-388-9125
 District 52 - Gary Wozniak, P.E., Engineer 269-491-3107
 District 54 - Katelyn Reyes, Engineer 269-216-1691
 MHC* - Mark Kraenzlein, Envir Quality Analyst 269-366-6667

Grand Rapids District Office (Grand Rapids)

Luke Dehtiar, P.E., District Supervisor 616-307-0322
 Jeremy Klein, Environmental Quality Analyst 616-250-1033
 District 61 - Coulton Pierce, Engineer 616-265-9129
 District 62 - Wood Chooi, P.E., Engineer 616-356-0228
 MHC* - Brian Esparsa, Envir Quality Analyst 616-307-0006

Cadillac District Office (Cadillac)

Brian Thurston, P.E., District Supervisor 231-590-3430
 Amy Vail, Environmental Quality Analyst 231-876-4481
 District 71 - Scott Conradson, Engineer 231-876-4461
 District 72 - Bob Weir, Engineer 231-590-2050
 District 73 - Jamie Wade, P.E., Engineer 231-878-8592

Upper Peninsula District Office (Marquette)

Chuck Thomas, District Supervisor 906-228-4514
 John Clark, Environmental Quality Analyst 906-228-3902
 District 81 - Tom Flaminio, P.E., Engineer 906-228-6504
 District 82 - Amy Douville, Engineer 906-228-3905

After Hours Emergencies: 1-800-292-4706

Community Water Website: www.michigan.gov/deq

Click on Water > Drinking Water > Community Water Supply

* MHC = Manufactured Housing Communities

Technical Support Unit (Lansing)

Kris Philip, Unit Supervisor 517-284-6518
 Deborah Ostrander, Environmental Quality Specialist 269-491-4536
 Holly Gohlke, Environmental Quality Specialist 989-705-3422
 Jeni Bolt, Environmental Quality Specialist 517-284-6515
 Krista Robinson, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-284-6519
 John Karnes, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-284-6570
 Brittany Tack, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-284-6583
 Heather Kot, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-284-5413
 Vacant, Environmental Quality Analyst

Operator Training & Certification

Koren Carpenter, Assistant Unit Supervisor 517-284-6857
 Scott Schmidt, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-284-5431
 Ariel Zoldan, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-284-5426
 John Koenigsnecht, Environmental Tech 517-284-5430

Engineering Unit (Various)

Jon Bloemker, P.E., Unit Supervisor 989-460-7254
 Michael Bolf, P.E., Water Treatment Specialist 906-630-4107
 Doug Pascoe, P.E., Distribution System Specialist 906-228-3903
 Stephanie Johnson, P.E., Surface Water Specialist (east) 586-506-6137
 Robert London, P.E., Surface Water Specialist (north) 989-450-7834
 Ernie Sarkipato, P.E., Surface Water Specialist (west) 616-307-0261
 Brandon Onan, P.E., Corrosion Control Engineer 616-307-6736



MEET THE MEMBER *JENNA KARAZIM*



Jenna, like many of MI-AWWA members, is a hardworking and dedicated volunteer for the Section. You may not have known at the time, but you've probably attended one of the many networking events that she has organized through the Young Professionals Task Force. These networking events have proven themselves to be very valuable for all the professionals in the Section in regards to learning more about what's going on in the water industry and connecting its members.

Currently employed as a chemist at Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), Jenna grew up in Jackson, MI and went on to graduate as a proud Briton from Albion College with a Bachelors of Arts in Chemistry in 2007. Jenna recently took a little time out of her busy schedule to answer a few questions about her career and her love for clean water. She is an extraordinary Young Professional with a lovable personality that makes it easy to see why members like her are the heart and soul of Michigan Section AWWA.

In your current position, what are your daily duties?

My duties range from sample collection and preservation to running samples for solids, pH, phosphorus, cyanide, chlorine, fecal coliform, DO, and settle-able solids. I'm also currently helping revise outdated SOPs, update methods and equipment, and run various studies to ensure our SOPs comply with standard methods.

What do you like about what you do?

I worked in commercial analytical labs for 6 years prior to becoming a water professional, so I've always enjoyed being in the lab. The sole difference between liking and loving my job is the industry. Joining the water industry has been one of the best decisions I've ever made.

Did you look for a job in the water industry or did it find you?

The water industry found me, I had no idea what I was getting myself in to.

What would you say is the toughest part of your job?

Working outside in the heat. I don't do well in high temperatures, and we collect our own samples for analysis. Fortunately, I have some of the best coworkers ever, and they often offer to collect samples for me on days that the temperature is high. We're much more of a team than individual workers.

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

Switching careers. When I entered the water field I knew very little. Most of my coworkers came from other municipalities and had experience. I had to play catch up on both the water and wastewater side of things.

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

I've recently been working closely with a couple coworkers on revamping the lab at GLWA. We've made a lot of improvements, but it's an ongoing process. It's exciting to see the change and the outcome.

What jobs did you do before getting into the water industry?

I worked in the R&D department for solar panels at First Solar in Perrysburg, OH. I would digest the conductive layers of the cells and analyze for the prime components to estimate efficiency and usage.

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

I've been a member since 2015. The individuals I've met and the relationships I've formed are invaluable. I've also had the opportunity to gain experience in areas such as public speaking, leadership, and event planning.

How did you become a volunteer?

I am currently the chair of the Young Professionals committee. I became



a volunteer after several members urged me to become more active in the section. Once I began attending YP events, I was immediately recruited for additional responsibilities.

Since becoming involved with the Section, what accomplishment are you most proud of?

The accomplishment that I'm most proud of is winning the YP of the year award in September of 2016. The YPs as a whole have been working tirelessly to aid with member retention and member involvement. I helped orchestrate several networking, fundraising, and educational events that led to my award. I was extremely excited and grateful to be the recipient.

Do you volunteer for any other organizations?

Yes, I also volunteer for MWEA and WEF, and we partner with them for events when possible. I've been trying to incorporate more events that combine participation from both organizations since we are all on the same team.

How can others contribute to the water industry?

Spread the word about the importance of clean water. If anyone saw our YP presentation at MI-ACE 2016, you saw that the majority of the general public doesn't know much about the water industry as a whole. They know that the water goes down the toilet

and comes out of the faucet. What happens between is this magical process that few understand. If we educate the public on the basics of water treatment, it will help aid in infrastructure updates and improvements that are necessary to continue supplying clean and reliable water.

What's your motto in life?

Be kind to others and dance like nobody is watching. Unless you've had too many beverages, then look around before you start dancing.

Hobbies and outside interests:

I love to boat. Most of my summer days are spent on Wolf Lake surrounded by family and friends. I also love to travel. Some of my upcoming destinations over the next few months include Chicago, Nashville, Riviera Maya, the Pocono Mountains, and San Antonio.

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Ha. When I was 5, I wanted to be the lady at Jacobson's (a department store that closed several years ago) that tied the ribbons around gift boxes. At age 6, I wanted to be a doctor, and every year after that it continued to change. Oddly enough, one of the only professions that was never on my list was being a chemist.

What is something that people would be surprised to know about you?

Most people are actually surprised to find out I'm a chemist. I waitressed at the same place for almost 17 years, and many of my regulars never knew that I had a profession outside of the restaurant. For those that know me on the chemist side, many are surprised to find out that my favorite TV show growing up was 'I love Lucy'. In my life span I've had a dog named Fred, a cat named Lucy, and I currently have a cat named Ethel. Guess it's time for a dog named Ricky. 💧



SHE IS AN EXTRAORDINARY YOUNG PROFESSIONAL WITH A LOVABLE PERSONALITY THAT MAKES IT EASY TO SEE WHY MEMBERS LIKE HER ARE THE HEART AND SOUL OF MICHIGAN SECTION AWWA.



ON THE MOVE



Jenna Karazim moved from Environmental Analyst III for City of Ann Arbor to Chemist at Great Lakes Water Authority.

Joellen Thompson retired from the City of Grand Rapids Water Department. Joellen has been a member of AWWA for more than 30 years, receiving the Silver Water Drop Award. During her career she served on the AWWA Fire Protection Committee, the Section's Water Efficiency & Conservation Committee and MI-WARN. Happy retirement, Joellen!

Bryce Feigner retired from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Bryce has been a member of AWWA for X years and was with the DEQ for x years.

Do you have a recent career change to announce? We'd like to feature you! Send promotions, job changes and retirements to Michigan Water Works News editor Kelly Gleason. 💧

MEET THE LEADERS OF THE MICHIGAN SECTION FOR 2017-2018

The Section is member driven and volunteer led. Each year during the Annual Business Meeting, the members elect members to serve on the Board of Trustees. The Board is responsible for keeping the Section's activities aligned with AWWA's core purpose of advancing water knowledge and for directing the use of Section resources.

Board of Trustees

- Christine Spitzley, Chair
- Bill Fritz, Chair-Elect
- John Willemin, Past Chair
- Mike Williams, Secretary/Treasurer
- Mark Coleman, AWWA Director
- Greg Alimenti, Trustee 2016-2019
- Clyde Dugan, Trustee 2015-2018
- Ken McDonough, Trustee 2017-2020
- Aaron Uranga, Trustee 2017-2020
- Amy Vail, Trustee 2015-2018
- Joe VanderStel, Trustee 2016-2019

Council Leaders are appointed by the Chair and serve up to three years in their leadership positions. Council Chairs help coordinate the work of

the Section through committees and task forces.

Communications Council

Cindy Irving of Lansing Board of Water & Light

Conference & Recognition Council

Jaime Fleming of City of Wyoming

Education & Training Council

Bob Miller of Suez

Government Affairs Council

Molly Maciejewski of City of Ann Arbor

Membership Council

Tina Pawlak of Holland Board of Public Works

Technical Network Council

Matt Parks of OHM Advisors

To learn more about the Section's structure, to see a full list of volunteers, or to get involved, visit the Section's website. 💧

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SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Michigan Section has two opportunities for young people to earn a scholarship for their formal education. The Section, in partnership with the Association, also has a unique opportunity for operators to earn a scholarship to put toward any professional development. Congratulations to this year's scholarship awardees!

Raymond J Faust Scholarship

Ben Anderson, who is attending Southwest Michigan College and **Chelsea Cooper**, who is attending Northwestern Michigan College.

Michigan Section High School Senior Scholarship

Quinten Wade, child of AWWA member Molly Maciejewski.



SECTION ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Earlier this year, the Board of Trustees put to the Michigan Section membership a vote on whether to institute a Section assessment (i.e. chapter dues) to help the Section continue to develop new programming. The membership approved the Section Assessment in a vote according to AWWA Bylaws and other governing documents. The issue then went before the AWWA Board during ACE17 for final approval. The Assessment was approved and will begin being assessed during 2018 membership renewals.

What this means

Membership in AWWA falls into several possible categories. Below shows how assessments will be charged across all membership categories.

2018 AWWA DUES

INDIVIDUAL				
Grade	Description	Dues	Assessment	Total Dues
02	Individual	\$192	\$19	\$211
04	Individual (associated with organizational membership)	0	19	19
06	Operations	75	8	83
08	Retiree w/o print pubs	35		35
09	Retiree w/print pubs	45		45
10	Life	85		85
12	Honorary	0		0
14	Student	20		20
76	Individual-Main Contact for organizational member	0	0	0

UTILITY				
Grade	Taps	Dues	Dues	Dues
80	0 to 5K	\$300	\$30	\$330
81	5,001 - 10,000	1,826	183	2,009
82	10,001 - 25,000	3,445	192	3,637
83	25,001 - 50,000	5,653	192	5,845
84	50,001 - 100,000	9,120	192	9,312
85	100,001 - 150,000	12,662	192	12,854
86	over 150,000	20,423	192	20,615

SERVICE PROVIDER				
Grade	Sales/Millions	Dues	Dues	Dues
90	Under \$1M	\$1,325	\$133	\$1,458
91	\$1 to \$3M	2,365	192	2,557
92	\$3 to \$10M	3,865	192	4,057
93	\$10 to \$20M	5,819	192	6,011
94	Over \$20M	7,741	192	7,933
74	Partner Agency & Institution	1,437	144	1,581

Multi-section members will be assessed \$19 to be a member of the Michigan Section. These additional funds will help the Section continue to work toward fulfilling its strategic plan and ensure that offerings stay affordable and of the highest quality. 💧

COMMUNICATING ABOUT WATER

During 2017, the Section hired a consultant to create and help implement a communication strategy. The first phase of this project included piloting a media outreach effort as well as holding a Communications Summit. The Summit helped to identify and address some areas for improvement for the Section and its members. The media outreach effort helped the Section get a better understanding of what is involved in running a media outreach program.

As the Board and Councils head into planning for 2018, they will be reviewing the communications plan and determine how best to apply Section resources to its implementation.

The Section has several goals it is trying to achieve with its communications plan:

- provide support (in the form of training and tools) for members to address issues locally
- promote the water profession
- become a resource for media when issues related to drinking water arise

Stay tuned for updates through the website and in future issues. 💧

To reach Michigan's water industry professionals through *Water Works News* magazine and its targeted readership, please contact me directly at



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Marketing Manager
1-866-985-9782
awhalen@kelman.ca

TRAINING

October 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3 Fall Regional Meeting <i>at Livonia</i>	4 Fall Regional Meeting <i>at Kalamazoo</i>	5	6 Michigan Water Academy - Customer Service II <i>at Grand Rapids</i>
9	10 Distribution System Short Course <i>at Gull Lake</i> Limited Treatment Short Course <i>at Gull Lake</i>		12	13
16	17 Water Treatment Short Course II <i>at Kettunen, Tustin</i> Basic Math & Hydraulics Short Course <i>at Kettunen, Tustin</i>		19	20
23	24 Fall Regional Meeting <i>at Mt. Pleasant</i>	25 Fall Regional Meeting <i>at Gaylord</i>	26 Pump Maintenance Seminar <i>at Grand Rapids</i>	27
30	31			

November 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20 Michigan Water Academy - Customer Service III <i>at Waterford Township</i>	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30 Michigan Water Academy - Customer Service III <i>at Grand Rapids</i>	

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