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MICHIGAN

FALL 2014

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DRIPS AND DROPS

RANDALL ROOST, CHAIR

In 1966 when Star Trek premiered it was during the opening credits that many of us caught our first glimpse of what the future may likely hold for us. Well, here we are now, nearly 50 years later and maybe some of the glamour and glitz of the space race has faded away, but we still dream of all of the exciting things that await us in the future.

Whether we want to accept it or not, we are still on the edge of new frontiers that have yet to be fully explored. I have often marveled at men and women who have risked their lives to try new things or visit new places where no one has gone before. I can only imagine what kind of person it must take to climb to the top of Mt. Everest or to travel by sub to the bottom of the mariana trench nearly seven miles under water.

But trying new things has always been a part of human nature and it is through these trials and tribulations that we have made some of our greatest achievements. There will always be people who seek out new opportunities and welcome the unknown into their lives. Many of the changes we encounter in our lives start out as a small idea that can become something much bigger as it moves into the mainstream of acceptance.

While change naturally interrupts routines, people need to show patience and soon beneficial results will follow. So, what does this all mean for the Michigan Section? Because for the Michigan Section, this next year is all about change.

During this year, the Michigan Section will see some of the biggest changes that it has seen in many years. We have already begun some of the changes with the hiring of our new executive director, Bonnifer Ballard. For those of you who have not had the pleasure of meeting her, she is a dynamo and she has been extremely busy carrying out the tasks that she has been assigned in her new position. I will caution you, however, that keeping up with her will be a challenge all in its own, whether it is in the office or on the highway chasing her down on her motorcycle.

The second major change we are making is our transition from our current committees to our new councils. Our six councils include the

- Government Affairs and Legislation
- Internal and External Communications
- Member Recruitment and Engagement
- Communities of Practice and Social Responsibility
- Conference and Recognition
- Education and Training

We already have our council chairs and vice chairs in place and many of our current committee volunteers and leaders have already been added to the council leadership structure. At our council leadership retreat in October we worked with our leadership team to begin planning our council activities for the coming year.

On the business side we are looking to change our accounting system, upgrade our communications tools, and revamp our website and our membership database.

All of these changes will require the full support of our membership as we work out the details along the way. As John Wooden once said – “It’s the little details that are vital. Little things make big things happen.”

I want to assure you, however, that the Section is not tossing out all of the great things that we have accomplished in our past. Albert Einstein once said that we should “Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow.” With that in mind, we have also taken on the following challenges:

Honor the Past - Our rich history of the Michigan Section has been the ship that has carried us to where we are today. We should be willing to learn from our predecessors and the mistakes that they made along the way to get us here. As a Section we will continue to honor our past with our Section Hall of Fame and our 75th anniversary book. We should never lose sight of our institutional memory.

Celebrate the Present - The present is all that we can truly control. While we need to plan for the future, if we spend all of our time thinking about the future, we will miss what we are experiencing today; and if we hold on too tightly to the past, it will rob us of our present. The present is our time to create the evolving history

of the Michigan Section. To celebrate the present, we are hoping to elevate our member award and recognition program along with finding new ways to let everyone know what is happening throughout the Section on a more frequent basis. This will likely be in the form of increased communications using social media outlets or through more frequent and focused emails on current topics and events. We are also hoping to use these same communications tools to improve the image that most people have of the water profession. Sometimes it does not hurt to give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done.

Embrace the Future - We have a need to prepare for our future to make sure that as a Section we can continue to meet the needs of our members for many years to come. But the needs that we have today are not necessarily the needs of the future and spending too much time worrying about what might happen can be self defeating. Of all of the things that we are worrying about today only a small percentage will ever

come true. But by the same token, the best way for us to predict our own future is to create it ourselves and to not fear the changes that the future brings but to learn to embrace it.

The Section has sometimes been viewed as only providing benefit to the managers or upper echelon of our membership. That is a perception that we hope to change. Our actions and focus are not just on one small segment of the water sector but encompass all levels of our membership with our programs and educational offerings. This is one of our challenges for our new councils to consider during their planning. We also hope to build upon the Association's move towards One World, One Water.

The future challenges the water industry to be more innovative, more efficient, and more prepared than ever. The One World, One Water initiative highlights the water industry's global commitment to developing and implementing the technologies, processes, and products that will be needed to enhance water quality worldwide.

Finally, I challenge you to not sit back and become complacent living on the successes from our past but to step up and take an active role in creating the future of the Section and embracing the changes necessary for us to remain relevant as both an industry and an association. [WWN](#)



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UNDER PRESSURE

BRIAN STEGLITZ, DIRECTOR

While I am writing this column right after our 76th Annual Conference that took place at the Little River Casino Resort in Manistee, MI, when you are reading it, winter will be around the corner. I am sure that you, like most utilities throughout the state, are hoping that this winter brings milder temperatures than what we experienced last year. For those of you fortunate to attend the conference in Manistee, you had the opportunity to attend a panel discussion on how utilities across the state handled the winter of 2013-14. This was a new feature to our conference that we have not offered before, allowing conference attendees to interact and question experts who have been dealing with a particular issue. In this case, we learned that there was not a single approach to the challenges that utilities faced last winter with the unprecedented depth of frost penetration and number of frozen services. While some utilities encouraged customers to "let it run" to prevent potential freezing, others were more reactive and used steam and in some cases welders to defrost frozen services. In all cases, utilities worked with their customers to troubleshoot and solve their problems,

even when the problem was outside of their jurisdiction or scope of responsibility. This sense of duty, responsibility, and commitment has become the standard for our industry, and one of which we should all be proud.

Other highlights from the Annual Conference included an update from Jon Allan who directs the Office of the Great Lakes and spoke of the strategic water initiatives that are being developed by the State of Michigan. Rob Renner, the Executive Director of the Water Research Foundation, talked about the Charleston, West Virginia drinking water contamination event that occurred in January 2014, and the microcystin contamination event that occurred in Toledo, Ohio where they experienced an algal bloom at their intake in Lake Erie in August 2014. Sue McCormick, the Director of the Detroit Water and Sewer Department, provided an update on the newly announced formation of the Great Lakes Water Authority, a partnership between the City of Detroit and its neighboring counties. There were many other memorable presentations; I wish I had space to mention them all. Across the board, the technical sessions received rave reviews.

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The Annual Conference provides an opportunity for those in the Michigan water industry to come together, share information, get caught up on the most current and topical issues facing the industry in Michigan and around the country, recognize those who stand out in our industry, and catch up with old friends. The conference in Manistee met these expectations on all counts. I would like to congratulate all of our awardees and look forward to seeing everyone again next year in the Upper Peninsula, which is bound to be another great event. I hope you can make it. [WWN](#)



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A REMARKABLE FOUNDATION, A BRIGHT FUTURE

BONNIFER BALLARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During these first few months, I have spent a good deal of time reading and in meetings, becoming better acquainted with the water industry. I have had discussions with Section leadership, Association staff, members attending events, retirees, young professionals, representatives from the Michigan Water Environment Association, the Michigan Rural Water Association, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and others. Throughout the numerous conversations I have had, I have been struck by three main themes.

First, there is a general sense of excitement within the Section and the industry at large. Person after person shared with me stories of how and why they are involved in the water industry and AWWA in particular. People genuinely like what they do. There is a "work hard play hard" ethos alive among Section members that drives the pursuit of excellence while building professional networks that grow to lasting friendships. This excitement for the profession has fostered many volunteers over the years who have dedicated many hours to creating

trainings, conferences, and other services for Section members as well as reaching out to communities about the importance and value of water.

A second theme that came through was surprising to me. As I talked with people, it became clear that for many, the water profession is a cause not unlike any other that protects public health. Members exude pride in their work to provide safe, quality drinking water and maintain efficient water systems for their communities. Whether through maintaining their professional license or through assisting a community in Ecuador to build a water system, AWWA members are incredibly passionate about the cause of water.

A third theme I noticed from my many conversations is the strength and value in our partnerships and collaborations with other organizations in the water industry. The Section has long enjoyed a unique relationship with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. We also have a strong partnership with the Michigan Water Environment Association. We are part of a number of coalitions and pool resources to help educate elected officials in Lansing and Washington, DC.

These partnerships have not only contributed to the success of the Section, but have benefited all water professionals across Michigan.

These themes provide a remarkable foundation on which the Section stands. With these as the base, the Section has been able to nurture members and grow the Section. I feel truly honored to be a part of such a great organization. And with such a solid foundation, we are well positioned to step toward the future.

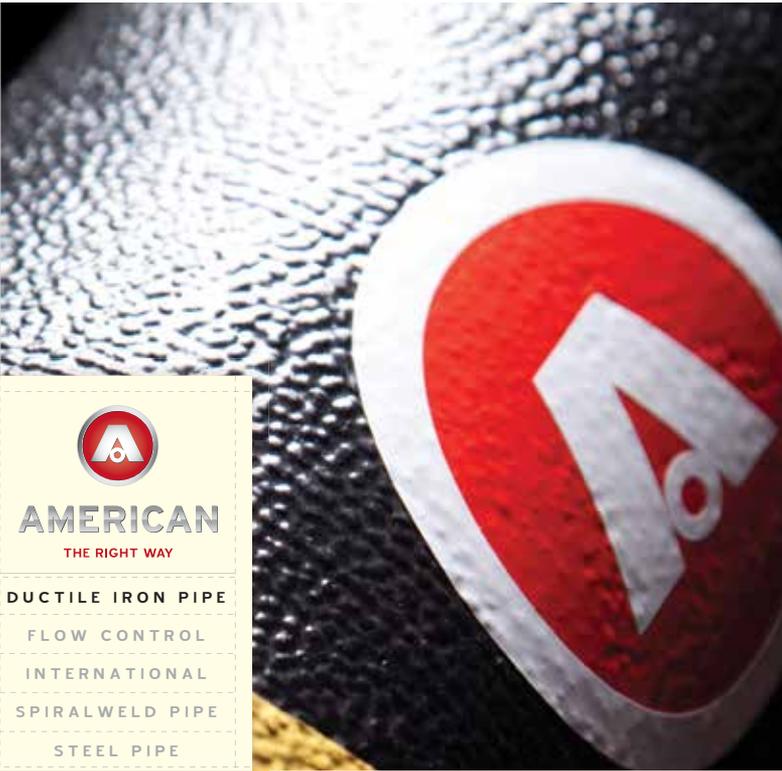
Through our six new Councils, much of the work we have done will continue to be done, and more. Our Councils will help us to think more strategically about all the services we provide to water professionals. They will help us streamline our work, reduce duplication, and unify our efforts.

We will be working very closely with our Councils, taking a close look at everything we do. We may decide to sunset some programs. We will begin to fill the gaps and make improvements where needed. We will leverage technology and expand our reach. It's going to be an exciting and busy year.

As we move toward the future, let us not forget our roots. Let us always honor our "work hard play hard" ethos. Let us maintain our passion for water. Let us strengthen our partnerships and add new ones. Let us also embrace new possibilities and new ideas. I am so excited to be a part of the Section right now. We have such a remarkable foundation and a very bright future. [WWW](#)



I AM SO EXCITED TO BE A PART OF THE SECTION RIGHT NOW. WE HAVE SUCH A REMARKABLE FOUNDATION AND A VERY BRIGHT FUTURE.



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MI-AWWA YOUTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE WINNER'S CIRCLE 2014

BY ANGELLA BREITENBECK

Congratulations Julie Groenhof, Patricia McNinch, & Jennifer Boyle: 2013-2014 Teacher Grant Winners
Congratulations Anuush Vejalla: 2014 Stockholm Junior Water Prize State Winner
Congratulations Sandra Rathburn: MSTA Ground Water Model Winner

Each year the MI-AWWA Youth Education Committee gives away two \$1,000 grants to teachers (grades K – 12) to cover the cost of equipment and consumables for water-related projects or activities. For the 2013-2014 school year nine teacher grant applications were received. The applications covered projects ranging from using water test kits to monitor stream water quality,

to aquaponics, to mapping populations of invasive rusty crayfish in a local watershed. After reading the applications the committee has the exciting task of voting for two winners based on a set of criteria, such as project sustainability and water environment issues covered. This year we were able to select a bonus third winner since the total dollar amount for the top two votes was under the grant total.

We are pleased to present the grants to:

- Julie Groenhof from Zion Christian School in Byron Center, MI
- Patricia McNinch from Mayville Elementary School in Mayville, MI
- Jennifer Boyle from King High School in Detroit, MI

Julie Groenhof's project will educate 4th grade students about water filtration using both natural means and through the use of water treatment plants. Students will be participating in a lab where they will be polluting water with a variety of contaminants and then explore what is needed to clean the contaminants from the water to help protect the environment. A water treatment activity model will then be used to demonstrate how wastewater is treated to prevent disease and contamination.

Patricia McNinch's project will take 6th grade students to different locations in the Saginaw Bay Watershed where students will conduct multiple tests and compare the data from these different locations. Students will collect data on the levels of pollutants and monitor freshwater benthic organisms found at each location. This data will be reported to the proper organizations monitoring the health of the Saginaw Bay Watershed.

Jennifer Boyle's project will involve setting up a small scale aquaponics system. The high school age youth will then investigate aquaponics as an alternative food growing technique. Additional investigations will allow youth to probe into the concept of sustainability as food demand increases and resources become scarce.



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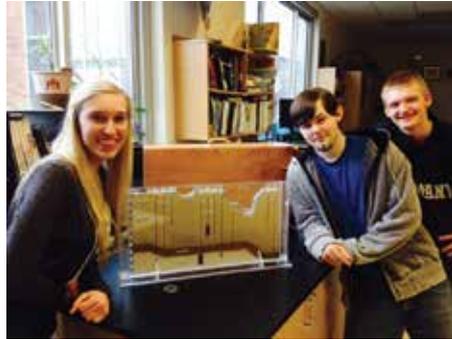
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In addition to the teacher grants, the committee has the honor of participating in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition. For 17 years, Stockholm Junior Water Prize has congregated the world's most imaginative young minds for an outstanding competition in the capital of Sweden, encouraging their continued interest in water and sustainability issues. Each year, thousands of participants in over 30 countries all around the globe join national competitions in hopes of earning the chance to represent their nation at the international final held during the World Water Week in Stockholm.

Seven project abstracts were submitted this year for consideration. The committee reviewed the abstracts and is thrilled to select Anuush Vejalla from Detroit Country Day Upper School in Beverly Hills, MI for his project "Arsenic Contamination in Rice through Water: Developing a Novel Testing Method and Analyzing Arsenic Levels in Rice". Anuush worked with his mentor, Mr. John Dougherty, to develop and carry out his experimental design.

The idea behind the experiment began with recent US concerns over the levels of arsenic in rice, juices, and vegetables and a global concern for the people of Bangladesh where rice contains the same amount of arsenic as the water used to irrigate it. With passion and resourcefulness Anuush carried out his experiment and was able to differentiate the levels of arsenic in different types of rice without the use of traditional laboratory equipment. Congratulations Anuush for a job well done and we wish you success as you embark on the next leg of your journey!

To close out our Winner's Circle for 2014, we extend congratulations to Sandra Rathburn from Lake Shore High School in St. Clair Shores, MI. Sandra is the proud winner of the Ground Water Model that is raffled off at the end of the Michigan Science



Teachers Association Conference. The committee sponsors a vendor booth and participates in the conference annually. During the conference, we are able to distribute free educational materials and resources to many science teachers in Michigan.

Upon receiving the model, Sandra emailed the committee the following, "I want to thank you for sending me the Groundwater Model! I am the Science Department Chair at Lake Shore High School in St. Clair Shores, MI. The students and the teachers at my school are very happy to have this! I have included a picture of Rebecca Mazur, Austin Jorrey and Ed Stack from my Physics class. We are going

to use the model to demonstrate pollution in our Environmental Science class and I'm excited to use it for our new class next year, Oceans and Atmosphere. The model really helps students visualize groundwater and then we can talk about what they can do to minimize pollution."

The committee extends our most heartfelt congratulations to all of the 2014 winners!

If you are interested in making an impact educating youth about water, please reach out to:

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2014 MI-AWWA **ANNUAL CONFERENCE WRAP-UP**

By Eric Way, Business Operations Manager



The 76th Michigan Section AWWA Annual Conference was held this past September at a new location for the Michigan Section, the beautiful Little River Casino Resort in Manistee. Nearly 340 water professionals and over 40 spouses/guests were in attendance. The Annual Golf Outing was held on Tuesday, followed by a Meet & Greet Reception and Appetizer Party that evening, with plenty of food and good company! The conference began in earnest on Wednesday morning with Keynote Speaker David Naftzger, Executive Director, Council of Great Lakes Governors, Chicago. Mr. Naftzger spoke about "Managing Regional Water Use in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Basin." Following that, Jon Allen, MDEQ Office of Great Lakes, Lansing, presented a briefing on "MDEQ and the Great Lakes." Rounding out the morning's General Session, Rob Renner, Executive Director, Water Research Foundation, Denver, spoke about "Water Research Foundation Highlights." The assembly then adjourned to the Exhibit Hall where there were 46 exhibit booths set up for display.

Following a well-attended Awards Luncheon where many MI-AWWA members received special recognition (see articles and pictures elsewhere in this issue), AWWA Vice President Steve Shoaf addressed the group. The remainder of Wednesday afternoon's technical program included an update on the issues facing the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department, presented by Sue McCormick, and a special panel discussion with several representatives entitled, "Frozen – The Winter of 2013-2014." Activities returned to the Exhibit Hall for the Annual Drinking Water Taste-Off, SWIE Silent Auction and a demonstration of a new event, "Hydrant Hysteria." Hydrant Hysteria is a fast paced and exciting new contest consisting of a two-person team assembling a fire

hydrant as quickly as they can. There was enough interest in the demonstration that a planning group has been formed to investigate the possibility of bringing another demonstration to Joint Expo in February.

Thursday's program began with the Annual Business Meeting where John Willemin, Vice Chair; Liane Shekter Smith, Trustee 2014-2017; Bill Maier, Trustee 2014-2017; and Brian Thurston, Secretary-Treasurer 2014-2015 were elected to the Section Board. Past Chair Tom Smith and Bonifer Ballard, our new MI-AWWA Executive Director gave updates on several important activities in the works within the Section. The Business Meeting was followed with split technical sessions covering many important aspects of drinking water supply/treatment, water efficiency and water research. At the Fuller Award Luncheon, a very surprised Tom Idema was presented with the coveted Fuller Award, and Tom Newhof introduced the following new inductees into the Michigan Section, AWWA Water Industry Hall of Fame: Clarence Hubbell, George Fenkell, Gerald Remus, Edward Dunbar Rich, Eugene Glysson and Jack Borchardt. Tom Smith passed the gavel to incoming Chair, Randy Roost, and Randy reviewed his goals for the coming year. Thursday afternoon and Friday morning continued with technical and managerial sessions. Kudos to the Conference Technical Program Committee Chair, Barbara Marczak, and her committee for an outstanding program.

In the midst of all this, Brian Steglitz and Tom Smith surprised retiring Section Staff Dave Timm and Yours Truly with special T-shirts and a gift card from the Section Board of Trustees and past section officers. Dave and I will be retiring (again!) in December and in February, respectively.



After dinner on Thursday evening, Laurel Premo and Michael Beauchamp of the duo “Red Tail Ring” entertained those present with a wonderful performance of Americana music featuring the fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar and plain-old foot stomping. The duo then accompanied “caller” Pat Hoekje as Pat lead several brave couples in a “called” square dance.

Many comments were received noting that the Annual Conference continues to provide an excellent opportunity for training, sharing, and networking in a positive atmosphere. Please mark your calendar for September 15-18, 2015, when the 77th Annual Conference will be presented at the Kewadin Casino Resort in Sault Ste. Marie! [www](http://www.wwn.com)



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Annual Conference **AWARDS RECAP**

The Silver Water Drop Award is presented to individuals who have been members of the AWWA for 30 years. There were fifteen recipients this year: **David Bratt, Gregory Brown, Donald French, Martin Hage** (posthumously) **Raymond Hildinger, Charles (Bill) Ireland, Daniel Jenkins, Wayne Langeland, Steven Lawry, John Premo** (posthumously), **David Rich, Mark Rose, Bruce Sabin, Steven Sienkiewicz, and Tom Van Der Kolk.**

Life Member Status recognizes individuals who have completed 30 years of membership in AWWA and are at least 65 years of age. There were seven recipients this year: **Harold Bajema, Martin Hage** (posthumously), **Charles (Bill) Ireland, Donald Link, David Rich, Barry Simescu, and Jerry Wilson.**



Bill Ireland on left/AWWA Vice-President Steve Shoaf on right



Don Link on left/AWWA Vice-President Steve Shoaf on right



Dave Rich on left/AWWA Vice-President Steve Shoaf on right



Barry Simescu on left/Vice-President Steve Shoaf on right

The MI-AWWA Groundwater/Source Water Committee is honoring one community for exemplary groundwater and source water protection programs. The *2014 Small-Sized System Exemplary Wellhead Protection Program Award* was awarded to **Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center.**



Representatives from Camp Grayling on left/Joel Annable, Section Trustee, on right

At the 2014 AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition in Boston, the **City of Kalamazoo** was selected as the *Large Groundwater System recipient of the 2014 AWWA Exemplary Source Water Award*. The plaque received in Boston was re-presented to **John Paquin.**



John Paquin on left/Joel Annable, Section Trustee, on right

The *Richard Husby Public Awareness Award* recognizes a Michigan water utility, organization and/or individual for significant accomplishments in promoting awareness and understanding of the water supply issues among the general public through the development and implementation of public education activities. The 2014 award was presented to **Erin Campbell**, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.



Erin Campbell on right/Dave Stinson, Community Awareness Committee Chair, on left

The MDEQ *Edward Dunbar Rich Service Award* recognizes water utility personnel for completing 25 or more years of meritorious and faithful service in providing and maintaining a safe, dependable and adequate public water supply. This year's recipients are:

- Gerald Bartoszek**, City of Norton Shores
- Pierre Brazeau**, City of Wayland
- Dale Dorrance**, Waterford Township
- Vicki Flood**, Linwood Metro Water District
- Robert Hudson**, Adams Township
- Pawan Kapila**, Detroit Water & Sewerage
- Mark Krawczak**, City of Saginaw
- Hal McCurley**, Branch County DPW
- Scott Rowley**, City of Grand Haven
- Jeff Rudd**, City of Rochester Hills
- Randy Sinko**, Lansing BWL
- Paula Sipes**, City of Gobles
- James Steward**, City of Omer



Group photo of Edward Dunbar Rich awardees present at the Awards Lunch

The Research & Technical Practices Committee presented *2014 RTP Awards* to the **City of Charlotte** and **City of Davison DPW**. The City of Charlotte won in the Research category for their "Ground Water Well Evaluation." **The City of Davison DPW** won in the Technical Practices category for their "Water Utility Repair Preparedness."



Amy Gilson, City of Charlotte, on right/Bruce Bartley, Section Trustee, on left



Ed Brown, City of Davison, on right/Bruce Bartley, Section Trustee, on left

The *Raymond J. Faust Award* recognizes one or more individuals for outstanding personal service in the water supply field. The award commemorates Raymond J. Faust for his contributions to safe public health engineering practices, his advancement of sound water supplies, and his dedication to building and promoting a waterworks industry of high esteem. Winners are **Mark Coleman**, Wade Trim and **Pat Staskiewicz**, Ottawa County Road Commission.



Mark Coleman on left/Christine Spitzley, Faust Award Committee Co-Chair, on right



Pat Staskiewicz on right/Bill Maier, Faust Award Committee Co-Chair, on left

The *Operator's Meritorious Service Award* recognizes individuals for special performance in one or more of the following areas: a. Continuous compliance with public health standards in finished water; b. Consistent and outstanding contribution to plant maintenance, thereby prolonging the useful lives of equipment; c. Development of new and/or modified equipment or significant process modifications to provide a more efficient or effective treatment; d. Special efforts in the training of treatment plant operators; e. Special acts not directly related to water treatment, but which demonstrate dedication to the public beyond the normal operating responsibilities; and f. Consistent and outstanding contribution to operation and/or maintenance of distribution lines, pump stations and reservoirs. This year's recipient is **Scott Hamelink**, Lansing Board of Water & Light.



Scott Hamelink on left/AWWA Vice-President Steve Shoaf on right



Steve Shoaf, AWWA Vice-President, center, presents plaque to several representatives from the Lansing BWL

To recognize and preserve an American, Canadian, or Mexican Water Landmark at least 50 years old that has had a direct and significant relationship with water supply, treatment, distribution, or technological development, AWWA awards the *Water Landmark Award*. The **John Dye Water Conditioning Plant** is celebrating its 75th anniversary later this year and was recently awarded this award. The City of Lansing and the

Lansing Board of Water and Light anticipate many more years of continuous use of this facility. A sturdy bronze plaque, to be appropriately mounted at the John Dye Water Conditioning Plant was presented to representatives of the Lansing BWL.

The *Young Professional of the Year Award* recognizes the contributions of young MI-AWWA members whose service and achievements are exceptional for their years of experience. Due to her positive influence on the MI-AWWA and the water profession by way of service, good fellowship, leadership, and commitment, the 2014 Young Professional of the Year Award is presented to **Carrie Ricker Cox**, Oakland County WRC.



Carrie Ricker Cox on left/Matt Parks, YP Committee Chair, on right

Fuller Award Presented to **TOM IDEMA**

For his dedication to ensuring that water systems, water operators and engineers have opportunities to become more educated about the manufacturing and distribution of construction castings and other infrastructure products; and for his consistent and reliable support of the Michigan Section as an Exhibitor/Sponsor, as well as his faithful service to the Michigan Section on various committees and as a Trustee, Tom Idema of EJ was presented with the George W. Fuller Award.



Tom Idema with Fuller Plaque



Previous Fuller Awardees present at luncheon awaiting announcement of 2014 awardee

Thanks to our Exhibitors and Sponsors **FOR MAKING THE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS**

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The Michigan Section would like to thank the following Exhibitors for their support of this year's Annual Conference:

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Thanks to the following firms that sponsored a PowerPoint Billboard slide at this year’s Annual Conference:

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Call For **ABSTRACTS**

Michigan Section American Water Works Association
2015 Annual Conference – Kewadin Casinos Hotel and
Conference Center, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
(Abstracts Due: January 9, 2015)

Abstracts are being sought for the technical program of the Michigan Section, AWWA Annual Conference to be held at the Kewadin Casinos Hotel and Conference Center, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan from September 15-18, 2015.

Topics of interest include: treatment, distribution, laboratory practices, source water/wellhead protection, water

resources, water conservation and efficiency, health and safety, operations and maintenance, sustainability practices workforce management, or other significant trends in the water industry. Vendors may also submit abstracts for possible new product presentations.

Presenters shall provide a brief (one page) written abstract summarizing their talk. The abstract shall include the presentation title along with other requested information listed on the form. Download the form at www.mi-water.org.

Presentations shall be 20 to 25 minutes in length, and allow for five minutes for questions and answers.

Presenters are required to utilize MS PowerPoint software for the visual aid. A laptop computer and projector will be made available. Presentations will be required to be submitted electronically three (3) weeks prior to the conference. The conference proceedings will be provided to all registrants.

The Michigan Section, AWWA Program Committee will review all abstracts. The corresponding author of each abstract will be notified of the acceptance or rejection of the proposed paper by April 3, 2015.

There is no limit to the number of abstracts that may be submitted by an individual or company/utility.

Membership in AWWA is not required for presentation.

Presenters are responsible for paying their own travel expenses and registration fees for the conference. Presenters also do not receive honoraria.

Please direct questions and abstracts to:

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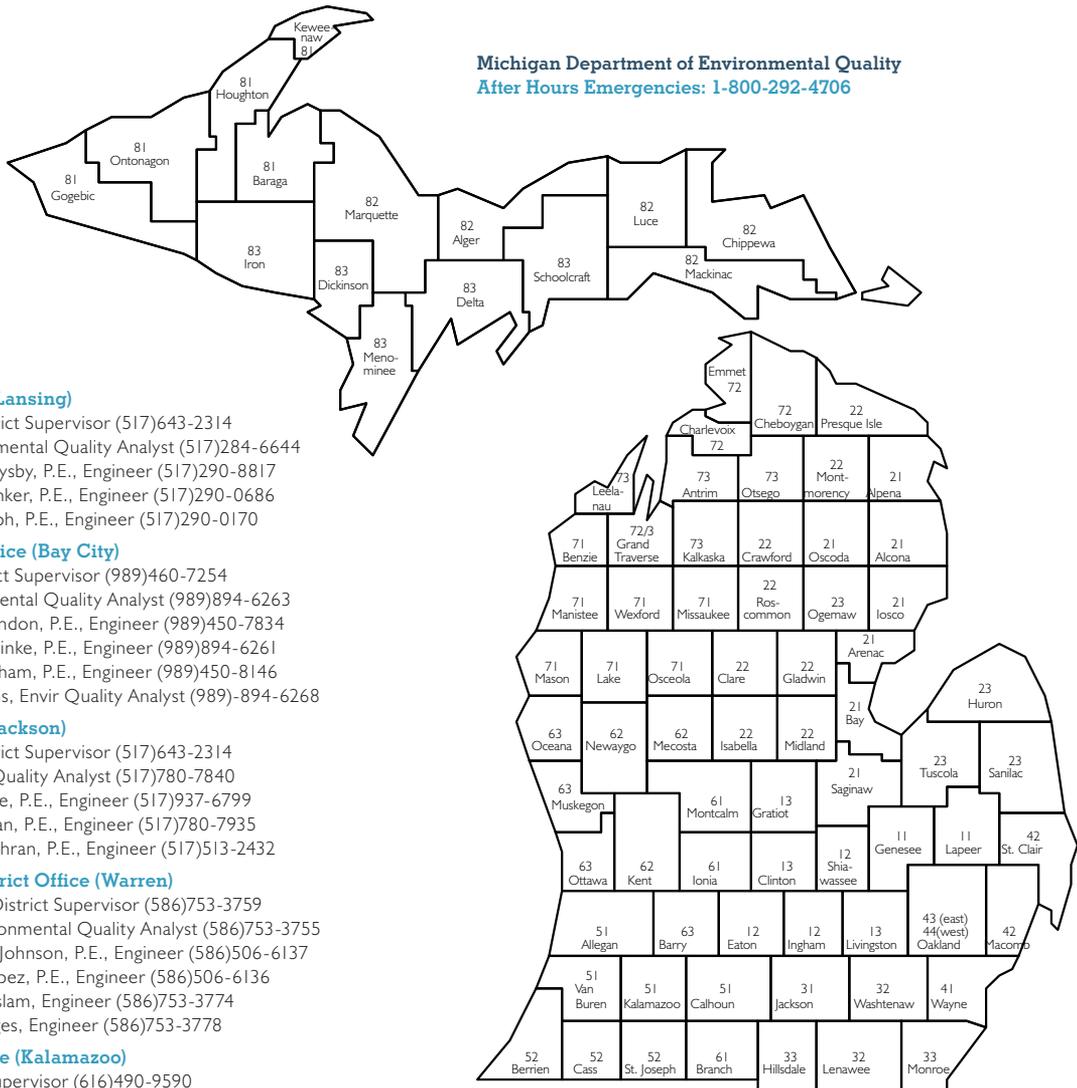
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Community Water Website: www.michigan.gov/deq

Click on Water > Drinking Water > Community Water Supply

* MHC = Manufactured Housing Communities



DRINKING WATER REVOLVING FUND: SAFE DRINKING WATER SOLUTION FOR MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLIERS

BY ERIC POCAN, MDEQ

Are you a municipal water supplier that is wondering how to fund improvements within your drinking water system? If so, the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRf) may be your solution. The DWRf is a low-interest loan program created to assist Michigan water suppliers in satisfying requirements of the *Safe Drinking Water Act*. Qualified water suppliers may apply to borrow funds to plan, design, and construct eligible drinking water projects.

Eligible applicants for a DWRf loan include either a community water supply or a non-community water supply that operates as a non-profit entity. Financing projects through the DWRf has advantages such as: interest rates set below market rates (currently set at 2.5 percent); loans to cover planning costs, which may also be forgiven for qualifying disadvantaged communities; a 20-year repayment period, which may be extended to 30 years for disadvantaged communities; and project management staff that will work with potential applicants early in the project planning stage.

Public water supply projects may consist of facilities through which public water is obtained, stored, treated, or distributed. Projects constructed with DWRf funds have included new or rehabilitated wells and well structures, intake structures, pumping stations, treatment plants, storage tanks, transmission mains, and water mains.

To be considered for a DWRf loan, an applicant should first submit a project plan that documents an environmental and/or public health problem. The plan needs to include an analysis of alternatives and an evaluation of environmental impacts. Project plans must be submitted

by May 1 of each year to be eligible for funding in the following state fiscal year. Water suppliers that meet the criteria for a complete project plan are ranked on the Project Priority List (PPL) that will be released by October 1 each year. The PPL ranks projects using criteria that includes drinking water quality, system reliability, population, disadvantaged community status, and consolidation with a regional system. Based on the available funding for each year and an applicant's rank on the PPL, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will notify each water supplier as funds become available. Once on the PPL, a project plan that doesn't rank high enough to be funded will be eligible to remain on the PPL for five fiscal years before an updated project plan will have to be resubmitted.

The DWRf program is currently accepting project plans until May 1, 2015, to be listed on the 2016 PPL. The 2015 PPL currently consists of 14 construction ready projects and nine future projects that will carry over to the 2016 PPL, along with any unfunded ranked projects outside of the 2015 fundable range. The DWRf program has set its fundable range for fiscal year 2015 at \$50 million.

If you would like more information on the DWRf program you can find contact information and guidance documents on the web at www.michigan.gov/drinkingwaterrevolvingfund or contact the DEQ Revolving Loan Section at 517-284-5433. DWRf staff is also available to meet with your community officials to help guide you through the process to successfully complete an eligible project plan. [WWW](#)

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Green does not have to make you Blue:

Or how to prevent microcystin in your water plant

On August 2, 2014, about 400,000 residents served by Toledo's Collins Park Water Treatment Plant were informed not to drink the tap water as a result of contamination of microcystin (a toxin) that comes from blue green algae. Not only was drinking the water off limits but they could not use it for cooking or bathing. In fact no "safe" water was available to residents through their taps. Lab analysis of two samples detected microcystin higher than (by 3x) the recommended level (a guidance number of 1 µg/L put into place by the World Health Organization). The days that followed with the spotlight of national media (news stories in *New York Times* and *LA Times* as well as national television) illuminated the long-term problems that water utilities face with non-point sources of pollution and climate change.

What is microcystin and how can a water utility prevent an occurrence similar to Toledo's? The answers to these questions are here to help Michigan water utilities avoid similar incidents.

Microcystin is part of a class of chemicals called cyanotoxins. Cyanotoxins are produced by several species of cyanobacteria, otherwise known as blue-green algae. There are at least 80 known microcystins, including Microcystin-LR, which is generally considered one of the most toxic according to the EPA. The health effects can range from abdominal pain, vomiting, and diarrhea to liver inflammation, acute dermatitis, and kidney damage. There is a great need to prevent cyanotoxins in drinking water.

Cyanobacteria are found in lakes, streams, ponds, and other surface waters. When conditions are favorable, cyanobacteria can rapidly multiply in surface water and cause blue green algal

blooms, like the "pea soup" effect. The causes of the bloom are from excess nutrients such as from agricultural runoff, warm temperatures and restricted water flow. The most at risk water plants are those that draw water from shallow lakes, bays, and impounded rivers. Also at risk are water plants whose sources drain from nearby agricultural areas.

So what can a plant at risk do to prevent an outbreak? The plant should engage in any watershed control strategies and monitor for the presence of microcystin. The common treatment practices of coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration have shown to be effective in removing cyanobacteria cells. Having an optimum and efficient plant operation is the first step in prevention. However, any cell destruction can release cyanotoxins. In such case, some additional treatment is recommended to remove or destroy microcystin. The toxin can be destroyed with oxidants (eg ozone) and removed with carbon and membranes. But the percent removal/reduction can range from 50-90% depending on the technology. More information on removal by treatment is found in the resources listed below.

The Research and Technical Practices Committee wanted the Michigan Section members to have a brief summary of this very important issue. The committee also wanted to share and encourage you to further read the information from the sources and web pages listed herein. For those plants that are at risk, please seek additional assistance to help with treatment practices.

Resources:

AWWA:

Karner, Dawn A.; Standridge, Jonathan H.; Harrington, Gregory W.; Barnum, Robert P., *Microcystin Algal Toxins*

in *Source and Finished Drinking Water*, Journal - American Water Works Association, August 2001, 93, Number 8, 72-81.

Water Research Foundation:

AWWARF publication (no. 90693): "Cyanobacterial (blue-Green Algal) Toxins: A Resource Guide."

World Health Organization:

Chemical hazards in drinking-water - microcystin-LR
http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/chemicals/microcystin/en/

EPA:

Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxins: Information for Drinking Water Systems:
http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/nutrients/upload/cyanobacteria_factsheet.pdf

Drinking Water Treatability Database
<http://iaspub.epa.gov/tdb/pages/contaminant/contaminantOverview.do?contaminantId=-1336577584>

Authors:

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C. Bruce Bartley, Technical Manager, Global Water Programs, Filtration Division, NSF International, 789 Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105; bartley@nsf.org.

Both are members of the Research and Technical Practices Committee of the Michigan Section of AWWA. [WWW](#)



What You Need to Know about Cyanobacteria, Microcystin, and Drinking Water in Michigan

By Stephen Busch, P.E., MDEQ

Cyanobacteria (also known as blue-green algae) are found naturally in surface water, typically lakes, ponds, and slow-moving streams.

True algae and blue-green algae both utilize some form of chlorophyll to perform photosynthesis and produce oxygen. True algae are essentially plants. However, blue-green algae are actually bacteria that exhibit a blue or green color, similar to true algae, but contain cellular structures typical of bacterial cells. True algae and blue-green algae are very different organisms and therefore should not be treated the same. While synonymous, the term Cyanobacteria is preferable to help avoid public confusion with true forms of algae.

Cyanobacteria can produce several toxins. One of the most prevalent is microcystin, which has been the main focus, as reliable capabilities for its analysis already exist. Most of this toxin is contained within the Cyanobacteria cell wall. Damage to healthy cells, along with naturally decaying cells, may release microcystin into the water.

Cyanotoxins in drinking water are not currently regulated by EPA, but are being considered for future regulation. Microcystin-LR appears along with other cyanotoxins on EPA's Contaminant Candidate List 3. The World Health Organization has established a provisional health-based drinking water guideline of 1.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ for the cyanotoxin Microcystin-LR.

Public water systems have historically located and constructed intake facilities to avoid taste and odor issues associated with algal blooms. Michigan, being nearly

surrounded by lakes, has an abundance of high quality source water readily available. As such, only those systems where such sources are not feasibly available are at risk of impact by Cyanobacteria and microcystin. These water bodies of concern where conditions for a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) may exist include lower Saginaw Bay, Lake St. Clair, and Lake Erie.



Satellite image of 2011 algal bloom in western Lake Erie (the most severe in decades). Credit: MERIS/NASA; processed by NOAA/NOS/NCCOS.

Northern Ohio has relied heavily on Lake Erie as a source of drinking water. As Lake Erie has been a hot bed for Cyanobacteria blooms, Ohio EPA has adopted a "Do Not Drink" drinking water health advisory threshold for microcystin of 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$, and developed a consensus microcystin analytical methodology for public water systems that choose to voluntarily conduct such monitoring. This methodology should be followed by any public water system proposing to sample for microcystin.

While conventional surface water treatment processes can be optimized to remove Cyanobacteria cells intact, it is not effective at removing microcystin that is released and dissolved in water. In addition, while chlorination under certain conditions can be effective at destroying

microcystin, its application in the presence of Cyanobacteria will release the toxin from healthy cells. Therefore, water treatment plants subject to impacts from harmful algal blooms must take a multifaceted treatment approach that optimizes pretreatment, delays disinfection, and includes attention to recycle streams. These water systems must also rely on real-time monitoring, satellite imagery, and forecasting models to provide early warning of changes in source water conditions.

While much additional research is needed regarding this emerging contaminant, excellent references and information are available. Visit MDEQ's website at www.michigan.gov/deq for links to the resources listed below. Once on MDEQ's website, click Water, then Drinking Water, then Community Water Supply. Under Information, select "Harmful Algal Blooms and Drinking Water."

- Michigan DEQ: Current State of HAB Impacts to Michigan Drinking Water Supplies
- Ohio EPA: White Paper on Algal Toxin Treatment, Public Water System Harmful Algal Bloom Response Strategy, and Consensus Microcystin-ADDA ELISA Analytical Methodology
- Michigan Tech Research Institute: Harmful Algal Bloom Mapping
- NOAA: Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin
- World Health Organization: Toxic Cyanobacteria in Water
- Water Quality Research Australia: Research Report 74, Management Strategies for Cyanobacteria: A Guide for Water Utilities [WWW](#)

Important Reminder Regarding HDPE Pipe Installation

By Brad Gray, ISCO Industries; Troy Freed, Utility Services Authority, LLC; and Pat Cook, MDEQ

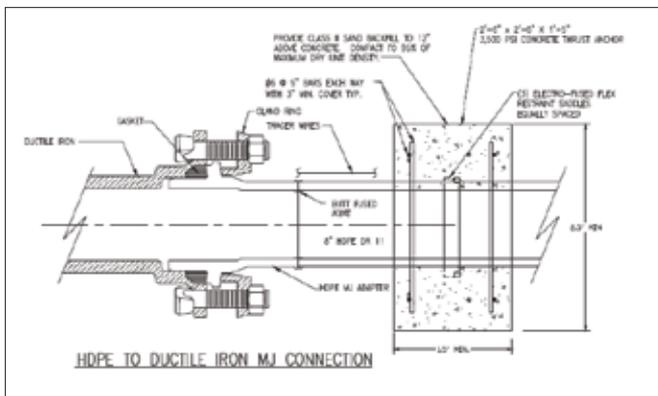
All parties involved in the installation of a High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) water main must keep in mind that due to the high expansion and contraction rates of HDPE pipe compared to other pipe materials, adequate restraint must be provided at connections to appurtenances or transitions to different pipe materials. Additional restraint is necessary on each side of the connection point, or all open ends of HDPE pipe. Restraint may be provided in the form of an anchor ring encased in concrete or other methods as approved by the MDEQ.

A pipe section with restrained joints such as fusions, bolted flanges, or mechanical joint (MJ) adapters will transmit Poisson force from length to length. If an unrestrained bell and spigot or mechanical joint is in-line with the restrained section, the cumulative Poisson effect may cause the unrestrained joints or connections to pull apart. Therefore, any unrestrained or mechanical connections that are in-line with the fully restrained HDPE must be restrained or anchored to combat the pull-out forces.

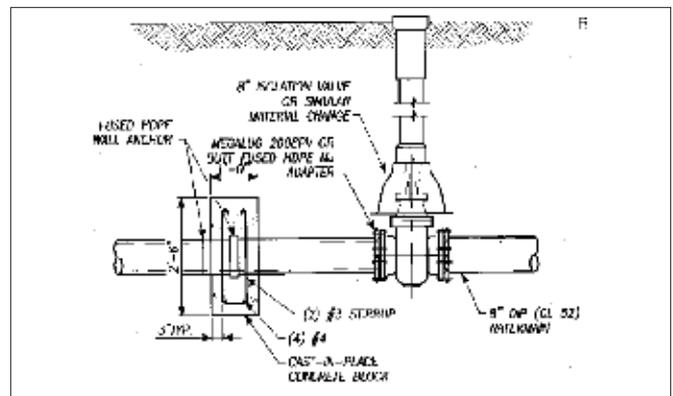
Typically, MJ adapters with electrofused flex restraints encased in a concrete anchor are used when transitioning from HDPE pipe to any type of mechanical joint. MJ adapters must be fused to the HDPE pipe to maintain a fully restrained joint per the pipe manufacturer's recommendation. Fused MJ adapters must be used to prevent joint pull-out, which can occur if a non-restrained fitting is used. All installations should be done as specified in the *AWWA M55, PE Pipe - Design and Installation Manual*. Refer to Chapter 6, page 80 for mechanical joining guidelines or see the following details for examples.

Thrust blocks or mega-lug like devices that do not provide restraint against pull-out should not be used as stand-alone joining assemblies. If they are used, they shall be restrained with electrofusion flex restraints and concrete anchor at every mega-lug like connection.

Also, saddle fusion should be used to join service saddles, tapping tees and branch saddles to HDPE pipe. Conventional (sidewall) fusion or electrofusion are two methods that are used to join a saddle to a pipe. [WWN](#)



Example of HDPE - Gate Valve Connection



Example of HDPE - Ductile Iron MJ Connection

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SWIE News

By **Steven Walters**, SWIE committee member

The Safe Water in Ecuador (SWIE) Committee of MI-AWWA has always had the primary purpose of building sustainable water systems in Ecuador. This is nothing new, but SWIE's role in assuring sustainable water systems is expanding. So what changes are transpiring?

Let's begin by stating what is not changing. First, the need for additional community water systems has not lessened. The number of communities in Ecuador without sanitation or clean drinking water is overwhelming. Secondly, SWIE and our partner organization in Ecuador are unwavering in their commitment to help these communities. We thank all of you for your continued support, and SWIE will continue fundraising efforts in the future. SWIE members will still continue to visit Ecuador, and assure that your donations are well spent.

So what is changing? In short, it is the formation of a circuit rider program in Ecuador to perform routine visits to our recipient communities. In the past, SWIE and our local Ecuadorian partners from HCJB have revisited completed projects to inspect the systems and review any maintenance problems with the communities. Currently, these visits happen only as time and personal resources permit. However, after our most recent visits, we have concluded that our annual (or nearly annual) visits are not sufficient. Maintenance and ongoing water system funding can be challenging to some communities. But before we are too critical, we need to remember that these communities have no prior experience operating a water system. At the opposite end of the spectrum, some recipient communities have built water funds which are so strong, they are able to offer financing to their residents and have adequate funds for maintenance and other improvements.

We are still in preliminary discussions about the formation of the circuit rider program, and many questions still need answers. How will the program be funded? Are the communities able to fully support the program or is additional funding needed? What role should the Ecuadorian government play? Who administers the program? How often should a community be visited? And of course, what role will SWIE play?

As for the latter, we believe that this is a great opportunity for AWWA member involvement. It is anticipated that the technicians who oversee the water system construction will be our circuit riders. They know both the water systems and the culture, but they will also need additional training in system assessments.

SWIE is excited about these developments, and they will be the focus of our upcoming meetings. Drinking water systems should be operable for many generations and we are proud to report to our supporters that all of our sponsored systems are operable, although some communities have ongoing operation and maintenance challenges. We believe this new program will support our goal of developing sustainable long-term water systems.

Lastly, we again thank all those who so generously donate their time and resources for this great work. If you would like greater involvement, please join our committee. [WWW](#)



SWIE Members Meeting with Community and Water Board.

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MI-AWWA/MWEA JOINT EXPO

Lansing Center, Lansing, MI - February 3 & 4, 2015

JOINT EXPO TRADE SHOW HOURS: Tuesday, Feb 3: 10 AM – 4 PM & Wednesday, Feb 4: 9 AM – 3 PM

JOINT EXPO is a day to collect product information, see and evaluate new equipment, exchange business cards with exhibitors and new contacts, see old friends, learn, share, network, shop, compare and evaluate where your facility or your business is compared to where you will need to be in the future. There is no pre-registration and attendance is FREE! 0.2 “Other” CECs for Drinking Water and Waste Water are available for attending Joint Expo.

- No registration fee for attendance, so water and wastewater utilities and consulting engineering firms are encouraged to send several representatives.
- Exhibit area buffet lunch/concessions and complimentary soft beverages will be available.
- MI-AWWA Water Main Tapping Contest and the Meter Madness Contest will be held during the show. The winners will receive an expense paid trip to the June 2015 AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition

in Anaheim, CA to represent the Michigan Section at ACEI5.

- New this year, an event called Hydrant Hysteria. Look for more info on this new event in the January issue of the *Water Works News*.
- 2015 Annual Conference registrations will be given away to members' present and entering the drawings from the MI-AWWA and the MWEA. (Exhibitors are not eligible to participate.)

OTHER SPECIAL DRAWING Please see MI-AWWA and MWEA booths for information about any “members' only” special drawings that may be happening.

LODGING/PARKING information is available online at: <http://www.mi-water.org>

JOINT EXPO EXHIBIT HALL TRAINING SESSIONS: Again this year, presentations will be given at selected vendor booths on Wednesday, February 4. The presentations will be 25 minutes

in length, allowing five minutes for questions and answers and they will be ‘demonstration based’ training for technical items. Topics being considered include: Operation and Maintenance, Laboratory Practices, Instrumentation and Controls and Treatment Technology. Participating vendors will give their presentations twice; first at 1:30 PM and then again at 2:15 PM. DEQ has approved 0.1 “Technical” CECs for those attending two different sessions. For more information call the Michigan Section, AWWA at 517-627-0913 or visit www.mi-water.org.

OPERATORS' DAY is a special addition to JOINT EXPO. On each morning, a three-hour session (0.3 “Technical” CECs for DW and WW), featuring topics unique to the interests of water and wastewater works operators will be conducted. There is a per day registration fee to attend Operators' Day.

INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING SEMINAR will be held on February 3 at the Lansing Center. Attendees will be given lunch tickets in the Exhibit Hall and will have adequate time to visit the show.

REGISTRATION for Operators' Day or the Infrastructure Financing Seminar; contact the MWEA Office @ 517-641-7377 or register on-line: www.mi-wea.org



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MI- AWWA/ MWEA JOINT EXPO ROUNDTABLE

For
Students and Young Professionals
February 3, 2015
11 AM – 1 PM
Lansing Center
Governor's Room (2nd Floor)

Join us as we converse with and inquire of both long standing and young professionals of the water and sewer industry. Please email your RSVP by January 16, 2015 if you wish to attend.
Matt Parks
matt.parks@ohm-advisors.com

The Lansing Center is located at:
333 East Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933



Tuesday February 3, 2015 1 PM – 4 PM
At the Membership Booth (#17 & 18)

Hosted by
**MWEA New Professionals
and
MI-AWWA Young
Professionals**

Join other operators and young water professionals for a fun-filled afternoon of networking, exploration and refreshments on a photo scavenger hunt throughout the Joint Expo Exhibit Hall.

Bring a friend and a digital camera

Questions?
Matt Parks, matt.parks@ohm-advisors.com

MWEA New Professionals and MI-AWWA Young Professionals host

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February 3, 2014
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MY WATER STORY

BY JAIME PETROVICH

I was recently asked to share my “water story”. As many of us know, this is a common question, often a conversation starter, and its essence is “how did you get involved with the water industry and what do you do as a water professional?” I thought the answer would be the simple story I have told many times over. I would talk about being in my last semester of my chemistry degree, searching for a job, answering an ad in the paper for a lab technician at a drinking water plant, and accepting a job that I didn’t even know was a career option. I would describe having taken class after class in chemistry and biology and not once having heard about drinking water or wastewater treatment plants, what they do and how they work. My arrival into a career in water has always seemed to be somewhat accidental. I didn’t plan it, I didn’t seek it out, it just happened. But, as I set out to write my story, I realized that maybe that wasn’t so true.

As long as I can remember, water has always been present in my life – Lake Michigan, to the Atlantic Coast, Chesapeake Bay, the South China Sea, the Pacific, the Yukon River, and back to Lake Michigan. Having a dad in the Navy meant moving – a lot. But, it also meant there was always a beach not too far away. And somehow, that made the moving easier. As a girl, I spent countless hours fishing with my dad, uncles, and grandfather. They taught me how to bait a hook, find the best spots, that letting someone else reel in the fish on the end of your line is just as fun as catching it yourself – and that no matter how bad the fishing is, floating on the water somewhere is the perfect place for good conversation. Trips to visit family always involved water – fishing, boating, swimming, beachcombing. There’s something about the sight, sounds, smell of being near the water that draws me in. Even my kids know that water – any water - is my “happy place”.

So as I gave it some thought, it really isn’t surprising that my chosen career is yet another connection to water. While there might have been some luck involved in stumbling upon a job opportunity, it is by choice that water has become my profession. When I started out ten years ago as a technician in the lab, I had no idea where it might take me. I knew that I loved science and working in a laboratory was interesting and fun, but I knew nothing about drinking water or wastewater. The work felt incredibly meaningful – providing safe, clean water for drinking and protecting water resources – and I knew I wanted it to be more than just a job. It didn’t take long to discover that learning from others was the fastest way to grow my knowledge and find direction. It didn’t matter if it was talking about geeky science at a committee meeting, listening to stories from coworkers who had decades of service in the field, or attending a training

or a conference. There are a handful of people who I would identify as mentors, though they may not think of themselves that way. They went out of their way to share knowledge, provide guidance, help me make connections to other professionals – all of which are invaluable for a young professional, even more so for a young woman in the industry.

I am ten years into my career and I now have the privilege of leading the laboratory workgroups in the City of Wyoming’s water treatment and clean water plants. My participation in the Michigan Section serving on committees, giving presentations, and working on projects has provided me with the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees. Now it’s time for me to work on “paying it forward”. It’s my turn to share with those who are newer to the water industry - making introductions, sharing knowledge or experiences, or even just providing a friendly face at a lunch table.

I am often asked if I still like my job – as if it’s expected that one day I will stop enjoying my work. The answer is that I love my job and now I can’t imagine any other career. I don’t know what the rest of my water story will be, but I’m looking forward to finding out. [WWW](#)



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NOW I CAN’T IMAGINE
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GOLD WATER DROP AWARDEES



Bill Kelley, Tom Newhof and Gary Logsdon

It is not often that three Gold Water Drop Awardees are able to attend the Awards Luncheon, but that is what happened at the 2014 MI-AWWA Annual Conference in Manistee. William Kelley, Tom Newhof and Gary Logsdon have each been a member of AWWA for 50 years! That is 150 years of combined AWWA membership and service to the Association, the Michigan Section and to the drinking water community. As you look at the accompanying photo of Bill, Tom and Gary, you are seeing a lot of Section history: two former Section Trustees, two Past Chairs and one Past Director; one Honorary Member of AWWA and one Outstanding Service to AWWA award winner; one Jack A. Borchardt award winner, three Raymond J. Faust Award winners and three George Warren Fuller award winners. Add it all up, and this is 150 years of AWWA membership and service well spent. Thank you, gentlemen!



CYBER SECURITY SEMINAR

The Michigan Section, AWWA in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security is offering cyber security training at two locations in Michigan.

December 2nd in Grand Rapids and December 4th in Madison Heights. Lisa Kaiser, a leading cyber security expert from the DHS will be presenting on this very important issue that is facing water utilities of all sizes.

Be sure to check out the Michigan Section website for more detailed information or to register for this event.

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IN MEMORIAM

Martin 'Marty' Hage, age 65, lost his courageous fight with cancer on June 27, 2014. A proud retiree after 35 years with Detroit Water and Sewage Department; Marty loved spending time with his family, boating on Lake St. Clair, and gardening. Posthumously, he received both the AWWA Silver Water Drop Award and the AWWA Life Member Award this past September.

John W. Premo, age 57, passed away on August 30, 2014. John worked for the City of Saginaw for over 26 years and for the City of Zilwaukee for 11 years. He was the former Supervisor of the Zilwaukee DPW and was the Utility Fields Operations Manager for Saginaw at the time of his death. John was an avid golfer and fisherman. For many years, he served as a Water Distribution Course instructor for various MI-AWWA/MDEQ programs. Posthumously, he received the AWWA Silver Water Drop Award this past September.

Charles "Chuck" Riggs of Marcellus, MI passed away unexpectedly on Sept. 7, 2014 at the age of 60. He had been employed with the Village of Marcellus for over 37 years and was a 15-year volunteer for the Marcellus Fire Department. Chuck was an outdoorsman who loved to hunt & fish. He was hard-working and dedicated to his family, job and community. He enjoyed spending time with his kids and grandkids and will be missed by many.



2014 COUNCIL LEADERSHIP RETREAT



On October 1st and 2nd, the new Michigan Section Councils had their first Leadership Retreat at the beautiful Bay Pointe Inn at Gun Lake. In prior years, this event was our Committee Chair Retreat, but as we transition to our new council structure we decided that the name of the event needed to change also.

What also changed this year is the focus of the retreat. Since this is the first opportunity for most of our Councils to meet face to face, we took time to offer our Council leadership teams some additional training by Tera Quails from Grand Valley State University. This training was focused on volunteer leadership, relationships, and diversity. All of these are vitally important to each of our councils if we are to be successful.

Later that same day, the Councils were broken into teams to begin developing their work plans for the coming year. The Section Board of Trustees has already provided our councils with their charters for 2015 and with a number of goals that we hope to achieve that are aligned with our strategic plan. Additionally, each of the Councils was able to incorporate into their work plans many of the historical activities that our committees chose to accomplish each year. This way, you will be able to find many of the same training activities and functions that you have enjoyed in the past along with some new activities that we hope you will find exciting and fresh.

On the second day of the retreat, Christine Spitzley led a great session on rallying the troops that hopefully will help bring everything back together and keep us moving towards a common goal.

What we need now is additional support from other Section members such as yourself. The goals and tasks that have been assigned to each of the Councils is too much for them to accomplish all on their own. They will have a number of opportunities for you to get involved and help, whether it is a short term assignment to review a current issues paper or a longer term assignment to assist with planning a training event or seminar. You will be able to choose where you can best help the Section. So how will you find out about these opportunities to help? Well, stay tuned to the Section website at www.mi-water.org or look for emails from the Section letting you know when opportunities are open. We also hope to have working soon a new communications strategy that may include more frequent emails and newsletters with what is happening around the Section.

TRAINING NEWS

A number of training opportunities are available soon after the beginning of the year.

JOINT EXPO '15

The 24th Annual MI-AWWA and MWEA JOINT EXPO will be held February 3 & 4, 2015 at the Lansing Center. Space is available for 300 vendors, consultants and engineering firms to display their products and services for water and wastewater professionals. Joint Expo '15 attendance is FREE to anyone interested in the water and wastewater fields. Certified operators attending Joint Expo will receive 0.2 MDEQ drinking water and wastewater treatment (category: other) CECs. Additionally, CECs for Exhibit Hall Training Sessions will be available on Wednesday, Feb. 4. MDEQ has approved 0.1 Technical drinking water and wastewater treatment CECs for those attending two different sessions. No pre-registration is necessary - just come!

OPERATORS' DAY at JOINT EXPO '15

February 3 & 4, 2015

Held in conjunction with Joint Expo '15, each program is eligible for 0.3 Technical MDEQ drinking water and wastewater treatment CECs. Plans are for a different program each day so attendees will be able to sign up for either or both days. Although Joint Expo '15 is free, participation in Operators' Day requires pre-registration with an associated fee. Register online at the MWEA website: www.mi-wea.org.

2015 GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE

Planning is underway for the 2015 Groundwater Conference. Once again, it will be held in the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center on the campus of Michigan State University. The dates are Thursday and Friday, February 19 and 20. Beginning in December, look for the program agenda and registration information on the MI-AWWA website: www.mi-water.org.

The complete 2015 MI-AWWA Training Calendar can be found on the MI-AWWA website. Courses have been approved for MDEQ continuing education credit. For more information and to register, visit www.mi-water.org.





DEAL BETWEEN INDIAN TRIBE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROMISES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



From left to right are Larry Romanelli, Tribal Ogema, David Nyberg, Director, Office for Northern Michigan, State of Michigan (signing the agreement), and Virg Johnson, Tribal Council Speaker

In what may serve as a successful model for intergovernmental cooperation, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI) and Manistee Township have both approved a Sanitary Sewage Disposal Agreement that paves the way for new

construction of the LRBOI Tribal Sewer Line Extension in Manistee Township.

With the Alliance for Economic Success of Manistee acting as a neutral facilitator, representatives of the tribe, county, city and township came together to discuss their mutual challenges and opportunities. After extensive study and negotiation, all of the units of government passed resolutions of support to pursue working together on this area of vital interest to all. The plan is to have the City of Manistee continue to provide water in the proposed commercial district and have the Band provide the new sewer line. Manistee County will abandon its existing force sewer main, which needed to be replaced, while Manistee Township grants Rights of Way to the City and the Band for water and sewer, allowing for development of the district.

“This example of intergovernmental development and cooperation during a time of increasing budget challenges is something of which we can all be proud,” said Tribal Ogema Larry Romanelli.

A special signing ceremony was held on September 10 at the Tribal Government Center.

“REMEMBER THE TITANS”



Yes, the title of this article is a movie title – and not one associated with the water industry. But it is an apt phrase for describing the George Warren Fuller Award. And the Fuller Award committee is seeking your input to ensure the titans of our industry are appropriately

recognized. Many of us recognize names such as Raymond Faust, Edward Rich, Louis Ayres, Robert McNamee, and Jack Borchardt – all figures of prominence in the history of safe drinking water in Michigan. Some of the more recent awardees include Gary Logsdon, Janice Skadsen, Eugene Glysson, Tom Newhof, and James Cleland – all also figuring prominently in ensuring safe drinking water in Michigan, and sometimes on a larger scale.

The George Warren Fuller Award is presented annually by the American Water Works Association to each Section’s selected member for their distinguished service to the water supply field in commemoration of the sound engineering skill, the brilliant diplomatic talent, and the constructive leadership that characterized the life of

George Warren Fuller. You will note in the previous description that this is NOT an award for service to AWWA or the Michigan Section, although that service can contribute to a nominee’s qualifications.

Who comes to mind when you think of “Titans of the Water Industry?” Who do you consider as being critical to the success of your water system and that of others? Who has made a difference to the provision of safe drinking water - whether in Michigan or on a broader scale? We encourage you to consider nominating such a person for consideration. Each year’s awardee is recognized at the Michigan Section’s annual conference, and again at the prestigious Fuller Society Breakfast held during the AWWA annual conference.

Please consider offering your nomination for the George Warren Fuller Award. Nominations can be made via the forms available on the Michigan Section, AWWA home page, or submit a nomination, or any questions or ideas, to Dave Koch, Fuller Award Committee Chair, at kochds@bv.com. Nominations are requested by no later than May 15 of each year. Let’s be sure to “Remember the Titans”!



“NEWS FROM THE FIELD” ITEMS REQUESTED

Items are now being solicited for the next “News from the Field” program to be presented at the Michigan Section, AWWA Annual Conference in September at the Kewadin Casino and Resort in Sault Ste Marie. Digital photographs are the preferred format. This is your opportunity to highlight your interesting and innovative water supply projects. **Providing a detailed narrative along with pictures that includes project description, contractor, costs, and benefits** will (may) prevent the NFTF editors from interpreting the project as they see fit. Pictures can be submitted in .jpeg or .gif format or can be submitted in a PowerPoint presentation along with notes. Narratives can be submitted in Word or via email. Please make sure the narrative matches up and describes the picture(s). **You are encouraged to provide project submittals anytime prior to August 15, 2015** to ensure inclusion in this year’s program.

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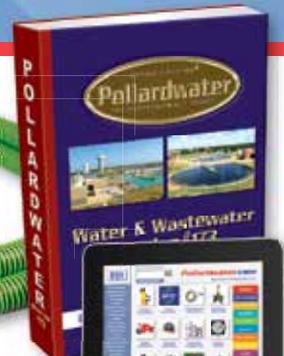
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