

MICHIGAN water works

FALL 2020

NEWS

A portrait of Jaime Fleming, a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing glasses and a white lace cardigan over a dark floral top. She is standing outdoors with a blurred background of greenery and a building.

New Chair JAIME FLEMING

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FLORA LAROCHE –
PIONEER IN WATER

MI-ACE
2020 RECAP

MEET THE
LEADERS



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American Water Works Association
Michigan Section



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Material may be submitted to the Editor.

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contents

FALL 2020



Indian River runs alongside the Manistique Water Plant in the Upper Peninsula.

FEATURES

FLORA LAROCHE – PIONEER IN WATER	15
MI-ACE 2020 RECAP	18
MI-AWWA STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2023	26
NINAH SASY: AN EXPERT IN WORST-CASE SCENARIOS	27
MEET THE NEW LEADERS	31
SAVE THE DATE: 2021 JOINT EXPO	33

DEPARTMENTS

Editor's Note	7
Chair's Message	8
Director's Report	11
Executive Director's Message	12
News and Notes	35
Volunteer News	38
Member News	39
EGL News	40
Training	43
Advertiser Information Center	46



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THE YEAR OF THE NEW NORMAL

Kelly Gleason, Editor



Fall color treetops in Lansing, MI.

Hello Michigan! I hope everyone has had the best summer possible. The season has changed, and we are into the cooler days of fall my favorite time of year. 2020 has been the year of nothing normal or the year of new normal. All trainings have been transitioned to online or virtual settings. The Section as a variety of classes available, see page 35 for the training calendar.

The annual conference was held virtually as well, hopefully you were able to join in. There is a recap on page 18.

As always, I would love to hear from you. Is there content you would like to see covered in *Water Works News*? Send pictures, stories, and updates to kelly.gleason@lbwl.com with the subject line *Water Works News*.

Upcoming due dates are:

- Winter 2021: due November 6.
- Spring 2021: due February 5 (tentative). 💧



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WATER COMMUNITY SHINES IN THE FACE OF CHANGE

Jaime Fleming, Chair

As I was preparing to write this article, I spent some time looking back at the words of the Section chairs that came before me. Reading through those articles, it occurred to me that we've come through some big challenges in the water world over the last few years – changes to regulations, response to an emerging contaminant and new MCLs, long overdue conversations on topics of social and environmental justice, a pandemic. So many of the discussions in the midst of each of those things included words like, 'unexpected,' 'unprecedented,' and 'new normal.' It seems as if the one thing that has been constant is change.

Change can be hard. It asks us to stretch ourselves into new ways of thinking and doing. It asks us to take risks and measure value. It reminds us that we can't control as many things as we'd like to think we can. It can leave us asking why we should create plans when there are so many things that we can't predict. Change leaves us feeling vulnerable.

It can be easy to think of the pressures created by change as a burden. When really, they are opportunities. In her book, *Daring Greatly*, Brene Brown (one of my favorite authors) gives her perspective on this: "When we spend our lives waiting until we're perfect or bulletproof before we walk into the arena, we ultimately sacrifice relationships and opportunities that may not be recoverable, we squander our precious time, and we turn our backs on our gifts, those unique contributions that only we can make." In other words, when we're faced with hard things, that's when we have the chance to shine the most. And, to me, that is exactly what our water community has done in the face of change and unexpected challenges.

Over this past year, a lot of energy and care has gone into creating the Section's new Strategic Plan. There were thoughtful discussions and creative sessions that involved many different voices. The plan grew from abstract ideas to a document that lays out the Section's goals and priorities for the next five years. In my mind, it is the framework that guides us towards the greatest chance of continued success and being the best possible version of what we aspire to be.

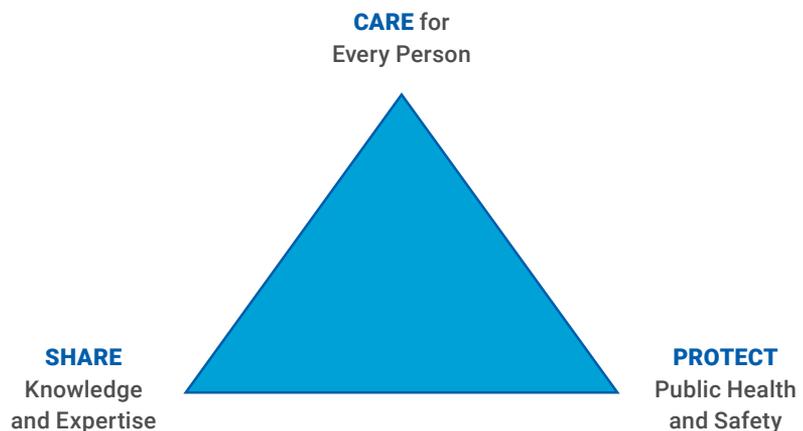
When the final version of the strategic plan came out, I knew that I really liked it – but at first, I don't know that I could have articulated exactly what about it resonated with me the most. Now, I do know: core principles are guiding values that we adhere to in everything that we do. They must be reflected in our goals and activities and conduct, and they remain unchanged – no matter what comes at us. They are our gifts and the

"IT CAN BE EASY TO THINK OF THE PRESSURES CREATED BY CHANGE AS A BURDEN – WHEN REALLY, THEY ARE OPPORTUNITIES."

unique contributions that only we can make when it comes to providing and protecting drinking water.

In all that we do and hope to be, these three core principles are evident. They are equally important and always in relationship to each other. I know that, no matter what challenges and changes come, they will be opportunities to utilize our unique qualities and expertise. I look forward to what the next year and beyond brings for the Michigan Section and our water community. 💧

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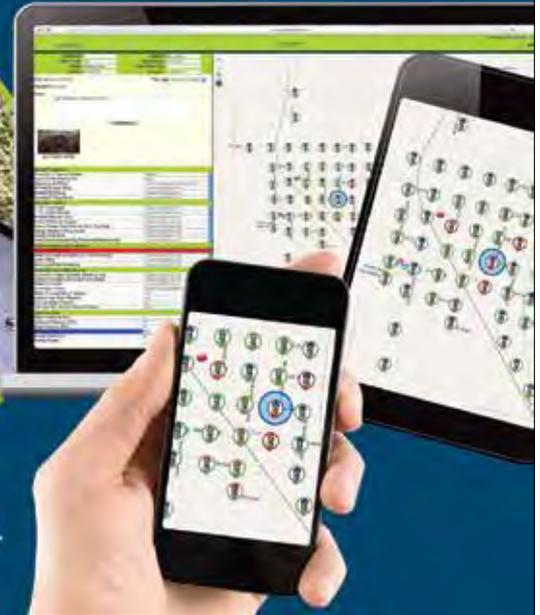
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CELEBRATING IMPORTANT MILESTONES

Pat Staskiewicz, Director

This is the article that I normally report on what happened at ACE and the summer board meeting.

As we have all come to learn, 2020 is anything but normal. As you know, ACE transitioned to the AWWA Water Summit and I hope you had the opportunity to participate in this new event. The summer board meeting was conducted online, and the following are highlights from the meeting:

Two important milestones were recognized. First, the Partnership for Safe Water celebrated its 25th Anniversary. The Partnership is a voluntary effort between six drinking water organizations and more than 300 water utilities. The goal of the Partnership is to provide an additional measure of public health protection to millions by encouraging utilities to voluntarily improve performance beyond current regulatory requirements.

Second, the Standards Council celebrated its 100th Anniversary. The initial standards covering pipes, water meters, and steel water storage tanks have expanded with the help of many AWWA volunteers. The Council has grown from five to 24 members, with nearly 1,600 volunteer subject matter experts serving on 72 committees. There are 189 current AWWA Standards, and Standards Committees have produced 16 of AWWA's Manuals of Practice.

Congratulations to the many AWWA volunteers and staff that helped to make these impressive anniversaries a reality!

Speaking of standards, Envoi is almost ready. Envoi is a digital platform

“CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MANY AWWA VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF THAT HELPED TO MAKE THESE IMPRESSIVE ANNIVERSARIES A REALITY!”

that will house all AWWA Standards, Manuals, and technical content in one location. The challenge has been tailoring access to utility members and making sure Envoi is available to all employees of the utility. Pilot testing is underway, and the plan is to have Envoi available sometime in the fall. Be sure to check it out when it is available.

The Strategic Plan should be completed by the time you read this article. The goal was to present the

new Strategic Plan at ACE20, but the schedule was revised to allow the final step of board input to occur online, instead of in a live work session, as was originally planned. Those review sessions were completed in July and the plan is scheduled to be adopted in August. Please take a moment and read the Strategic Plan and see how AWWA plans to make a better world through better water. 💧





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WHY CARE ABOUT DIVERSITY?

Bonnifer Ballard, Executive director

In general, those in the water profession are not fond of change. We are taught early on that stable is better. When it comes to water, that's absolutely right. However, the pace of change in the world often challenges us to keep our water stable while we ourselves are adaptable. Nothing did that more than the 2020 pandemic.

This year has been one for the history books – and we still have a few months to go. I have done my best to offer rational, factual information to help the Board develop strategies for leading the Section through this complicated time. The entire staff has worked to adapt programming to the environment in which we now find ourselves. One of the current events of the year that I personally struggled with though was the civil unrest around the Black Lives Matter movement.

I know that the phrase Black Lives Matter makes some people angry. If you are one of those, I ask you to suspend that anger for just a moment and read on, because there is a very important point to be made.

We all have a story. Mine is not unlike many other people born in the United States. I was raised in a loving home, studied hard in school, and sang in choir all the way through school. We all have twists and turns to our stories. The twist in my story comes with the tiny fact that I am multiracial, born in the 1960s. I look like I could belong to a number of ethnic groups, just not the ones to which I actually belong. And if that wasn't challenging enough, I joined the US Navy straight out of high school, as a female at 17 years old.

It is my *whole* story that creates my perspective (just as yours creates your perspective). I have experienced

first-hand what it means to be devalued because of a characteristic you were born with and can't change. I have also experienced first-hand the empowerment of being valued for what I can contribute to an idea, a team, or a business.

So, what does this have to do with water? In the short time I have been in the water community, we have had the Great Recession, the Flint water crisis, the #metoo movement, PFAS, large infrastructure failures, and a pandemic. These are monumental challenges that effect every community and consequently each customer's water use and ability to pay. And monumental challenges require creative and innovative thinking. That won't come from doing the same thing you've always done, or even from the same thinking you've always used. It comes from including those who don't look or think like you in decision-making and problem-solving in order to get better outcomes. Because their story has different twists and turns than yours, they bring different perspectives to a discussion and make for a richer pool of ideas from which to create solutions.

One of the core principles the Section adopted in its new Strategic Plan is 'CARE for Every Person.' This was born out of a discussion about diversity. The Strategic Plan itself was born out of input from more than 100 members. Diversity of thought and plurality of voices are at the heart of what we are as a professional association. It is our members, with all their twisting turning stories, that make us what we are.

The water community as a whole faces significant challenges in the months and years ahead. The only way to meet those challenges and keep clean, safe water flowing to our communities is by embracing and leveraging diversity in our teams. This is how we will overcome the next great challenge. 💧

We may have different religions, different languages, different colored skin, but we all belong to one human race.

Kofi Annan, former secretary-general of the United Nations



I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

Martin Luther King, Jr., minister and civil rights activist



We must not only learn to tolerate our differences. We must welcome them as the richness and diversity which can lead to true intelligence.

Albert Einstein, physicist





We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.

Maya Angelou, author and civil rights activist

If we wish to ensure everyone's peace and happiness we need to cultivate a healthy respect for the diversity of our peoples and cultures, founded on an understanding of this fundamental sameness of all human beings

Dalai Lama, the 14th Dalai Lama of the Gelug school of Tibetan monks

From one man God made every nation of the human race, that they should inhabit the whole earth.

*King James Christian Bible
Acts 17:26*

The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it.

Chief Joseph of the Wal-lam-wat-kain band of Nez Perce, a Native American tribe of the interior Pacific Northwest

O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another.

Qur'an 49:13



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PIECES FROM THE PAST

FLORA LAROCHE

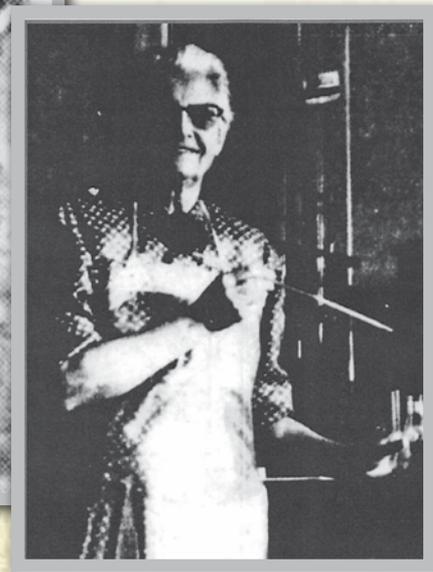
PIONEER IN WATER GLADSTONE, MI

*INDUCTED POSTHUMOUSLY INTO THE MICHIGAN
SECTION AWWA WATER UTILITY HALL OF FAME*

By Greg Alimenti, Historical Preservation Committee

Flora LaRoche, from the small town of Gladstone in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, was probably one of the first – if not the very first – female water plant operator/superintendents in the state. In fact, the November 7, 1935, issue of the *Escanaba Daily Press* points to her as the first woman in the state to complete the Chemistry and Bacteriology of Water Works Operation course at Michigan State University. Prior to, she presented a paper on *Tastes in Water* at the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Michigan Conference on Water Purification, held in Bay City in 1928.

Officially a certified water analyst, she was the 'go-to' person in water in the City of Gladstone for most of her 35 years of employment from 1922 to 1957 – but only once mentioned, in 1942, as the Water Plant Superintendent. She met personally with Raymond Faust of the Michigan Department of Health (MDH) for an inspection of the facility, which received an excellent rating in 1928 and was commended



“SHE RECOMMENDED THE REPLACEMENT OF ‘OBSOLETE CHLORINATION EQUIPMENT’ IN 1938 TO THE GLADSTONE CITY COMMISSION, OVERSAW THE REPLACEMENT OF THE FINISHED WATER RESERVOIR IN 1936, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF FLUORIDATION IN 1954.”

by Edward Dunbar Rich, then-Director of the Engineering Bureau of MDH, for her management of the water plant during the challenging spring runoff of 1929:

“We are pleased to note the capable manner in which you have controlled the water supply during these past few months of heavy rain and high flow. It is in the spring of the year when the most attention must be given to the water supply to keep it free of contamination.

Very truly yours,

Edward D. Rich, Director Bureau of Engineering (MDH)”

She recommended the replacement of ‘obsolete chlorination equipment’ in 1938 to the Gladstone City Commission, oversaw the replacement of the finished water reservoir in 1936, and the introduction of fluoridation in 1954. She was active in the Michigan Section of the AWWA, particularly in the Upper Peninsula, where she served on the organizing committee for one of the first UP Institute meetings – then known as the Convention of the Upper Peninsula Water Works Association in 1942.

Flora received the Edward Dunbar Service Award in 1953.

Flora LaRoche was born in Nadeau, MI, in 1890. She earned her certification from the Michigan Department of Health (MDH) as a Water Analyst in 1931 and as an Operator of a ‘T’ Class Water Plant in 1942.

Early in her employment by the City, she spent her vacation time in study of water analysis under Professor Ora Mills at the Michigan College of Mining and Technology (now Michigan Technological University at Houghton) and later completed a course in Technical Quantitative Analysis at the school.

She was a member of the sewing club, active in her church, and helped organize City of Gladstone and Escanaba Picnics. From newspaper articles we know she must have enjoyed travel.

In 1928, Flora and a friend Miss Alice Garrett made it to Rochester, NY, and points east and back without motor or tire trouble! Indeed, the trip to Lansing for state conferences and coursework at MSU before the Mackinac Bridge and four-lane highways had to be quite a journey.

After retirement, she traveled to Europe.

Flora never married and was survived by a sister and several nieces and nephews when she died in 1963. 💧

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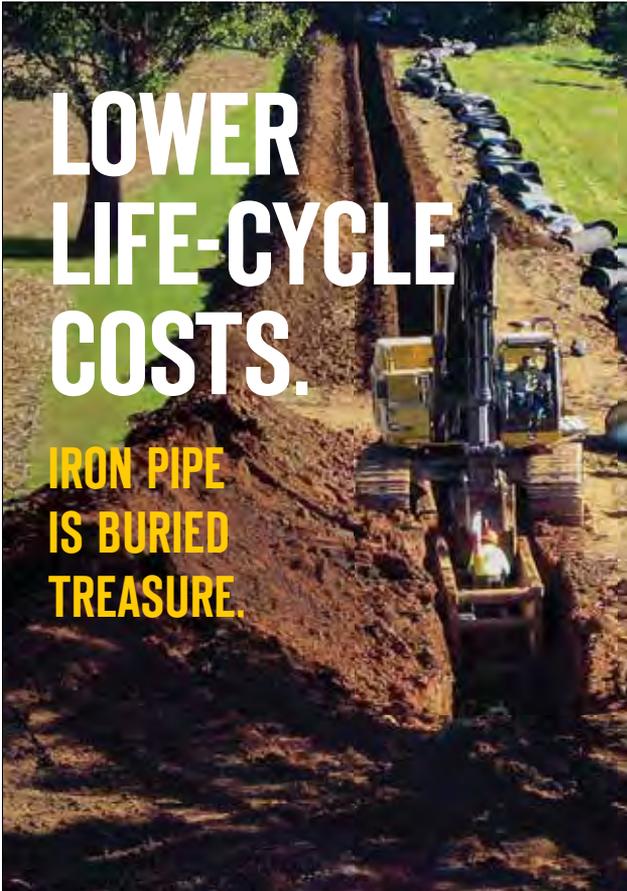
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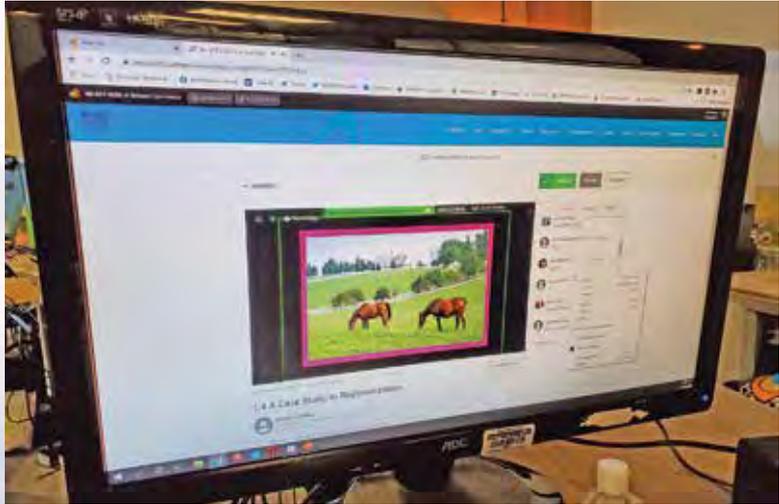
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MI-ACE 2020 RECAP

MI-AWWA HELD ITS 82ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE AS A VIRTUAL EVENT. THE PROGRAM WAS STRONG AND SPEAKERS AND SPONSORS RALLIED TO SUPPORT MORE THAN 100 ATTENDEES AT THIS 21ST CENTURY EVENT.



SESSIONS

Topics ranged from new regulations to historic wells to the latest in treatment techniques. Speakers from across the region and beyond joined attendees to share their expertise.

VIRTUAL NETWORKING

Networking took on a new form during the virtual event, with virtual coffee hours, the traditional Women on Water event turned BYOB Happy Hours, and topical roundtable discussions over lunch.

GAMIFICATION

To help attendees fully engage, the conference included gamification. Get points for certain actions and win prizes. Attendees did not disappoint!

- **Sam Bender**, Holland Board of Public Works
- **John Gorney**, City of Kentwood
- **Doug Sweeris**, City of Allegan Water Utilities
- **Thomas Smith**, Prein&Newhof
- **Alex Chimpouras**, MHOG Sewer and Water Authority
- **Brittany Earles**, EGLE-DWEHD
- **Tammi Gall**, Mead & Hunt
- **Daryl Gotham**, Saginaw Charter Township Department of Public Services
- **Joe Wallace**, Ottawa County Road Commission
- **Jennifer Warner**, The Water Research Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

2019 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Revenue
\$887,020

Expenses
\$862,227

General Fund Balance at 2019 Year End:
\$614,708

Membership as of August 31, 2020:
\$1,546

MI-ACE 2020: A VIRTUAL EVENT BY THE NUMBERS

214 Registered Attendees

INCLUDES **132** Attendees

3 Retirees

26 EGLE Employees

53 Speakers

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

MI-AWWA is grateful to the 23 companies who supported MI-ACE 2020 through sponsorship. Their support helped to keep the registration fee low for everyone.

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MI-ACE 2020 RECAP

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND 2020 AWARDS

This year's Annual Business Meeting of members was held virtually, of course, in conjunction with the Awards Ceremony. Minutes from the meeting will be available on the website after the Board approves the minutes at its next meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2020 AWARDEES!

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Christine Spitzley, OHM Advisors



Balvinder Sehgal



Doug Sweeris



Trevor Wagenmaker



Christine Spitzley



Alex Fleet



Sherrie Elliott



Susan McCormack



Joan Rose



Greg Alimenti



Joseph VanderStel

HONORARY/LIFE STATUS 2020

Terry 'Choddie' Alexa
Dennis Benoit
Steven Boss
Michael Drewyor
Michael Glowinski
Stan Hazan
Daniel Jenkins
Tim Kading
Robert Mattfolk
David Esch
Thomas Gray
Kevin Harrison
Craig Hupy
Steven Kalinowski
Allen LeMieux
Richard Mahoney
Karen Ridgway
Robert Veneklasen

SILVER WATER DROP 2020

Christopher Cook
Mike Lunn
Randall Roost
Lloyd Van Slooten
Trevor Wagenmaker
Brian Washburn
William Fritz
Scott Boshart
Donald Detemple
Drew Gariepy
Mark Kneibel
Charles Kohs
Thomas MacDonald
Scott Martin
Keith Nelson
Richard Schafer
Brian Thurston
Christopher Townley

EGLE EDWARD DUNBAR RICH AWARD (Awarded by EGLE)

Maher Abbasi	Kenneth Miller Jr.
Ella Ackerman	Silas Moore
Douglas Aitchison	Mildred Mooris
Syed Ali	Linda Philson
John Douglas Ambrus	Dwayne Pittman
Marilyn Banks	Mark Pniewski
Pei Boayue	David Pope
Gerald Burrell	Theresa Redden-Flennoy
Winston Flennoy II	Gloria Richards
Anthony Burton Sr.	Daryll Robinson
Denise Donelson William	Juanita Sanders
Michael Clinton	Radmila Schaefer
Martin Craig	Tracey Simmons
Kimberly Crowell	Debra Singleton
Mohamad Farhat	Lamar Stoudemire
Derrick Fuller	Tory Thompkins
Isaiah Dunlap	Stephen Turner
Dworlett Garner	Ronald Vaughn
Maurice Hansberr	Gregory Ward Sr.
Debra Harper	Thomas Warren
Ronald Harris	Michelle Washington-Williams
Jeffrey Hitch	Curlisa Watson
Stephanie Hogue	Kim Wilson
Mohamad Jaber	Valerie Wilson
Willie Jackson	
Parvez Jafri	
Stephan Jeffries	
Andreia Johnson	
Marilyn King	
Marian King-Bell	
Christopher Knight	
Keith Lindsay	
Gordon MacDougall	
Kurt Malzahn	
Bryant Martin	
Eugene Martin	
Sharon McKinnon	

MI-ACE 2020 RECAP

PASSING OF THE GAVEL

By Jaime Fleming, Chair, MI-AWWA



“It is my hope that we continue to invite forward the voices that are different from our own... embrace perspectives that challenge our viewpoint... and value opportunities to do better and be better.”

Thank you, Paul, for your dedication to the Section. I know that it has been a challenging year and I have appreciated your leadership, positive spirit, and collaborative approach. One of the things that I believe to be the Section’s greatest strengths is the ability to hold space for diverse ideas and to consider them with an open mind and heart. As we have worked together throughout the last year, I have again seen this to be true in your approach and in the Section’s leadership as a whole.

In fact, it is because of this quality that I have arrived in my new role today. Fifteen years ago, it was ‘suggested’

that I join the volunteer ranks of the Michigan Section. I was brand new to the water world, fresh out of college, with no idea of what it was all about. Getting involved with the Section seemed like a really good way to dive in and learn new things.

As I started attending committee meetings and training events, I walked into room after room of people (mostly men) who had years of experience and far more knowledge and expertise than I did. And time and time again, they invited my voice into the conversations, not just to be polite, but because they honestly wanted to hear what I had to say. It didn’t take long before I started hearing my name in combination with

words like ‘pot stirrer’ and ‘trouble maker’... and possibly my favorite ‘force of nature’. Always said in a positive way... truly terms of endearment.

And then came the invitations to participate in leadership roles – committee chair, Council chair, trustee, and now Section chair. Not in spite of, but because I often see things from a different perspective. It is so easy to surround ourselves with those who are similar to us in style, viewpoint, and life experiences. It is the much harder choice to intentionally seek out those who see and think differently and to place value on perspectives that may challenge our own way of thinking and doing. It is because of that kind of intentionality in the Michigan Section that I have the honor of being the Chair for the upcoming year.

There are so many important and overdue conversations going on in the world around us right now. They are conversations that absolutely intersect with our core principles of Share Knowledge and Expertise, Protect Public Health and Safety, and CARE for every person. They are not conversations that we can put off or opt out of. So, as we move forward in our work as water professionals and members of the Michigan Section, it is my hope that we continue to invite forward the voices that are different from our own... embrace perspectives that challenge our viewpoint... and value opportunities to do better and be better. It is in that space that our strength truly lies.

I am so grateful and excited to be a part of what comes next for the Michigan Section. Thank you. 💧



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PROBLEM:

In trying to devise a consistent plan for maintaining and servicing their mechanical equipment, the customer faced many challenges. Ever-changing variables, such as retiring personnel, lack of electrical/mechanical expertise, and safety compliance requirements left them overwhelmed. Without a plan, failure was inevitable and usually happened at the worst possible time, quickly eroding their budget.

The customer continued to fight this losing battle until they decided to look for an outside-the-box solution that eliminated uncertainty. Their collection system consisted of 11 pump stations in desperate need of upgrade. The customer was plagued with continuous pump failures and plugged pumps, which resulted in increased overtime, expensive emergency repairs, and personnel safety concerns. It was clear that they needed a fast action plan to put in place without the need of a large capital expense project. *(continued)*

Above: Installation of 22 Flygt Concertor pumps in their 11 pump stations.

Below: The old pumps often became clogged and were expensive to service.



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OCCAM'S RAZOR is a philosophical principle that states "the simplest solution is usually the best one". The principle also holds that it is pointless to do with more what can be done with less.

SOLUTION:

After looking at their options, the customer liked the solution offered by Flygt Concertor pumps. A walk through of the 11 pump stations determined that one common Flygt Concertor pump could be used in all cases. These stations had various manufacturer's guide rail systems, but due to the Concertor's discharge design, the existing manufacturer's guide rail bracket could simply be installed, saving the customer tens of thousands of dollars.

A closer look at Flygt's Concertor revealed other pain solving features, like how each pump can be adjusted to accommodate the varying flows of each pump station, and how Concertor provides unmatched asset management by allowing one pump to be interchanged throughout the entire collection system. Also, the Concertor pump can't be wired backwards, and will automatically go in reverse if a clog is sensed, preventing those unsafe late nights of pulling and unclogging pumps.

OUTSIDE-THE-BOX PROCUREMENT:

Kennedy worked with the customer staff to customize a program that provided:

- Installation of all 22 Concertor Pumps.
- Annual preventative maintenance.
- 5-year clog free and equipment warranty eliminating all surprise failure expenses, and pump clogging calls.
- Entire project funding with operations budget monies. No Cap Ex funds were utilized.

Kennedy Industries Plus 1 Program showed a net savings to the customer of nearly 40% or in excess of \$100,000. Service is provided as a flat rate each year insuring accurate asset management and peace of mind that their pump stations will never again cause pain or uncertainty.

By combining their resources with Kennedy Industries, the customer secured a sound accounting approach and safer work environment. The solution eliminated the need for spare equipment and multiple outside resources, and most importantly, delivered a more efficient working system.



Flygt Concertor's discharge design allowed it to be installed with the existing manufacturer's guide rail bracket.



Strategic Plan 2020-2023



SHARE
knowledge
and expertise



CARE
for every
person



PROTECT
public health
and safety



Focus Areas and Strategic Goals

Professional Development

MI-AWWA will offer state-of-the-art and highly relevant learning experiences.

- Fully develop and launch the Michigan Water Academy®
- Acquire a learning management technology that supports member professional development
- Incorporate diversity training into our learning experiences

Public Trust

MI-AWWA will be a respected source of information about water in Michigan.

- Promote the value of water
- Provide tools for members to promote the value of water
- Educate water customers about the water sector

Advocacy

MI-AWWA will advocate for state and local policies that allow water supplies to effectively manage water.

- Continue to build MI-AWWA's recognition among state legislators as

a resource on water policy and water-related information

- Become a resource for local governments on water policy and water-related information
- Plan and conduct a Members' Advocacy Day annually

Innovation

MI-AWWA will create a culture of innovation within Michigan's water sector.

- Develop and host a forum for sharing innovative ideas among members
- Highlight innovation in member events and communication
- Create incentives to advance innovation in the Michigan water sector

Workforce

MI-AWWA will promote the water profession.

- Develop and provide tools to help members attract new and diverse employees
- Develop partnerships that can help to advance the water sector as a career path

Funding

MI-AWWA will promote solutions for adequately funding water supplies.

- Advocate practices utility members can implement to be financially sustainable while being affordable to customers
- Promote customer affordability solutions
- Advocate for infrastructure funding

Operations

MI-AWWA will maintain a high level of customer service to its members.

- Maintain and grow membership over all membership categories
- Effectively manage resources to encourage growth of the Section's activities
- Pursue new methods of hosting events to protect attendee health

NINAH SASY



An Expert in Worst-Case Scenarios

BY STACEY KUKKONEN

Ninah Sasy was born in Flint, and although she didn't live there for the majority of her life, she still felt a strong desire to help support her family among bottomless information and fear during the Flint water crisis.

"My grandparents still live there, and they were there during the water crisis," she said. "There was a lot of personal experiences in regards to water."

This experience brought Sasy to a career in the water sector, where she said a lot is being done by water partners all over the state, and she's here to support the effort.

"I think about how I can help support that strategy and connect resources to our local partners and to residents making sure they have information so they can protect their families and they can know the basics of where you get your water, how it's maintained, and basic principles," she said.



“SASY’S ROLE *will be to help improve communications, while working on the second of the strategic priorities, which is supporting community efforts.*”

Sasy has been the Clean Water Public Advocate since October 2019 in Lansing, and came from a diverse background. For the first 10 years of her career, Sasy worked for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services in laboratories, where her primary focus was in the Chemical Threat Laboratory. With a laboratory sciences background, she helped implement filter paper testing for testing lead in the blood and analysis on arsenic and nerve agent, among others.

“Besides the work I did at the lab, a lot of my focus was on emergency responses and working within the laboratory, as well as externally,” she said. “Looking at hospitals, looking at our local public health departments, and all of our local partners and saying, ‘If we have this large-scale chemical exposure event, what can we do in regards to response.’”

One could say she is an expert in worst case scenarios. She has extensive background in public health, emergency response, and strategic planning. Her work included helping to protect public health and also doing the analyses that needed to put out the proper resources. She went on to serve as

the Grant Administrator of the Michigan Energy Assistance Program within the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

The Office of the Clean Water Public Advocate was created due to an Executive Order from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2019. It’s a department of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy but is a Type 1 agency with authority outside of EGLE. This new department can use authority over compliance and escalate issues to the governor, knowing water is a top priority to the governor, she said.

“Looking at the Executive Order, what really stuck out to me was the governor wanting to make sure that residents had information and that we looked at the picture comprehensively,” she said.

COVID-19 brought about a shift in priorities at the office, but they are still launching a new **Drinking Water Concern System** this fall and her work will include an annual accountability report. The water concern system will allow residents to directly report water issues to her office, where she will then connect with the appropriate resources.

“It’s primarily for residential residents in submitting their specific water concerns, but we’d still like local municipal water systems to reach out to EGLE because they have a relationship there, and if they’re seeing something, they have that district office ... where they can work to resolve this,” she said.

The first of the strategic priorities of the office is to improve communications to partners to residents and within the State of Michigan. Sasy’s role will be to help improve communications, while working on the second of the strategic priorities, which is supporting community efforts. The final strategic priorities include collaboration to connect resources and to ensure transparency and accountability within EGLE and the community to ensure that water quality information is accessible and provided in a timely manner.

“Through the process of this there’s been a lot of engagement,” she said.

Sasy has been working with 130 clean water advocate residents across the state who provide feedback on how the program can be improved.

For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/cleanwater. 💧

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MEET THE *New* LEADERS

Each September, the leadership of the Section shifts with terms ending and terms beginning at the conclusion of the Annual Business Meeting.

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2020/2021 BUDGET UPDATE

By Midwest Strategy Group

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought years of annual budget increases to an abrupt halt and the state faces at least several years of multi-billion-dollar budget shortfalls. The state's Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference (CREC), which brings together economists to forecast Michigan's budget limitations, have predicted shortfalls exceeding \$2-3 billion until 2022.

This means major changes to state spending. Actions by Governor Whitmer to address the budget shortfall have included state hiring freezes, non-essential project stoppages, and one-day a week furloughs for many state employees. Many of these measures may continue into the near future.

The state is leaning heavily on federal CARES Act funding to help backfill spending. On July 1, Governor Whitmer signed a supplemental budget containing \$880 million in spending to distribute CARES Act dollars for state programs and communities. This supplemental budget included \$300 million for local governments, a portion of which will address first responders' hazard pay, and \$25 million to create a low-income water and wastewater utility assistance program.

The water assistance program will allow members of the public who are eligible for public benefits, like the Supplemental

Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), to get 25% off their water bills and help pay for arrearages during the pandemic. The program will reimburse water and wastewater utilities from the state pool of \$25 million for the billing and arrearage reductions. Details on this program are still forthcoming from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). It is expected to be up and running by late summer or early fall.

A broad budget agreement has been reached between the GOP-led legislature and Democratic Governor Whitmer to adjust and backfill the current FY20 budget. The Michigan Legislature has acted and passed a budget deal the governor has now signed, totaling over \$2 billion. The FY21 state budget will need to be finalized before September 30. Additionally, later this month Congress will resume session in Washington, DC, and may be discussing a fourth federal stimulus bill with funding for state and local governments.

The team at Midwest Strategy Group will be providing the most up to date information possible to the association regarding COVID-19 and the budget. Please feel free to contact us at 517-853-0537, compagnoni@midweststrategy.com (Mike Compagnoni), or hodgkins@midweststrategy.com (Dave Hodgkins).

MI-AWWA ACQUIRES LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, MAKES BIG CONTENT PUSH

Late this summer, a small task force of the Education and Training Council reviewed learning management systems, or LMSs, which are online learning platforms, and the Board approved moving forward with licensing a system. The new platform offers more tools beyond basic webinars to deliver remote training to water professionals across the state. Some classes are being beta tested in the next couple of months, with the full rollout expected in early 2021.

Part of the establishment of this new online learning platform is the development of new classes for the Academy®.

The Section has hired a number of independent contractors to develop a variety of classes. Michigan Water Academy® classes will be a combination of in-person, online, and hybrid classes and include hands-on activities. Leadership is also exploring the possibility of training subscription plans, which could enhance a water supply's ability to offer trainings more broadly to their employees.

If you are interested in getting involved in the development process or have an idea for a class, contact Bonnifer Ballard at bballard@mi-water.org. 💧



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Above the Bridge

Can't Beat the View in Manistique



(Above) Indian River runs alongside the Manistique Water Plant in the Upper Peninsula. The laboratory at the plant overlooks the river. (Below) Corey Barr, superintendent of the Manistique Water Plant.



MANISTIQUE, MI – Standing in the lab at the Manistique Water Plant, Corey Barr glances at the series of running faucets behind him before shifting his gaze to a large glass window facing the Indian River.

“You can’t beat the view,” he said of the water plant, which is tucked away in a residential area and overlooks the river in the City of Manistique in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

Barr, the water and wastewater superintendent, begins his day with the wastewater sector and in Manistique City Hall, where he handles administrative work. The rest of his day is spent at the water plant, in the lab, and overseeing general day-to-day operations.

It’s something he’s grown accustomed to: he’s been with the water plant since 1989 and he first became interested in the water industry about three years out of high school after learning about the need and high placement rate for water operators.

“I thought for sure I could get hired in the mines,” Barr said, citing the UP’s rich history of mining and abundant number of quarries.

When the local mine closed in 1987, Barr instead opted to go to college and shifted his career focus to the vital and ever-constant water industry, and has since become an expert in his field. Despite being busy at the plant, Barr still finds time to volunteer on the UP Coordinating Committee for the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association.

Operators at the plant are cross-trained between water and wastewater, he said, and are used to proper sanitizing daily at work. The water plant handles 2.2 million gallons of water per day and employs seven certified operators that are dual certified. At any given time, there are three operators at each plant, with a seven day per week operations schedule.

Both facilities have supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) and only staff for 24 hours a day when running under pressure-only mode. The plant underwent a series of upgrades in 2010, and also switched from sand filters to carbon.



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(Left) Part of the water filtration system is seen in the Manistique Water Plant. (Center) Manistique Water Plant superintendent Corey Barr looks over the SCADA system from the laboratory in the Upper Peninsula plant.

“SCADA is really the heartbeat of the plant for the operator,” he said. “It gives you information about the whole plant.”

The facility has had an intake structure since 1906 from Indian River, which is fed from Indian Lake. Since they don’t have intake from the neighboring Lake Michigan, it makes water treatment a little more difficult than water from the Great Lakes, Barr said. Manistique has such a shallow port that the plant cannot intake from the lake as the structure would need to go two to three miles out into the lake to get the proper depth.

“Great Lakes water is naturally soft, very good clarity,” he said. “At the turn of the 1900s, there was a lot of sawmills along the Manistique River that flows out into Lake Michigan. Indian River flows into the Manistique River a quarter mile down.”

“The mills dumped sawdust into the river for years. So much so that to this day, sawdust still washes up onto the beach,” he said. Between the sawdust, the long intake structure, and two National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems, it’s unlikely a permit would have been granted to move the intake even though it was briefly considered.

Nevertheless, Barr runs a tight ship in Manistique and the team successfully filters water from the Indian River daily to bring this essential resource to more than 1,600 connections. 💧

“BARR RUNS A TIGHT SHIP IN MANISTIQUE AND THE TEAM SUCCESSFULLY FILTERS WATER FROM THE INDIAN RIVER DAILY TO BRING THIS ESSENTIAL RESOURCE TO MORE THAN 1,600 CONNECTIONS.”





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MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE

By Amy Vail

“WITH AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE, THE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES WILL CONTINUE TO PLAN MORE VIRTUAL EVENTS SO WE CAN STILL STAY CONNECTED.”

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City of Wichita (2)	Westar Energy (3)	Grand River Dam Authority (3)	
City of Emporia	General Motors	Kansas City BPU (2)	

So much has changed in the past few months. We all seem to be living the 'new normal' or the 'new abnormal,' depending on how you see it. We all had to quickly adapt how we work, shop, communicate, etc. The MI-AWWA Membership Council is no different. With in-person meetings and gatherings canceled, the group had to figure out how to connect with members during this time. So, like everyone else, we went virtual. The Young Professionals group kicked it off by hosting a virtual Quarantine Bingo event. It was a fun time, where attendees got to share some of their experiences from the past few months, as well as see some familiar faces that they hadn't seen in some time. The Membership Council held a New Member Coffee Break event, where new members could connect with volunteers from councils, committees, and board members to learn more about MI-AWWA and volunteer opportunities. With an uncertain future, the Membership Council and its committees will continue to plan more virtual events so we can still stay connected. Some ideas that are in the hopper are virtual plant tours, coffee break conversations, and other virtual ways to connect. 💧

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ON THE MOVE

WAYNE JERNBERG

has been promoted to the Water System Manager position for the City of Grand Rapids. Wayne has been with the City of Grand Rapids Water System since 2006 as the Hydraulic Engineer and most recently as Assistant Water System Manager. Wayne currently serves on the MI-AWWA board as a 2018-2021 Trustee.

RANDY ROOST

retired from Lansing Board of Water.

PAUL REINSCH

from Plant Superintendent to Director of Water and Wastewater Treatment Services.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Members who joined June 1, 2020 - August 31, 2020

- Edward Aho**, City of Muskegon Water Filtration Plant
- Jessica Alger**
- Chuck Bird**, Neogen Corporation
- Aftab Borka**, Great Lakes Water Authority
- Lilli Celovsky**, Lansing Board of Water & Light
- Jerry Czarnecki**, City of Hastings
- Matthew Dymond**, Lansing Board of Water and Light
- Mike Foyteck**, Artesian
- Victoria Graves**, University of Michigan SEAS
- Andrew Hall**, Negaunee Township Water System
- Brittany Hicks**, University of Michigan Dept. of Civil Envir. Eng. Student
- Lance Jensen**, City of Wyoming
- Dan Kacinskas**, Newberry Water & Light
- Robert Lafave**, Village of L'Anse
- Blayne Libby**
- Richard Martin**, RAM Consulting Services
- Barbara Matthes**, City of Jackson
- Josh McQueen**, Richland Township Water Dept.
- Tim Pickett**, City of Jackson
- Jerron Samborski**, Fer-Pal Construction USA LLC
- Ross Slusher**, City of Lapeer
- Donald Straub**, Northwestern Water and Sewer District
- Chandra Willinger**, City of Jackson

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MICHIGAN PFAS DRINKING WATER RULES

By Technical Support Unit/Community Water Supply Section, EGLE

On August 3, 2020, new drinking water requirements for per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances went into effect for all community and non-transient noncommunity water supplies. The purpose of the rules is to protect public health by testing for and reducing the amount of PFAS compounds in drinking water. The PFAS rules establish maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for seven PFAS compounds, as well as monitoring and reporting requirements, best available treatment techniques for PFAS reduction, and laboratory certification criteria.

The following table lists the seven regulated PFAS compounds and their associated maximum contaminant level (MCL):

CONTAMINANT	MCL (NG/L)*
Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA)	6
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	8
Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS)	16
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHxS)	51
Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid (HFPO-DA)	370
Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid (PFBS)	420
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA)	400,000

*ng/L = nanogram/liter

All community and non-transient, non-community water supplies are required to sample by February 3, 2021. Initial sample frequency will be based on sample results from Michigan's 2018/2019 Statewide PFAS Survey, if available. Some supplies

will be required to sample during the first full quarter after the rules take effect. Other supplies will be required to sample within the first six months. Supplies will receive notification detailing their water supply's specific sampling requirements.

Ongoing sampling frequency will be either quarterly or annual and will depend on levels of PFAS detected in initial samples. The standard monitoring schedule for community and noncommunity non-transient public water supplies is quarterly. A supply may be reduced to annual monitoring if the results of sampling are below the reporting limits, or if the supply is determined to be reliably and consistently below the MCLs.

Compliance with a PFAS MCL is based on the running annual average at each sampling point. A supply is not in violation until either one year of quarterly sampling has been completed or fewer samples cause the running annual average to exceed an MCL. If a supply fails to collect all required quarterly samples, compliance is based on the running annual average of the samples collected. If the supply is determined to be out of compliance with a PFAS MCL, the supply must notify the public within 30 days.

For more information on the PFAS rules, including guidance on sampling, visit www.michigan.gov/pfasdrinkingwaterrules.

Community water supplies with questions should contact their EGLE district engineer or analyst, and non-community water supplies should contact their local health departments. 💧

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Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division

Eric Oswald, Division Director
George Krisztian, Assistant Division Director
Vacant, Assistant Division Director

After Hours Emergencies: 800-292-4706
Website: Michigan.gov/CommunityWater

Field Operations Section

Brian Thurston, P.E., Section Manager

Lansing District Office

Bethel Skinker, P.E., District Supervisor 517-290-0686
Ryan VanDerWoude, Envir Quality Analyst 517-648-7662
District 11 - Kevin Lemmer, P.E., Engineer 517-614-8632
District 12 - Mark Joseph, P.E., Engineer 517-290-0170
District 14 - Kurt Swendsen, Engineer 517-525-1487

Bay City District Office

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Rebecca Kaiser, Environmental Quality Analyst 989-326-6949
District 21 - Kristin Bailey, Engineer 989-280-1291
District 22 - Vacant, Engineer
District 23 - Vacant, Engineer
MHC* - Sue Huttlinger, Envir Quality Analyst 989-220-8640

Jackson District Office

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Taryn Simon, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-257-7465
District 31 - Md Abdullah Al Masud, Engineer 269-569-4131
District 32 - Sean Brown, Engineer 517-937-6799
District 33 - Olivia Velzy, Engineer 517-740-6574

Warren District Office

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District 42 - Will Disser, Engineer 586-506-6136
District 43 - Abuzoha Islam, Engineer 248-504-9142
District 44 - Jaiye Bridges, Engineer 586-206-0234

Kalamazoo District Office

Heather Bishop, District Supervisor 269-330-9153
Stacy Wilson, Environmental Quality Analyst 269-491-3107
District 51 - Nathan Yutzky, Engineer 517-388-9125
District 52 - Mohit Varma, Engineer 269-762-3694
District 53 - Vacant, Engineer
District 54 - Katelyn Reyes, Engineer 269-216-1691

Grand Rapids District Office

Luke Dehtiar, P.E., District Supervisor 616-307-0322
Jeremy Klein, Environmental Quality Analyst 616-250-1053
District 61 - Coulton Pierce, Engineer 616-265-9129
District 62 - Wood Chooi, P.E., Engineer 616-430-7257
MHC* - Brian Esparsa, Envir Quality Analyst 616-307-0006

Cadillac District Office

Amy Vail, District Supervisor 231-878-8972
Vacant, Environmental Quality Analyst
District 71 - Scott Conradson, Engineer 231-577-8472
District 72 - Bob Weir, Engineer 231-590-2050
District 73 - Jamie Wade, P.E., Engineer 231-878-8592
District 74 - Vacant, Engineer

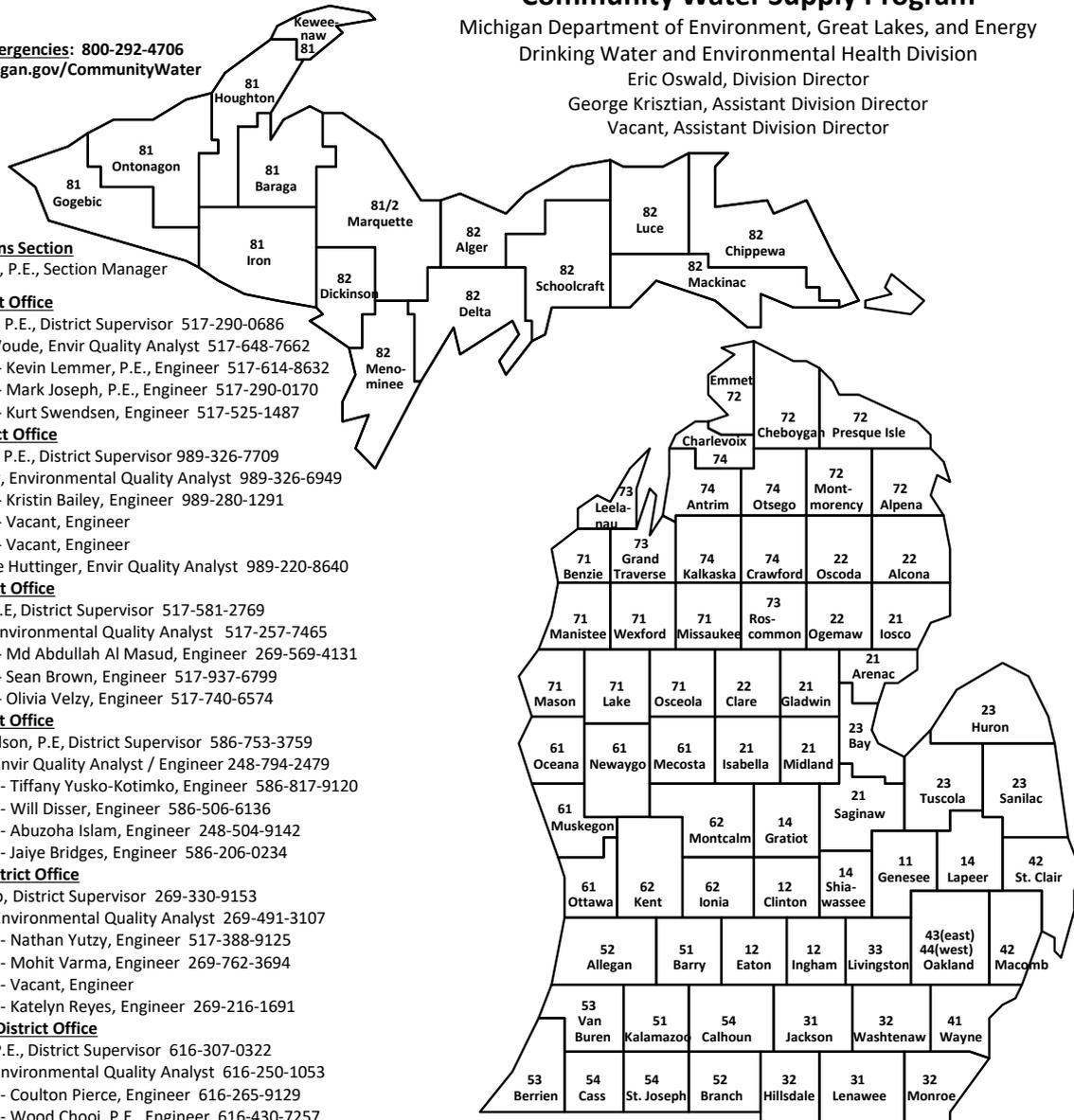
Marquette District Office

Tom Flaminio, P.E., District Supervisor 906-236-9746
Lori Schultz, Environmental Quality Analyst 906-241-2914
District 81 - Vacant, Engineer
District 82 - Amy Douville, Engineer 906-236-4277

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Shannon Henderson, Surface Water Engineer 586-722-3150
Caitlin Bates, Surface Water Engineer 517-262-6795
Indu Jayamani, Surface Water Engineer 517-898-6388

* MHC = Manufactured Housing Communities



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John Karnes, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-242-0911
Brittany Earles, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-899-6735
Ariel Zoldan, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-599-8684

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Scott Schmidt, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-899-6906
Brianna Moore, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-899-6955
John Koenigskecht, Environmental Tech 517-284-5430
Edith Monteiro, Office Assistant 517-525-4326

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Holly Gohlke, Environmental Quality Specialist 517-220-1904
Heather Jackson, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-242-3997
Steve Pennington, Environmental Quality Analyst 517-242-3923
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TRAINING FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER

The Section is sponsoring a whole host of webinars to provide lots of opportunity for water professionals to earn continuing education credits and prepare for the upcoming exam. Take a look at what's happening through the end of 2020.

DATE	WEBINAR SERIES
Thursday, October 15, 2020	Groundwater Treatment and Emerging Challenges Session 1
Tuesday, October 20, 2020	Regional Meeting Session 3
Wednesday, October 21, 2020	Regional Meeting Session 4
Thursday, October 22, 2020	Groundwater Treatment and Emerging Challenges Session 2
Tuesday, October 27, 2020	Pumps! Pumps! Pumps! Maintenance Seminar with MWEA Session 1
Wednesday, October 28, 2020	Pumps! Pumps! Pumps! Maintenance Seminar with MWEA Session 2
Thursday, October 29, 2020	Groundwater Treatment and Emerging Challenges Session 3
Thursday, November 12, 2020	Water Solutions: Understanding Pump Curves
Tuesday, December 1, 2020	Communication Workshop
Wednesday, December 2, 2020	Water Fluoridation for Water Treatment Facilities
Wednesday, December 2, 2020	Diversity and Inclusion in the Water Sector
Thursday, December 3, 2020	Communication Workshop
Thursday, December 3, 2020	Water Fluoridation for Water Treatment Facilities
Tuesday, December 8, 2020	Communication Workshop
Thursday, December 10, 2020	Communication Workshop

Here's What You Need to Know to be Ready to Participate in a Virtual Training Event

Email: You will need an individual email account if you plan to participate by yourself. The join link is email dependent. If you are participating in a group, you'll need to have everyone sign in on a sign-in sheet and then have the senior person present sign the sign-in sheet and send it to staff.

Internet: You will want to have a reliable internet connection.

Permission: Make sure your computer has permissions to access the meeting application. The Section uses GoToWebinar, Zoom, and Tovuti. Check the event registration page for details you will need to know ahead of the event.

Computer: Make sure your computer does not go into sleep mode from non-use during the session. And you will need to

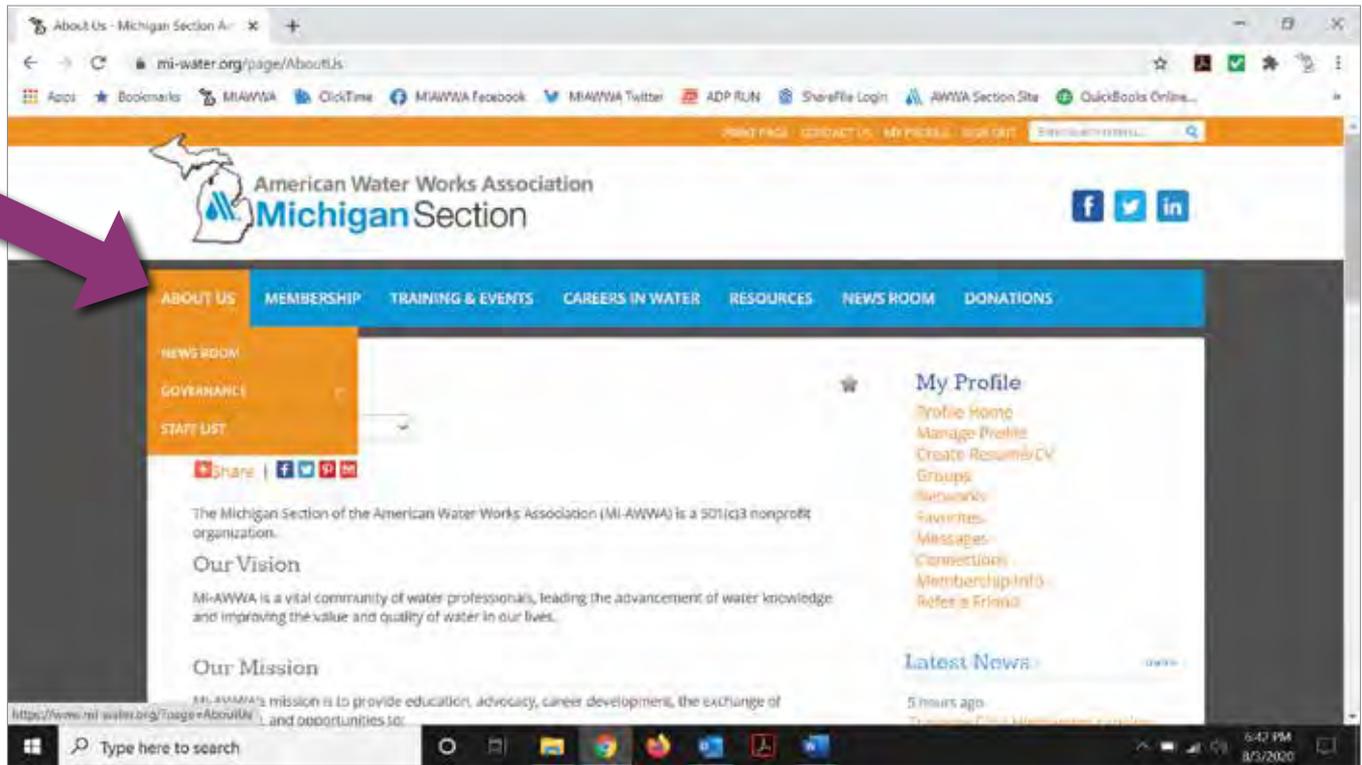
participate in Q&A and in-session polls to demonstrate your participation. This is required along with taking and passing a quiz to meet EGLE conditions of approval for credit.

Resist Multitasking: The system provides an engagement score, so keep the platform as the active window on your computer. Any time you navigate away to check email or work on a document, your engagement score goes down. You have to achieve an engagement score of 70 or better – easy to do if you don't multitask and participate in the Q&A and polls.

The Section remains committed to bringing you opportunities to learn and share experiences that help you best manage your water system and your professional development. If you have an idea for a topic, please send it to info@mi-water.org. 💧

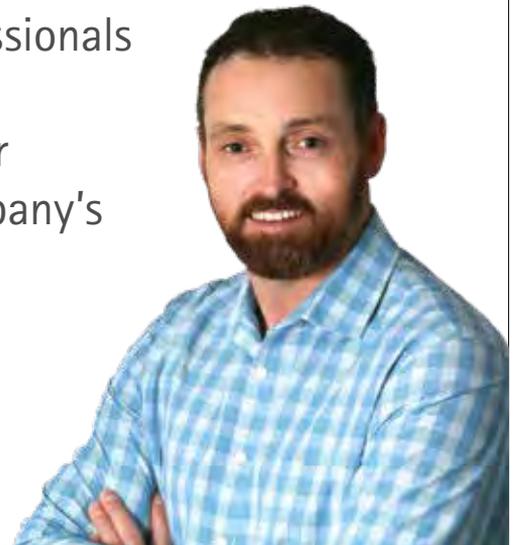
MI-AWWA ONLINE

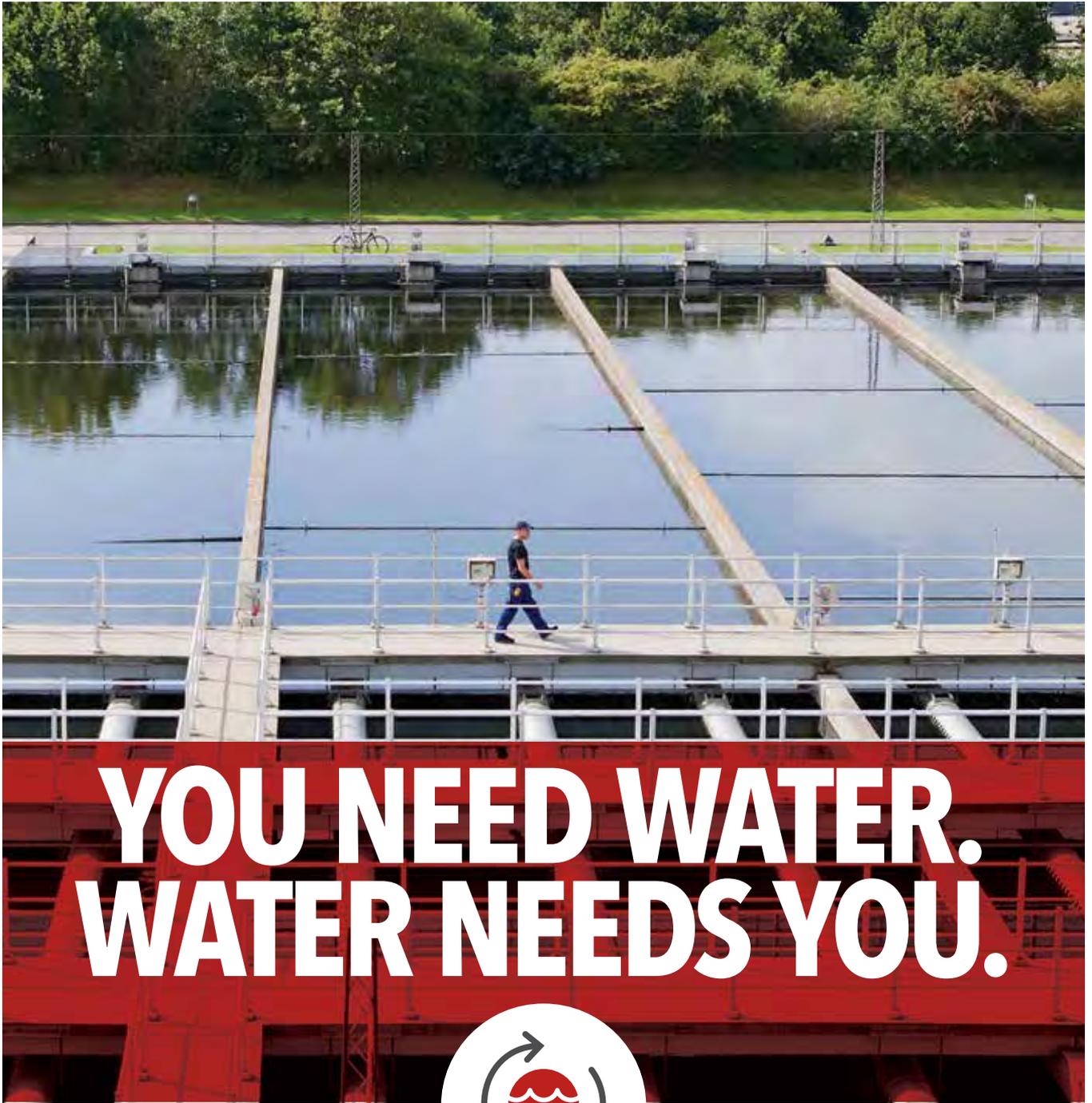
One thing people often miss about the Section website (www.mi-water.org) is the landing pages. When you roll over a menu item on the website, you can actually click on that very first menu option. Check it out:



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