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WATER WORKS NEWS

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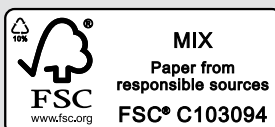
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TIME TO SHINE

JOHN WILLEMEN, CHAIR

I do not spend a lot of time watching sports, but I like to watch the big games. Most of them are forgotten within a few months. The 1983 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship is an exception. It was the first time I recognized the impact of game planning and coaching in an athletic event, and knew them to be the difference in the outcome of a game.

For those not familiar, North Carolina State, led by Coach Jim Valvano, beat the highly favored University of Houston in the tournament championship game. Houston earned the nicknamed Phi Slama Jama that season with their high flying, high scoring, and fast paced offense. They seemed unstoppable, and were heavily favored to win the



THE COST OF WATER IS GETTING MORE AND MORE ATTENTION IN THE MEDIA. WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE VALUE OF WATER, AND THE CHAMPIONS OF WATER.

championship. But NC State was able to slow down the game with a methodical half-court offense. Defensively, when Houston tried to run a fast break or make a slam dunk, they were fouled. NC State interrupted the pace of the game and took Houston totally out of their rhythm. NC State miraculously won the game on a last second slam dunk retrieved from a last ditch shot that completely missed the rim. It was a complete air ball that landed in the hands of a lone NC State player waiting under the basket who dunked the ball at the last second for the win. It was an opportunity NC State had because of the game plan. It was evident to me even at a relatively young age that the more talented team lost because they had been out coached and out prepared, more so than they had been out played.

So what does that have to do with AWWA and the water industry? The obvious connection is the importance of planning, strategy, and team work. As with any tournament run, some luck is involved, but for the most part, preparation and skill achieve the results. The Michigan Section is loaded with talented members and strategic planning is an ongoing priority. The work of the water industry to

produce and deliver clean and safe water and promote public health is the constant goal being achieved every day.

There are many challenges. The biggest, based on surveys we have conducted, include aging infrastructure, staff recruitment and retention, and educating public officials and rate payers on the need for investment in their water systems.

The spotlight is shining right now on the water industry. Many of our members prefer to stay out of the spotlight. But now is a time that the water industry and its advocates need to be heard and seen. The cost of water is getting more and more attention in the media. We need to continue to promote the value of water, and the champions of water.

This is our time to shine, and our Councils are on the forefront of this effort. If not already involved, consider volunteering on one or more of the activities of the Section. Feel free to reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Bruce Bartley (bwassocllc@gmail.com). He can share some of our many initiatives and point you to activities that might be of interest to you. As always, feel free to contact me or any Board member with your ideas or questions. 💧

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ASSOCIATION INITIATIVES

MARK COLEMAN, DIRECTOR

As I mentioned in my last *Water Works News* article, these are exciting times at AWWA and the article shared information on two ongoing dynamic AWWA activities, AWWA2020: A Path to One AWWA and Total Water Solutions. In this edition, I have selected two additional current AWWA initiatives to summarize, The Water Equation Campaign and the Partnership for Clean Water. Once again, it is my hope that you will find this information useful in getting a handle on the direction of the Association and what is being done to enhance your AWWA experience.

The Water Equation Campaign

As explained in an AWWA background piece provided to each AWWA Director, the Water Equation Campaign is an AWWA philanthropic program that was launched in June, 2015. It focuses the Association's skills and know-how on the world's growing needs for safe drinking water and its interconnection with storm, waste and reuse water. Its name is derived from the fact that while it is a complex problem, an equation can be developed to solve it. The campaign's theme is "Power of 2" to illustrate the fact that it takes you and I to create the equation that solves the problem.

Topics the campaign addresses are the critical need in workforce advancement by raising funds to double the number of scholarships annually awarded by the AWWA Scholarship Program. It is also designed to increase the amount of operator education and training funds available through the creation of the One AWWA Operator Scholarship Fund in partnership with the AWWA Sections. This scholarship is currently being offered by 30 of the 43 Sections. In addition, it addresses a concern that ranked high in AWWA's State of the Industry Report, talent attraction, training and retention, particularly in smaller systems.

Fundraising activities to support the campaign are varied and include a silent auction at AWWA ACE, Drinking Water Week activities as well as targeted appeals. Additional information may be obtained at www.awwa.org.

Partnership for Clean Water

The Partnership for Clean Water is a global optimization and recognition program for wastewater utilities. Launched in June of this year, it is a parallel program to the very successful 20-year-old Partnership for Safe Water program developed to assist drinking water utilities optimize their performance. It is based on the fact that in many areas there is an increasing scarcity of high-quality raw water sources forcing drinking water utilities to consider treatment and use of alternative sources, such as impacted surface waters, aquifer recharge and recovery, or reuse. Optimizing the performance of wastewater treatment facilities to improve its effluent water quality can help to protect the quality of surface waters that may be utilized as a downstream drinking water source.

The program is implemented in four phases; Commitment, Baseline Data Collection, Self-Assessment, and Optimized System. It is a subscription initiative meaning that there is an annual subscription fee based on the size of the utility's population served. The fees are established to make the program self-sustaining. There are currently 17 Charter members serving a total population of over 3.5 million. The ability to become a Charter Member ends on December 31, 2016. Additional information may be obtained at www.partnershipforcleanwater.org.

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

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COMMITTED TO ADVANCING WATER KNOWLEDGE

BONNIFER BALLARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Last fall, someone asked me what the Section had accomplished in the last few years. As I really reflected on that question, I realized that we've actually accomplished quite a bit.

Some of the changes are tangible and operational in nature, like hiring staff. We hired our first staff in 2011. Then, the Board, through a comprehensive strategic planning process, decided it was time to bring association management expertise to the Section in order to help the Section adopt best practices and position itself for growth. You can meet our staff online at www.mi-water.org/staff.

Some of the changes are tangible and more strategic in nature. We have undergone a governance transformation. Hopefully, you all are aware of our structure which has a Board of Trustees setting strategic direction, and six Councils that oversee implementation of strategic objectives and programming as well as provide oversight to committees and task forces. We also have committees and task forces, those groups that roll up their sleeves to help get the important work of the Section done.

It can be a little hard to get your head around, especially if you've been around a while and are used to how things were. This new model allows us to embrace volunteers in a variety of ways. You can volunteer for a one time task or you can get more involved and sit on a committee or Council. We have some work to do in plugging volunteers in.

Our system of making connections isn't quite right, but it's getting there. (So if you've "raised your hand" to volunteer and aren't plugged in yet, don't give up. We need you and we're reaching out!) The Section remains a member-driven organization and volunteers are a vital part of our success.

Still other changes are more intangible, but have a strong impact on the health of our Section. The energy at our events is palpable. We're getting better at providing timely topics that you need to hear about. And we're working on creating more interactive engagement at our trainings and other member forums.

As I look to the future, we have some work to do. Our two big strategic priorities are building the new Michigan Water Academy® and the implementation of a strategic communications plan. The Michigan Water Academy® is a learning initiative that will offer expanded training options in a greater variety of locations and lead to a credential for water professionals beyond state licensure. (More later this year on this exciting initiative!) The communications plan is an outcome of lessons learned out of the Flint water crisis. From that tragic drama that is still playing out in the media, members told us that they look to AWWA for communications support in times of crisis. The Section's communication plan is still in development but our hope is that the Section together with the Association will be able to

positively affect the public discourse about water here in Michigan.

These and other strategic objectives take resources. The Section is in a strong financial position thanks to years of selfless leadership and the long-standing support of the DEQ, exhibitors, new sponsors, and all of the water professionals that attend trainings. However, we are looking at new sources of funding to help us realize our vision of a more robust Section that serves today's water professionals. In the coming weeks, you will be receiving information on a Section Assessment. An assessment is a small fee added to membership dues that comes directly back to the Section. We will need to tap this as well as other funding options in order to keep the organization healthy and follow through on our strategic objectives.

The water sector is a unique community of professionals with a diversity of players required to make things work. What draws us all together, what unifies us, is our role in protecting public health. AWWA offers a forum for those water professionals who not only take that roll to heart but strive for excellence in that endeavor. The Michigan Section has always taken a leadership role in providing a forum for learning and networking among Michigan's water professionals. We remain committed to advancing water knowledge, and with your help and continued support, we will be able to do even more to realize that vision. 💧



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MOMENTS OF REFLECTION

RANDALL ROOST



It is with a few long moments of reflection that I say goodbye to my position as the Editor of *Michigan Water Works News*. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all of you who have made my tenure as Editor one of my best experiences within the AWWA. Over the course of the past 17 years, all of you have shared your stories and pictures of the events and happenings within the water industry here in Michigan and across the country.

When I began my role as Editor in August of 1999, the Section was planning for its 61st Annual Conference led by then Chair Bruce Hawkinson. Two wonderful assistant editors in Lynda Crites and Kris Philip supported me. Kris is still serving in that same role

today and I want to thank her for being the voice of the MDEQ. That issue, in August of 1999, was our first issue with the redesign of the newsletter and the first year of our relationship with Talin Media who assisted with the production of the newsletter. We have changed production teams over the years from Talin Media to Perfectly Polished, to our current contractor, Kelman & Associates. With each change came a redesign of the newsletter and a move from black and white to a full color publication. These past several years also saw the introduction of paid advertising in the *Water Works News* to help cover the costs of publication. For as much as we have changed, we also seem to remain the same. We have

amazing people within the Section who provide content for each issue and many of the features within the newsletter are the same today as they were 17 years ago. Committee and Council Updates, reports from your Director, Chair, and now the Executive Director, help keep you up to date on the business side of the Section. Then there is the training news and feature articles that help all of you stay up to date on the important issues that face the water industry.

However, as with many things, there comes a time when you simply know that it is time to move on to other challenges and opportunities. For me that time has come to step down as the Editor of the *Water Works News* and to allow others within the Section to experience the great memories that come with being an integral part of the Section. I know that my successor Kelly Gleason will do an amazing job as the new Editor of the *Water Works News* and that under her leadership the newsletter will continue to grow and adapt to the changes that we all see with new technologies and the impacts of social media. I hope that all of you will continue to support her as she finds her way in this challenging role the same way that you supported me all these years. I am not leaving her all alone. I will continue to serve as a reviewer of the newsletter for each issue. I hope that you have enjoyed the work that I have done as your Editor. I know that I have enjoyed every minute of it.

Thank You again! 💧

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COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL UPDATE

By Cindy Irving

The Communications Council would like to present two opportunities for our members to communicate.

1. Write an article or share an idea for an article for the Water Works News.
2. Participate in Drinking Water Week, May 7 – 13, 2017.

Water Works News

Water Works News is always looking for content that shares knowledge among members or keeps members connected. Maybe you want to write an article.

Maybe there is a topic about which you would like to see an article written. Or maybe you have recently completed an interesting project and would like to share pictures and highlights with MI-AWWA. We would love to hear from you, and here is how the process works:

1. Contact Kelly Gleason (kjs@lbwl.com) or Cindy Irving (cci@lbwl.com) and share your idea.
2. If you want to write an article, we would discuss the topic and how this article would best fit in with *Water Works News*. Next, we would figure out when the article would need to be submitted for our editing and publishing schedule. Finally, we would ask you to write the article.
3. If you are interested in a topic, share your idea, and we will reach out to other members who have the expertise to help us produce the article. If it is a topic that is important to one member, there is a good chance that others are also interested.
4. If you would like to share information about a recent project, send us pictures and the critical details. We will work with you to create an article for future publication.

You do not need to be a reporter or author to contribute important content to Water Works News. We can work together to share your knowledge and experience with other members.

Drinking Water Week

Drinking Water Week is just around the corner. The dates for 2017 are May 7 – 13.

The goal of Drinking Water Week is to bring together water professionals and the communities they serve to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. The Communications Council would like to encourage all of our members to participate in Drinking Water Week.

Go to the AWWA website www.awwa.org and search for Drinking Water Week 2017. There is a list of celebration ideas including plant tours, outreach to schools, bill stuffers,

community events, and internal celebrations to recognize the great work by water system employees. Now is the time to plan for a successful Drinking Water Week. If you choose to participate, sign up on the AWWA website to be listed as a 2017 Participant. If you have not participated in the past, use the ideas and materials available through AWWA. Even a small outreach effort is important as we strive to communicate the value of water to our communities. 💧



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REPORTING TO DEQ – ASSET MANAGEMENT FINANCIAL SUFFICIENCY

By Tom Traciak, Asset and Infrastructure Management Committee

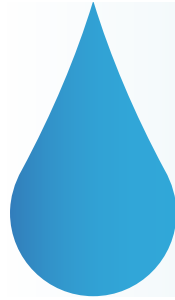
Communities will need to submit a financial report to DEQ for sewer and water asset management plans. For sewer systems, this pertains to the 2.5-year milestone for SAW Grant and applicable NPDES permit submissions, and for water systems, this pertains to asset management plans due January 2018 and the subsequent review updates. Having had several reports approved (and some not – at least on the first try) by DEQ, I have some insights I would like to share.

There are three main elements to a submission:

1. Financial Report

The report is to demonstrate current rate sufficiency. The way DEQ will determine if there is a “gap” by comparing the calculated rate with the current user rate that was implemented through a rate resolution or ordinance. If the current user rate plus other system revenues is not equal to or greater than the current year operating, maintenance, replacement, capital, and debt service there is a gap.

Operating and maintenance is the usual cost of providing service found in the budget (typically the 590 Account for sewer and 591 Account for water). Depreciation is a paper expense and this is a “cash basis” report, so it does not need to be included. There may also be a “replacement” line item in the budget for short-lived depreciable assets (required in CWRP and DWRF loan User Charge Systems). The inclusion of “capital” is not a given ... if it is only being used as a placeholder in the budget for a future project, then you may not want to include it. Debt service is the principal plus interest on outstanding obligations (but only user rate supported, so it does not include, for instance, special assessment bonds).



DOES THE REVENUE EQUAL OR EXCEED THE EXPENSES? IF YES, YOU ARE DONE. IF NO, YOU HAVE A “GAP.” IF YOU HAVE A GAP, YOU WILL NEED TO CORRECT IT.

A good format for the report is to first replicate the current year budget expenses. Add to this capital and/or debt service if not included in the line items of the operating budget. Then subtract other revenues* such as connection charges, interest income, extra strength surcharges. The result is expenses to be supported by rates. For the rate revenue computation, show your work! Show the rate times the applicable customer number (REU, meter equivalent, billable volume). Does the revenue equal or exceed the expenses? If yes, you are done. If no, you have a “gap.” If you have a gap, you will need to correct it. In the case of SAW Grant projects, the correction is a resolution adopted filling at least 10% of the rate gap by the end of the three-year period plus a five-year plan for the remaining 90%.

* If there are other system revenues such as extra strength surcharges or septage receiving fees, show the computation of the rate times the volume equaling the annual revenue.

2. Rate Resolution

This is a copy of the resolution or ordinance that implemented the current user rates. This is what DEQ will look at to determine if the calculated rate is sufficient or not, i.e. the gap.

For a utility authority or other entity that is charging local units, this may include a copy of the contracts and/or the current year budget (and budget

resolution) that established the rate. This may need to specifically include apportionments or percent allocations defined in the budget and/or contract. Likewise, if you have a separate contract with a commercial or industrial customer that utilizes a different rate structure, then include that in the submission as well. If you are charging sewer extra strength surcharges, and it is covered by a separate resolution, remember to include a copy.

3. System Description

This is a relatively short general description of the system. Why? Because when someone is reading the Financial Report and Rate Resolution, the context of the type of system is very helpful. For example, there could be a large expense for “contracted services” and it helps to know that this is due to payments made to another local unit for sewer treatment or water purchase.

Some things to include in the description would be the area served, history of the system, whether they have their own plant, the type of plant, whether they buy or sell service with other local units, the nature of the system (e.g. for sewer; gravity or force main). Again, keep this description succinct; detail or inventory is not necessary.

This submission is applicable to all of the DEQ financial related reporting requirements related to water and sewer asset management. This will be an ongoing submission: annually for

applicable NPDES permits and periodically for drinking water system reviews.

How does this DEQ sufficiency report demonstrate support of asset management, which includes a focus on capital spending? In two ways:

- A.** It is the essential building block of rate management. It is not possible to engage in long term planning without a sound starting point. Any asset management cash flow forecast for the purpose of long-term user rate, capital spending, and fund balance management must begin with a historical review, current year budget, and rate sufficiency calculation.
- B.** It will include capital spending in the subsequent updates of the report submitted to DEQ. In other words, a sub-product of a long-term cash flow will be a snapshot for the current year, i.e. an annual sufficiency report that can be submitted to DEQ.

My opinion of the DEQ sufficiency report is that it is a perfect fit in the asset management plan process. It focuses on current year budget, which is exactly where asset management planning is most likely to fail in execution on a year-to-year basis going forward. If there is no annual review pertinent to the current budget, then the asset management plan can easily become a report that sits on the shelf. Should the DEQ report be a forecast instead of a focus on current year sufficiency? No. If it went beyond current year, it would not be effective in that future Boards and Councils cannot be bound by current policy actions. In addition, it leaves long term planning in the hands of the policy makers.

Tom Traciak, Principal, H.J. Umbaugh & Associates, has consulted on bond issues and rate studies to over 300 local units of government in Michigan since 1988, and is engaged in over one hundred SAW Grant projects. He is a member of the joint MWEA and MI-AWWA Asset and Infrastructure Management Committee. Tom would like to thank fellow AIM Committee member Bob Schneider of DEQ for his review of this article. 💧



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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL UPDATE

By Andrew Reynolds

In the last few months our Council has completed a directory that cross-lists all MI-AWWA members with their State and National legislators. The directory also establishes the legislative contacts for each of MDEQ's designated operators, administrative contacts, and physical plant locations for the 700+ municipal water supply systems in the state.

As our Council tracks the progress of proposed legislation at the state and national level, we can now quickly and easily reach out to those specific Section members, stakeholders, and facilities that lie within the legislative districts of the representatives who

have either drafted or sponsored a particular bill or who sit on an influential review committee. Whether a particular bill garners your support or your constructive criticism, we trust that our elected leaders will particularly appreciate hearing from water professionals in their home districts. This directory will help us keep you informed and channel your input to the people who should hear it. This directory will also make it easier to identify potential volunteers that could participate in advocacy efforts at the state and local level.

If and when you do receive a notification from us or the Section in

the coming months that invites you to contact your local representatives, keep something else in mind: One other beneficial insight this directory has provided is that legislative districts have very few section members on file, and in three of the 110 districts there are currently no members at all. The average number of MI-AWWA members per legislative district is only about fifteen. That means that you should not assume your representatives are receiving a barrage of legislative input and advice from water professionals in their district – in fact they may not receive any input at all, unless you speak up. 💧

MEMBER RECRUITMENT & ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL UPDATE

By Tina Pawlak

Leadership changes have come to the Member Recruitment & Engagement Council! The past year has seen our previous chair, Mike Williams, move on to become the Secretary/Treasurer for MI-AWWA. Tina Pawlak, formerly vice-chair, has moved into the council chair position, with Carrie Cox becoming Vice Chair. The council would like to thank Matt Parks for his excellent work heading

up the Young Professionals Task Force. Due in large part to his energy and drive, our Young Professionals group sponsors many well-attended events and mixers during the year.

We are also very excited to welcome two new council members. Jenna Karazim is taking over as head of the Young Professional Task Force and Joe Eastman is joining the Diversity Task

Force. Our council tries in a variety of ways to welcome new members and keep current members active and engaged. Please consider helping us, either with a short task or as a council member.

If you are interested in helping our council, please contact Tina Pawlak at tpawlak@hollandbpw.com or Carrie Cox at cocx@oakgov.com. 💧

TECHNICAL NETWORK COUNCIL UPDATE

By Geneva Vanlerberg

The Technical Network Council (TNC) hosted an asset management panel discussion and networking event on November 10. Our AWWA/MWEA Joint Asset and Infrastructure Management Committee (AIM) put together the technical content for the successful event. Included on the panel were the DEQ, Oakland County Water Resources Commission, Waterford Township, City of Grand Rapids, and Byron Gaines.

The panel provided great information on the regulatory requirements, status of asset management implementation at various utilities, real life struggles, and plans for future improvements. Casual networking followed the panel giving everyone the opportunity to mingle, grow their network, and learn more about how other systems are implementing asset management. Check the website for upcoming future Technical Networking Events hosted



by TNC. Contact Geneva Vanlerberg (gmv@lbwl.com) to learn more about the TNC. 💧



EDUCATION AND TRAINING COUNCIL UPDATE

By Robert Miller

Last month as I was sitting being taunted and bullied by my inbox, I was subconsciously filtering the subject lines for keywords when “FW: Resident Water Concern” jumped out at me. We, like all systems, receive these calls from time to time, but rarely are the great folks I work with unable to satisfy the concerns or questions of our customers. Staff knows the easy answers just as well as I do, so I took a deep breath before opening the message. It was long, and it filled the entire preview pane. Again, I started the subconscious scan and right away found “Chromium 6” down in the original message. When I began reading the thread from the top the message directed to me opened with *“Stacey said that you were the expert in this and that I should direct her concerns to you. If you could give her a call back and pacify some of her fears that would be great. Thanks!”*

Quite a compliment to hear that a colleague thinks of you that way, right? But I am not an expert thoroughly versed in all the technicalities of chromium in public water systems, and as far as I know have never tamped any fears of such contamination. In your water system, whether the question is on chromium, rate increases, MCL violations, or accolades and awards, the decision on how and what to communicate to your stakeholders at this intersection is becoming increasingly important and entirely consequential. Have any of your operations/personnel ever been mischaracterized on

social media? Been incorrectly quoted? Unknowingly provided incorrect information? Been taken out of context? I ask these questions because I see that effective, accurate, and deliberate communication with stakeholders in our communities is an absolute necessity. This hasn't been a traditional space where MI-AWWA has provided education and training to our industry, but I see it as a potential area where there might be a lot to learn. Please send me your thoughts on this, or something else you think Education and Training should be focused on, through our section website at www.mi-water.org.

One other area of focus that I know has piqued the interest of our industry partners is the revival of the Plankton and Algae class (formerly held on Beaver Island). The Education and Training Council has had a task force, led by Joe VanderStel, working hard on this for over a year. I'm excited to report that we have partnered with Grand Valley State University's Robert B. Annis Water Research Institute for the use of their facility and assistance from their staff. Dates have been confirmed for August 1, 2, and 3 of 2017. Lots more detail, along with registration information will be forthcoming.

Finally, to those of you that have communicated your ideas and needs regarding education and training, I thank you. On a recent call with MI-AWWA leaders, we again reviewed the 300-plus responses from our

The Education & Training Council would like to set up training opportunities in disadvantaged communities around Michigan. We are looking for operators, vendors, retired consultants, and other professionals, to volunteer their expertise to help provide training to operators near their own community. Training in cross connections, recordkeeping, operation & maintenance, emergency response, etc. are just a few of the examples of training that are needed in these disadvantaged communities. Please contact Gary Wozniak (wozniakg@michigan.gov) or anyone on Education & Training Council for more information or if you would like to volunteer.

2015 Educational Needs Assessment. As valuable of a tool as that survey was, the best assessment we can do is to keep the conversation going between all of you and the Education and Training Council. In addition to ideas, I'm also asking for volunteers. Would you like to sit in on a Regional Planning task force meeting? Contact MI-AWWA at www.mi-water.org.

And by the way, I did satisfy the chromium fears of my concerned customer, and as far as I can see my comments have not been reproduced on Facebook, misrepresented, or in any way otherwise blown back up in my face. 💧



IN ADDITION TO IDEAS, I'M ALSO ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SIT IN ON A REGIONAL PLANNING TASK FORCE MEETING? [CONTACT MI-AWWA AT WWW.MI-WATER.ORG.](http://WWW.MI-WATER.ORG)



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Jenna Kerazim

The Young Professionals (YPs) have been incredibly active and have participated in a variety of events in 2016. For those of you that don't know, the YPs are a group of individuals that are young and/or fairly new to the industry. The goal of the group is to get involved, network and find places within the organization as members in the future. Below is a summary of some of the events the YPs have participated in over the past year.

During Joint Expo, the YPs (in collaboration with MWEA's New Professionals) coordinated a scavenger hunt, a student round table and an after hours networking mixer. For the hunt, participants followed clues and visited vendors to earn prize tickets. Prizes were handed out at the mixer while experienced and young professionals mingled and networked. The top prize was a \$200 gift card along with a basket of the sponsoring vendor's swag! The round table during lunch was a huge success consisting of a panel of experienced and young professionals. These professionals answered questions and addressed concerns from college students interested in entering the field.

Two designated YPs traveled to San Diego, CA to attend the national YP summit. YPs from each state gathered to discuss issues they're facing as well as their successes and failures within their individual sections. The designated individuals rotate every year, but regularly consist of those that are planning to hold the position of chair or vice-chair.

The YPs have also orchestrated several other independent events with the help of vendor sponsorships. Events include Detroit Tigers baseball games, Grand Rapids Griffins hockey games and Detroit Red Wings hockey games. It's a great way to network while rooting for your favorite team! Meetings are also held before or following the games to discuss upcoming events and ways to get involved.

Even though the YPs love to have fun, we also take the industry very seriously.



South Haven Tour



Joint Expo Grand Prize Drawing



In Class presentations to 8th graders

We know how important it is to promote the value of the work we do. So when an opportunity to reach out arises, we jump on it. Recently, a couple of the YPs spent a day teaching 8th graders about the treatment of water and wastewater, as well as the water process as a whole. The kids were extremely receptive and genuinely interested in what happened to their water, especially after they flushed their toilets. It was great to have an opportunity to promote the field and the value of the water industry to today's youth.

There have also been a couple of plant tours hosted by the YPs; one in South Haven and one in Benton Charter Township. It's always interesting to see how different plants operate, and there are plenty of networking opportunities available at the mixers following the tours. All AWWA members are always welcome at YP hosted events, and we love having a mixture of young and experienced professionals.

The YPs are also highly active when it comes to MI-ACE every year. There are opportunities to present the 'News From the Field' with high energy and a bit of comedic touch on a yearly basis. The News from the Field highlights construction projects that have been completed over the past year to give attendees an idea of the projects being completed in the industry. This year, the YPs also worked on a "Day Without Water" project that was intended to raise awareness of the field and to promote the industry. The project spanned across the U.S. and Europe with live interviews asking local residents various questions about water, treatment, and conservation.

If you or someone you know would like to get involved, please contact Jenna Karazim at jkarazim@a2gov.org. We would love to have you at our next event! 💧

A Section Assessment: Planning for Sustainability and Growth



The Board of Trustees of the Michigan Section of AWWA is proposing to implement an annual Section Assessment fee.

What is a Section Assessment?

A Section Assessment is an annual fee (like chapter dues) to help fund programs provided by the Section.

What has prompted MI-AWWA to consider implementing a Section Assessment?

The Section is currently operating at a deficit and has investigated multiple opportunities to meet its current budget. The Section receives income from AWWA in the form of an annual allotment. However, this allotment has not increased since 2000, while operating costs have increased due to inflation as well as the hiring of staff in 2011. Income from conferences and training events has been flat, while the costs of conducting section activities have increased.

In recent budget cycles, the Section Board has decreased funding for Section Councils and Committees in an attempt to balance the budget. Meanwhile the Section is concurrently trying to grow, not shrink Section activities. One example of the growth in Section activities is the launch of a new expanded training program called the Michigan Water Academy®. Another is the development of a strategic communications plan.

The Section Assessment is a necessary and critical component of the Board's strategy to ensure that current activities of the section remain available, allow for growth

opportunities, and continue to meet the needs of our members.

What is MI-AWWA proposing as its Section Assessment?

The Association requires us to select one of five predetermined levels – 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, and 25%. The Michigan Section is proposing a 10% Section Assessment, which equates to just

\$18 for Individual members, \$8 for Operations members, and from \$30 to \$187 for Utility and Service Provider members and, if approved, would not take effect until 2018. Student, Honorary, Retiree, and Life members do not pay the Section Assessment.

Still have questions? Stop by the Section booth at Joint Expo to learn more. 💧

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One Year After Flint: Preventing Water Crises in the Future

By Alex Yavich, Ph.D., P.E., Optimization Solutions Environmental, LLC



In 2016, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) acknowledged “a disastrous mistake in failing to require the city of Flint to add corrosion-control chemicals as part of the treatment process” (Matthew Dolan and Paul Egan. Attorney General Bill Schuette sues companies in Flint water crisis. *Detroit Free Press*, June 22, 2016). While mistakes were indeed made, leading to

the lead contamination of Flint’s water, the failure to add corrosion-control chemicals was not one them. The fact of the matter is the Flint water treatment plant was capable of effectively controlling corrosion *without* the need for adding corrosion-control chemicals.

While the raw turbidity and the concentration of natural organic matter found in Flint River water are typical of other river sources across the United

States, the Flint River water is distinctive in its sufficiently high alkalinity, low noncarbonate hardness and low magnesium concentration, which remain relatively stable throughout the year. Ordinarily, such raw water quality should not present corrosion control challenges. So, why did it?

A computer simulation analysis of the Flint water treatment process revealed that the coagulant feed control

“Preventing water crises such as in Flint requires identifying and dealing with the problems’ root causes, and not merely mitigating the effects of these problems after they arise.”

and the lime softening process used in the water treatment process were extremely ineffective, which resulted in a substantial reduction in finished water alkalinity, rendering the water to dissolve protective calcium carbonate scale in the distribution system, rather than to form such a scale. The analysis also showed that these consequences could have been avoided through optimization of coagulation and lime-softening processes, as well as the disinfection process, which would have allowed the plant to produce safe drinking water at no additional cost.

The Flint case underscores a significant problem in U.S. water treatment practices. When dealing

with water quality challenges, water utilities often focus on “symptomatic treatment” – i.e. treating “the symptoms, not the disease.” This approach masks, but does not ultimately resolve, the underlying problems. Furthermore, water utilities often react after a challenging situation has developed instead of trying to prevent this situation from happening in the first place. When an operational problem does arise, attempts are made to mitigate the problem without consideration of how a change in one part of the operational process would affect other parts of the process. Preventing water crises such as in Flint requires identifying and dealing with the problems’ root causes, and not merely mitigating

the effects of these problems after they arise. Here are some of the things water treatment plants can do to effectively deal with operational challenges.

Water utilities need to adopt a concept of managing the entire treatment process, not the individual operations. This is because all operations are interrelated and any modifications done to one operation would affect plant’s other operations. This also means that effective process management is only possible if there is a clear understanding of site-specific cause-and-effect relationships between unit processes and operations. Such understanding is also critical for resolving challenging situations without creating new problems. Also, optimization of water treatment plants should not be a project, but a continuous process, with each step, no matter how small, designed to achieve a specific goal towards improving plant operation. These all will help better manage plant operation, reduce costs and, yes, prevent water crises. 💧



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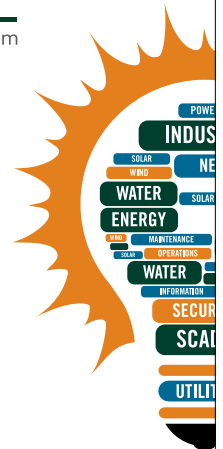
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JOINT EXPO

& OPERATORS DAY

2017 PREVIEW

February 7 & 8, 2017 | Lansing Center, Lansing, MI

Co-presented by the Michigan Section – American Water Works Association (MI-AWWA) and the Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA), Joint Expo includes Operators Day, an infrastructure finance seminar, and the premier water and wastewater exhibit show in the Midwest.

OPERATORS DAY


Operators Day offers two half-day trainings packed full of great information. Water and wastewater utility managers and operators should plan to attend either or both days. This year's program will focus on emerging contaminants in groundwater & surface water, corrosion control, lab safety, line & leak locating, SCADA 2016 and much more.

Onsite check in and continental breakfast are available at 7:15 am and each day's training begins at 8:10 am sharp. Enjoy lunch (included in registration) on the exhibit floor.

Each day's training offers 0.3 continuing education credits in the TECHNICAL category for both water and waste water licensed operators.

Register for Operators Day

There are two ways to register.

-  Complete the form on page 26 and return to:
MWEA Office
PO Box 397
Bath, MI 48808
Fax: 517-641-7388

-  Go online to jointexpo.org.

You must register by January 25, 2017. If registrant cancels 10 days or more

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before the program, a 100% refund will be issued. If cancellation is less than 10 days before the program, fees based on expenses will apply. No refunds are made if cancellation is

after program date. Registration can be transferred to another person in your organization anytime. Communicate any changes to the MWEA office at 517-641-7377.


INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE SEMINAR

Wednesday, February 8

This advanced level seminar offers powerful tools to help leaders of water systems stay ahead of today's infrastructure funding challenges. There are no wastewater or drinking water continuing education credits available for this half-day seminar, however professional development hours may be available for those with the P.E. designation. Onsite check in and continental breakfast is available at 8:00am, with the program beginning at 8:30am. Enjoy lunch (included in registration) on the exhibit floor.

Register for the Infrastructure Finance Seminar

There are two ways to register.

-  Complete the form on page 29 and return to:
MWEA Office
PO Box 397
Bath, MI 48808
Fax: 517-641-7388

-  Go online to jointexpo.org.

You must register by January 25, 2017. Same cancellation policy applies.

Please communicate any changes to the MWEA office at 517-641-7377.

EXHIBITS

Water professionals can earn CECs free! This is the premiere exhibit show of the Midwest, offering an opportunity to see vendors from all areas of the water industry. Entrance into the exhibits is free and both water and waste water operators can earn 0.2 CECs in the OTHER category by spending time investigating the latest in equipment, technology, and services on the exhibit floor.

Skip the lines!

Registration is *free* and *required* to enter the exhibit floor. You will get on the floor faster if you pre-register. (We've fixed our process – it will definitely be faster!) That way, we can have your name badge ready. Visit www.jointexpo.org to sign up for the exhibits ahead of time.

Show Hours

Tuesday, February 7,

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Wednesday, February 8,

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

(NOTICE – we're closing earlier this year)

For safety reasons, children under 18 are not allowed on the exhibit floor unless accompanied by an adult at all times.

VENDORS INTERESTED IN EXHIBITING

The exhibits is a show for equipment suppliers, manufacturers, and consulting engineers who want an effective method to exhibit their products and services to water professionals. Any company or organization that manufactures and/or provides products or services to the drinking water and wastewater treatment communities is eligible to exhibit.

Joint Expo Features

- ✓ No fee for attendance, so water and wastewater utilities will be encouraged to send several representatives.
- ✓ Exhibit area buffet lunch/ concessions are available.
- ✓ MI-AWWA Water Main Tapping Contest will be held on Tuesday and MI-AWWA Meter Madness and Hydrant Hysteria Contests on Wednesday.
- ✓ In 2016, there were more than 2,000 show and booth attendees combined, and booth space was sold out.
- ✓ Four registrations to the 2017 respective Annual Conferences will be given away by MI-AWWA and MWEA.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Exhibitors have the opportunity to increase visibility and attendee engagement through additional sponsorships. The following opportunities are available:

- Scavenger Hunt participant sponsor.....\$150
- Scavenger Hunt featured sponsor\$500
- Scavenger Hunt Uber sponsor \$1,000

Details on sponsorship opportunities are available online at www.mi-water.org/?page=JE.



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Fax: 248-625-8650 www.slcmeter.com

Hotel Accommodations

Hotel accommodations are the individual's responsibility. The Lansing Radisson Hotel is connected to the Lansing Center by pedway. Phone 517-482-0188 to make reservations and refer to Promotional Code AWWA17.

Additional Information about Exhibiting

Download the Exhibitor Prospectus from www.jointexpo.org or contact MI-AWWA staff at 517-292-2912 for more information about exhibiting at Joint Expo. For your convenience, a Booth Reservation form can be found on page 28.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Scavenger Hunt

Tuesday, February 7,

11:30 am – 4:00 pm

Organized and coordinated by the MI-AWWA Young Professionals and the MWEA New Professionals, the scavenger hunt is a fun way to walk the exhibits and earn a chance to win prizes. Prizes are sponsored by numerous exhibitors and will be awarded later that day. Must be present to win.

Round Table Discussion

Tuesday, February 7,

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Hosted by MI-AWWA YPs and MWEA NPs

This is a great opportunity to join with other water and wastewater professionals to converse on topics of interest within the industry. Registration is complimentary but you're asked to pre-register so that we can ensure a comfortable room. Visit www.jointexpo.org to pre-register. Students and those new to the industry are especially encouraged to attend.

Joint Expo Mixer

Tuesday, February 7, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Hosted by MI-AWWA YPs and MWEA NPs

Come enjoy snacks and a beverage or two after the exhibits close on Tuesday. Lansing Brewery
518 E Shiawassee St, Lansing, MI



2016 Tapping Michigan Champion Ladies Team – Smooth Operators



2016 Tapping Michigan Champion Men's Team – Troy Tappers

“Stop by to see for yourself what all the excitement is about and to root for your favorite team in their attempt to be the fastest tappers in Michigan.”

Water Main Tapping Contest

Tuesday, February 7, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

The MI-AWWA Water Main Tapping Contest will once again be held during Joint Expo. A large staging area has been set aside in the Northwest corner of the Exhibit Hall, adjacent to the food area. This spirited competition is a high-energy contest where three-person teams race against the clock to drill into a cement-lined ductile iron pipe by hand and install a tap connected to a simulated water service.

Stop by to see for yourself what all the excitement is about and to root for your favorite team in their attempt to be the fastest tappers in Michigan.

If you want to form a team and to compete, contact Mike Schlegelmann at 248-524-3497 or schlegelmm@troymi.gov or Remecho Sanders at 517-897-5982 or ras@lbwl.com.

Meter Madness

Wednesday, February 8,

10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Check out the Meter Madness competition on the exhibit floor where competitors test their skills in a timed effort to assemble a water meter from a bucket of parts. Careful! There may

be an extra part or two in the bucket just to throw you off!

Improve your chances of winning – order a practice meter now by contacting Mike Schlegelmann at schlegelmm@troymi.gov.

Hydrant Hysteria

Wednesday, February 8,

10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Hydrant Hysteria is a fast-paced competition where two-member teams assemble a specified hydrant as quickly as they can.

The winning team(s) will have the opportunity to compete at the AWWA Annual Conference & Exhibits in Pennsylvania in June.



2017 OPERATORS DAY

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Organization/Employer: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Direct Telephone #: _____

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Dates Attending Operators Day:

Feb. 7 (\$105.00) Feb. 8 (\$105.00) Both (\$210.00)

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Please Note

Registrations received by mail or FAX without payment (check, money order, credit card or purchase order no.) will be processed **only after the registration deadline**, January 25, 2017, space permitting. By sending in this registration, you are registering for **Operators Day**; attending Joint Expo exhibits is free.

Please send check to: MWEA, PO Box 397, Bath, MI 48808

Check Enclosed Payable to MWEA \$ _____

Check not enclosed – PO # _____

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PARKING

The Lansing Center is located at 333 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48933. Closest parking is available behind and under the Lansing Center, off Cedar Street and in the North Grand Ave ramp connected to the Lansing Center via a pedway.

For your convenience, here is a map of all parking options available in and around the Lansing Center. Download the parking app from www.jointexpo.org to get parking updates the day of the event.

Lansing Center Event Parking

To ensure that your visit to Lansing for the 2017 Joint Expo & Operators Day is outstanding, please find available parking at the marked locations below. Directional signs will be nearby, and any parking assistant wearing a neon yellow vest can answer additional questions.



A Lansing Center
333 E. Michigan Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
Cash or credit.

B North Grand Ramp
219 N. Grand Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
Cash or credit.

C North Capitol Ramp
320 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
Cash or credit.

D Yellow Cab / Lot 49A
429 S. Cedar St.
Lansing, MI 48933
Cash only.

A College Bike Shop
340 N. Larch St.
Lansing, MI 48912
Cash only.

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FEBRUARY 7 & 8, 2017 • LANSING CENTER • LANSING, MI

JOINT EXPO Fee Schedule

# of Booths	Price Oct 10-Dec 3	Price After December 31
1	\$650	\$750
2	\$1,175	\$1,375
3	\$1,650	\$1,950
4 or more	\$2,100 plus \$450 each additional booth more than four	\$2,500 plus \$550 each additional booth more than four

Please print clearly.

Number of Booth(s) requested: _____ Total Amount Due (according to fee schedule above): _____

Contact Person: _____

Company: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

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Brief Description Please provide a brief description of the products and services to be exhibited: _____

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DON'T MISS THE 2017 BORCHARDT CONFERENCE!



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

Coming Soon: Tuesday, February 21, and Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Every three years the Michigan-based Borchardt Conference brings together a diverse group of engineers, scientists, public health specialists and students to present and discuss the latest issues and advances in water and wastewater technology. This premier triennial event is co-sponsored by MI-AWWA, MWEA, MDEQ and the University of Michigan. The Borchardt Conference emphasizes applied research and real life experience in environmental engineering and water utility operations. **The dates are Tuesday, February 21, and Wednesday, February 22, 2017.** On-line registration and detailed program information is available at www.mi-water.org/mpage/Borchardt. As in past years, the Borchardt will be held at the Rackham Building on the University of Michigan main campus. Three years ago, over 250 people attended the conference including 50 students from 10 colleges and universities. The 2017 Borchardt Conference is again expected to draw large attendance.

KEYNOTE LECTURERS

Each conference day opens with a keynote lecture to set the tone of discussion. The 2017 Borchardt Conference will feature keynote addresses by Dr. Janet Stout from the University of Pittsburgh, and Dr. Sudhir Murthy from the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DCWASA). Dr. Stout is Associate Professor of Civil



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and Environmental Engineering and Director of the Special Pathogens Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering, and an internationally recognized authority on *Legionella* and Legionnaires' disease. Dr. Sudhir Murthy serves as Innovations Chief at DCWASA, and is the 2016 Kappe Lecturer for the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. Dr. Murthy has authored more than 75 peer-reviewed publications and is a Fellow of the International Water Association and Water Environment Federation.

BORCHARDT-GLYSSON WATER TREATMENT INNOVATION PRIZE

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

The Borchardt Conference Planning Team includes representatives from Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association, Michigan Water Environment Association, as well as environmental science and engineering faculty from the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State University and Michigan Tech. 💧

“On-line registration and detailed program information is available at www.mi-water.org/mpage/Borchardt.”

MI-ACE 2017

The Michigan Section of AWWA is now seeking abstracts and presentation ideas for MI-ACE 2017.

Are you working on an interesting or challenging project? Have you found a way to solve a problem that you think others could benefit from? Did you just save your community money with a change you've made? The Annual Conference Program Committee is now accepting abstracts and would love to hear from you.

Topic ideas include:

- Rate setting
- Management issues
- Asset management
- Water quality and sampling methods
- Operations and maintenance
- Distribution
- Pump maintenance
- Customer service
- Financial modeling
- Information technology
- Research
- Safety procedures
- Source water or wellhead protection
- Storm water management
- Workforce Development
- or your own fresh idea

Please visit the Section's Annual Conference page to submit your abstract or presentation idea.

www.mi-water.org/?page=MIACE





DRINKING WATER REVOLVING FUND AND SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT ELIGIBILITY

New guidance in the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRf) program has been established this year regarding the replacement of service lines. All service lines on public and private property are considered DWRf eligible provided there is a public health threat that is being addressed and reduced. Regulatory provisions governing the use of DWRf funds *do not* require the public water system to have ownership over the private portion of a service line. The service line, from the water main up to and including the meter, is eligible for DWRf funding.

The DWRf program is designed to assist water suppliers in satisfying the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act by offering low-interest loans to eligible water suppliers to

construct capital improvements. Since its inception in 1997, the Michigan DWRf has provided financial assistance to approximately 285 projects totaling over \$890 million. DWRf money is appropriated annually by congress and awarded to each state through a capitalization grant. States are required to provide a 20 percent match on their federal award.

A DWRf loan has a below market interest rate that is established annually and a 20-year repayment period, with an option for a 30-year period if the applicant qualifies as a disadvantaged community. The loan can include all related planning, design, and bond financing costs, with the possibility of loan forgiveness for a portion to qualifying disadvantaged communities or those projects that

include 'green' infrastructure. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, the following types of improvements:

- Water treatment plant upgrades
- Water main replacement projects
- Replacing or constructing storage tanks
- Pump station improvements
- Well and well structure construction
- Service line replacements

The first step in applying for DWRf funds is to contact the Revolving Loan Section of the DEQ at 517-284-5433. Project plans are due no later than May 1 in any given year and loan closing typically takes place the following year. If you are interested in funding a project or have questions regarding service line or any other eligibility, give us a call! 💧

DEQ EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Bryce Feighner is currently Chief of the Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Bryce has a broad range of education and experience across many DEQ programs, including air, water and waste. He most recently served as the Special Advisor on Drinking Water for the DEQ's response efforts to the Flint Water Crisis. Prior to that, Bryce was Chief of the Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection, which was charged with implementing state and federal waste programs as well as Governor Snyder's residential recycling plan.

Bryce began his career with state government 26 years ago with the Michigan Department of Public Health, Water Supply Division, where he served as District Engineer, Water

Treatment Specialist, and Supervising District Engineer. While he has enjoyed his diverse experiences and positions in various departments and divisions, Bryce states that, "It feels great to be back home in the drinking water program!"

Bryce is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering and a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering, with a concentration in drinking water treatment. He also holds graduate degrees in Theology/Ethics and Divinity. Bryce is a licensed professional engineer as well as a licensed and ordained minister.

Bryce and his wife Eileen have been married for 34 years. They have a married daughter, Amanda, who is working on a Master's degree in Nutrition at Michigan State



University, and a son, Matthew, who is a junior at Charlotte High School. They enjoy traveling and MSU football (most years!). 💧



MICHIGAN'S SCHOOL DRINKING WATER PROGRAM – BREAKING NEW GROUND

After extensive lead and copper sampling at schools in Flint, other school districts around the state of Michigan began to ask “What about our water?” Schools on their own water supply are required to conduct testing under the federal Lead and Copper Rule of the Safe Drinking Water Act and must follow a prescribed protocol for on-going compliance monitoring. These schools must meet the EPA action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb) for lead and 1.3 parts per million (ppm) for copper as determined from a 1-liter sample collection bottle¹. However, there is no state or federal law requiring testing of drinking water in schools and childcare facilities that are on a community water supply. Michigan, like most other states, did not have a program or testing protocol for schools on community water supplies. This article is intended to inform water suppliers of the guidance that has been provided to schools and daycares on community supplies.

In early 2016, Michigan established a School Drinking Water Coordinator position to create the protocols and guidance documents, oversee the testing procedures, review the data results, communicate with schools and other agencies, and act as the point person on issues involving drinking water in schools on community supplies. Many questions needed to be addressed, such as: how to sample, where to sample, what bottle size should be used, and at what concentration schools should take action.

A new protocol, “MDEQ Guidance on Drinking Water Sampling for Lead and Copper at Schools and Daycares on Community Water Supplies,” along with a Quick Guide for sampling, were developed to address many of these questions and aid schools with recommended testing of fixtures used for drinking and food preparation. These documents can be found at www.michigan.gov/drinkingwater. This




guidance recommends sampling fixtures using 250 ml bottles utilizing a specific investigatory collection methodology. A determination of an acceptable level for lead in drinking water at schools and daycares was based on information gathered from multiple sources, as follows.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) “no safe blood level has been identified and all sources of lead exposure for children should be controlled or eliminated.” The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the EPA to determine the level of contaminants in drinking water at which no adverse health effects are likely to occur with an adequate margin of safety. These non-enforceable health goals, based solely on possible health risks, are called maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs). The EPA has set the *goal* for lead in drinking water at zero. Therefore, the EPA and the CDC agree that there is “no known safe level of lead in a child’s blood.”² Michigan has taken the CDC and EPA goal of zero lead in drinking water, along with the Community Water Supply compliance action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), the EPA’s voluntary “3-T” Program’s action level of 20 ppb, and the bottled water

standard of 5 ppb into consideration, and determined that **5 ppb** is the current recommended level at which schools and daycares on community water supplies should take action. The guidance referenced above recommends fixtures used for drinking or food preparation with sample results above 5 ppb, be replaced or otherwise addressed to prevent consumption of water above that level.

In the fall of 2016, the Michigan Legislature made funding available to schools for reimbursements for the costs of testing, fixture replacements, and the use of filters. This funding can be applied for through the Michigan Department of Education MEGS+ system and provides reimbursement up to \$950 per school building.

Resources:

1. EPA “Ground Water and Drinking Water – Basic Information about lead in drinking water” webpage <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water> Last updated March 17, 2016
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “About Lead in Drinking Water” www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/leadinwater/default.htm (last updated 12/1/2015) 



MEET THE 2016-1017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair

John Willemin

John is a vice president at Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber, Inc. where he serves as a technical team leader in the Water and Wastewater Department. John's expertise is focused in the areas of water treatment, distribution and storage, but he also has been known to work on the Water Resource Recovery side of the pipe. He is currently the Chair of the Michigan Section and has served on the Board of Trustees since 2012. Previous to his time on the Board, he was the chair of the Water Treatment Practices Committee.

Chair-Elect

Christine Spitzley

Christine spent more than two decades managing regional environmental, economic development and land use programs for Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties. In her role at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission she worked to create collaborative, sustainable programs to benefit the tri-county region. Recently, Christine took a position as Project Manager with the Michigan Health Information network Shared

Services where she will continue to work and support public health. She has been involved with the Section in a variety of ways, most recently serving as the 2016 Program Committee Chair for MI-ACE 2016 in addition to her Board duties. Christine will begin as Chair of the Section in September 2017.

Past Chair

Barbara Marczak

Barbara has worked for Prein & Newhof for 30 years as a civil and environmental engineer. She is a licensed Professional Engineer and currently serves as the team leader for the Muskegon office. Barbara works on both water and wastewater projects and loves all things water. She has been involved in Section activities on Education and Membership Committees, serving as the Membership Committee Chair for a number of years, and she has served on the Section Board for past six years.

Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Williams

Mike is currently the deputy general manager for Peerless-Midwest, Inc.

where he is responsible for servicing the needs of Utilities, private industries, and commercial development. Mike has been an AWWA member for 29 years, serving as Chair of the Section in 2008-2009. He has been active on various committees throughout the years, mostly recently as chair of the Membership Council until he stepped into the Secretary/Treasurer role earlier this fall.

Director

Mark Coleman

Mark is a Professional Engineer with more than four decades of experience. His background includes construction, design and project management, and program and corporate management. Mark is a past chair of the Section, and currently serves as the Association Director on the Section Board as well as vice chair of the AWWA Management and Leadership Division simultaneously serving as that Division's liaison to the AWWA Standards Council.

Trustee (2016-2019)

Greg Alimenti

Greg is the water plant superintendent for the City of Joseph a position he has held since 2008. Prior to that he had been employed at the City of Benton Harbor for eighteen years. His experience includes water treatment and distribution. He has served on the Benton Harbor/St. Joseph Joint Wastewater Board and assisted Benton Charter Township as interim superintendent of their membrane plant from 2012 to 2014. Greg has been a member of AWWA for 26 years. As Trustee, he is the Board liaison to the Conference & Recognition Council.

Trustee (2015-2018)

Clyde Dugan

Clyde had previously been the water utility director for the Lansing Board of Water & Light until he tried to retire in 2004. He is currently manager of the East Lansing – Meridian Water & Sewer Authority, joining them in



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2011. Clyde is a long-standing AWWA member and has served on a variety of Section committees, including the inaugural Tapping Contest Committee. He is very involved in standards with AWWA, chairing two committees for the Association and serving on a few more. As Trustee, he is the Board liaison to the Government Affairs Council.

Trustee (2016-2017)

Jaime Fleming

Jaime currently leads the laboratory teams for Wyoming's drinking water and wastewater treatment plants. The laboratories serve Wyoming, its wholesale customers, and also some other drinking water systems. Jaime has been a member since 2004 and has been involved with the Youth Education, Lab Practices, Management and Administrative Practices, and Annual Program Committees as well as serving on the Board previously as a Trustee. Jaime is currently chairing the Annual Conference Program Committee for MI-ACE 2017. In September, she returned to the Board to fulfill a one-year term as a Trustee. As Trustee, she is the Board liaison to the Membership Council.

Trustee (2014-2017)

Bill Maier

Bill is retired from the workaday world. Previously with the Lansing Board of Water & Light, he was responsible for drinking water quality review as well as consultation and regulatory compliance regarding supply, treatment and distribution systems. Bill has been an AWWA member for years and has been involved in a variety of committees over the years. As Trustee, he is the Board liaison to the Communications Council.

Trustee (2015-2018)

Amy Vail

Amy is currently the lab manager and safety coordinator for the City of Cadillac where she is responsible for the city's certified drinking water lab and wastewater lab. She has served on the Lab Practices Committee for a number of years, both as a member and as chair, and has played a key role in the Lab Practices

Seminar held jointly with MWEA. She currently is chairing a new task force on Committee and Communities of Practice Review. As Trustee, she is the Board liaison to the Technical Network Council.

Trustee (2016-2019)

Joe VanderStel

Joe is responsible for administering the production of safe and reliable

drinking water for the Northwest Ottawa Water System, which serves a number of communities with a rated capacity of 23.25 MGD. Prior to serving on the Board, Joe was vice chair of the Education & Training Council and remains a member of the Regional Meeting Planning Task Force. As Trustee, he is the Board liaison to the Education & Training Council. 💧

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MI-AWWA SPRING REGIONAL MEETINGS

April brings the spring thaw and the Section's traditional regional meetings. These training events are held throughout the state and focus on treatment and other aspects of operating a community water supply system.

April 11, 2017

Livonia

April 12, 2017

Kalamazoo

April 18-19, 2017

Gladstone – U.P. Water Works

April 18, 2017

Mt. Pleasant

April 19, 2017

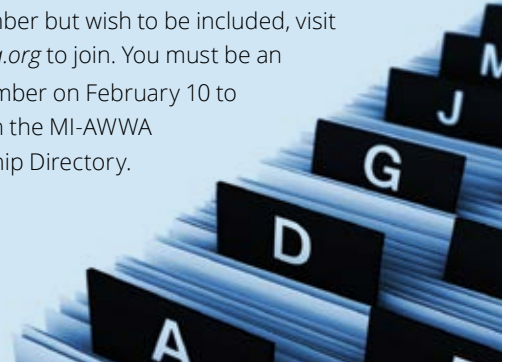
Gaylord



Register online at www.mi-water.org.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

As has become tradition, we will be including the MI-AWWA Membership Directory in the Spring issue of *Michigan Water Works News*. This data will come directly from the Section database. If you are a member, please take a few minutes to update your profile on the Section's website, www.mi-water.org. If you are not a member but wish to be included, visit www.awwa.org to join. You must be an active member on February 10 to be listed in the MI-AWWA Membership Directory.



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GREAT LAKES CUP TAPPING COMPETITION

By Kelly Gleason, LBWL

Originating in Springfield, Illinois in 2013, the Great Lakes Cup (GLC) Regional Tapping Competition was hosted by Troy, Michigan this year on October 18, 2016. The GLC is open to teams, both men and women; whose state borders the Great Lakes. Teams eligible to enter must have won their AWWA Section competition, the National competition, or be the host city for the event. This year, seven teams participated including four men's teams and three ladies teams. Each team performed a tap following the AWWA national rules on each of the two pipes set up and the new traveling trophies were awarded to the winning teams. For the women's teams; the Ductile Iron Diva's took first place with a tap time of 2.16 beating the Lansing Lethal Ladies by 2 seconds and the Smooth Operators by 14 seconds. For the men's teams; the Four Horsemen took first place with a tap time of 1.36 beating Troy Tappers by 15 seconds and Michigan Tappers by 20 seconds. The next competition for the Michigan teams is the State competition held at the Joint Expo in February. Make sure to come by and cheer on your team. 💧



COMPETING TEAMS IN THE GREAT LAKES CUP

Men's Teams

- Village of Arlington Heights' 4-Horsemen
- Fort Wayne Ductile Destroyers
- Lansing Board of Water and Light's Michigan Tappers
- City of Troy's Troy Tappers (defending, host)

Women's Teams

- Greater Cincinnati Water Works' Ductile Iron Diva's
- Lansing Board of Water and Light's Lansing Lethal Ladies (defending)
- City of Troy's Smooth Operators (host)

SMALL SYSTEMS TRAINING

AWWA has made an effort to offer training that meets the unique needs of small community water supplies. Through a grant partnership between AWWA, RCAP, and EFC, the Michigan Section will again be offering complimentary trainings to water professionals from small systems. This is in addition to our traditional training offerings.

Keep your eye on the Section's website for details. 💧

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NETWORKING AS LEARNING



Here are two great ways to network with your colleagues through the Michigan Section.

Plant tours are tours of water plants and other related facilities usually hosted by the Young Professionals. These tours give AWWA members an opportunity to see how other water systems work while building a network of colleagues in the water sector. The tours almost always end with a bit of food and fun at a local establishment.

Member forums are an opportunity for members to get together and discuss a topic of interest. In 2016, the Section held the Water Summit and an Asset Management panel. Both of these events offered an opportunity for members to hear about and discuss critical aspects of these important topics.

To find out when the next event is, visit the Section's web calendar and filter on networking events. 💧

2016 BEST TASTING WATER

After twenty years, the traveling Taste-Off trophy finally returned to Ann Arbor. It has been away since 1996.

Competition was close with Bergland Township from the UP; two-time Michigan Section Champ Chelsea, softened-to-perfection; previous champ Marion, Howell, Osceola, Genoa Water and Sewer Authority; and previous winner, Made-in-Michigan Mancelona. Perseverance paid off and Ann Arbor will represent the Michigan Section in Philadelphia at ACE17 in June. Thank you to judges David La France from AWWA, Sandra Sutton from MDHHS

(she swears fluoride has no taste), and MDEQ Water Treatment Specialist Mike Bolf.

Congratulations Ann Arbor! We wish you luck in Philly! Think your supply has what it takes for the title of Best Tasting Water? Submit your water sample at any Spring Regional meeting. Regional winners compete statewide for the Michigan Section AWWA, and Michigan Section winners compete nationwide at the AWWA Annual National Conference! Follow the sample instructions in the Spring Regional announcement coming out later this year. 💧





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As we continue to deliver valuable information through the pages of this magazine, in a printed format that is appealing, reader-friendly and not lost in the proliferation of electronic messages that are bombarding our senses, we are also well aware of the need to be respectful of our environment. That is why we are committed to publishing the magazine in the most environmentally-friendly process possible. Here is what we mean:

- We use lighter publication stock that consists of recycled paper. This paper has been certified to meet the environmental and social standards of the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and comes from responsibly managed forests, and verified recycled sources making this a RENEWABLE and SUSTAINABLE resource.
- Our computer-to-plate technology reduces the amount of chemistry required to create plates for the printing process. The resulting chemistry is neutralized to the extent that it can be safely discharged to the drain.
- We use vegetable oil-based inks to print the magazine. This means that we are not using resource-depleting petroleum-based ink products and that the subsequent recycling of the paper in this magazine is much more environment friendly.
- During the printing process, we use a solvent recycling system that separates the water from the recovered solvents and leaves only about 5% residue. This results in reduced solvent usage, handling and hazardous hauling.
- We ensure that an efficient recycling program is used for all printing plates and all waste paper.
- Within the pages of each issue, we actively encourage our readers to REUSE and RECYCLE.
- In order to reduce our carbon footprint on the planet, we utilize a carbon offset program in conjunction with any air travel we undertake related to our publishing responsibilities for the magazine.

So enjoy this magazine...and KEEP THINKING GREEN.

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2017 TRAINING CALENDAR

February

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

March

- 2/28 – 3/2** Basic Math & Hydraulics Short Course
at Gull Lake Conference Center in Hickory Corners with MDEQ
- 2/28 – 3/2** Water Treatment Short Course I
at Gull Lake Conference Center in Hickory Corners with MDEQ
- 3/7 – 3/9** Short Course in Water Chemistry
at Michigan State University in East Lansing
- 3/28 – 3/30** Limited Treatment Short Course
at Kettunen Center in Tustin with MDEQ
- 3/28 – 3/30** Distribution Short Course
at Kettunen Center in Tustin with MDEQ

April

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

May

- 5/9 – 5/11** Short Course in Water Bacteriology
at Michigan State University in East Lansing
- 5/23** Water Sector Customer Service

June

- TBD** Small Systems Conference
in Ionia

July

- TBD** Plankton Short Course
in Muskegon

August

- 8/2** Water Sector Leadership Forum

September

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

October

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

In Development

- Asset Management Seminar
- Small Systems SDWA with RCAP
- Distribution System Practices Seminar
- Small Systems Workshop with EFC
- Water Security Summit

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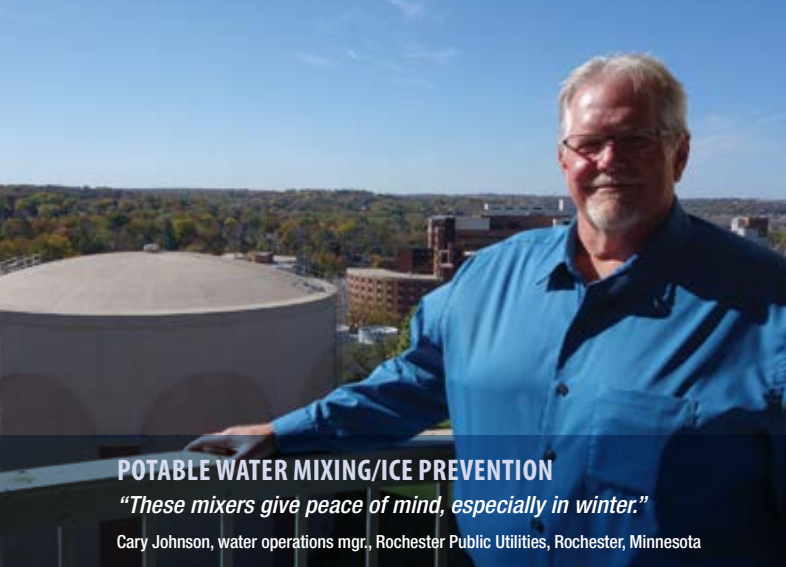


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