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WEF HIGHLIGHTS

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May 2006 • Vol. 43 No. 4 News for Members of the Water Environment Federation

Progress Report: Water is Life, and Infrastructure Makes It Happen™

As reported last month, the Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) is currently presenting Water is Life, and Infrastructure Makes it Happen™ during the five WEFMAX meetings scheduled this spring. The meetings are designed to promote interaction between the House of Delegates, member association (MA) leaders, and WEF staff, and provide the perfect forum for discussion and feedback on the MA- and utility-driven education program that focuses on the value of water infrastructure and the importance of long-term investment.

Specifically, WEF is seeking input to develop a comprehensive menu of activities that MAs can use to support the program. The menu of activities will also help Pilot Utilities — the 13 utilities which volunteered to implement the program and generate feedback in their communities — complete their work plans. About 40 ideas have been listed so far, including: identifying a champion to lead MA involvement in the activities; drafting an article about local water infrastructure needs for MA publications; organizing a session at MA annual meetings to talk about the water infrastructure investment gap; and producing a customized brochure using the national program materials. A complete menu of activities is expected to be posted to www.waterislife.net by late spring.

In addition to the WEFMAX meetings, WEF continues to seek opportunities to share the program and generate interest among key audiences.

Upcoming Events

American Public Works Association (Kansas City, Mo.) International Public Works Congress and Exposition will host a session on the program, Sept. 10–13 in Kansas City, Mo.

Recent Events

2006 National Clean Water Policy Forum The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (Washington, D.C.) and WEF will jointly host a Water Is Life, and Infrastructure Makes It Happen welcome reception,

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Essential Services Returning to Iraqi Communities

Al Mahawil Wastewater Treatment Plant Opens

Army News Service

This February in Al Mahawil, a village located about 54 mi south of Baghdad, a new water treatment plant opened with a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by residents and the town council.

As Iraq continues its steady pace on the road to self-reliance, essential services are returning to small communities, officials said.

"This opening shows that we are headed in the right direction," said Hussein Jabor, mayor of Al Mahawil. "This is a testament to the hard work of the Iraqi people and the strong partnership we have with coalition forces."

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Water Environment Federation®
Preserving & Enhancing the Global Water Environment

From the

PRESIDENT

Water Quality Challenges: A Global Issue

One of the privileges of a being a Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) officer is the opportunity to travel. I have just returned from Guangzhou, China, where I was the guest of the state organization that manages Water China, an annual exposition and technical seminar. They were expecting 18,000 participants this year and had more than 300 exhibitors covering 10,000 m^2 of exhibition space.

Traveling to meet with WEF Member Associations (MAs) is a great opportunity for WEF's leaders to interact with the grassroots of the Federation, and to learn about the local issues and water quality challenges. My trip to China was no exception.

With more than 1.3 billion people and a rapidly expanding industrially based economy, China made the same choices that the United States made in the middle 20th century: It chose jobs and development over the environment. Today China is well aware of the consequences of that choice, and is now beginning to invest in the environment. It is ironic that developing nations often need to develop the industrial infrastructure to create wealth so they can afford to clean up the environmental problems created by the same industrialization. For a developing country, jobs and a growing economy are usually a higher priority than the environment.

While in China, I learned the government is planning to spend more than $200 billion (U.S.) on air and water pollution prevention and cleanup by 2010 in just three urban areas: Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Beijing. An official from the environmental regulatory agency of Guangdong Province told me that China's water leaders wanted to hear WEF members' experiences in cleaning up North America after our own industrial revolution. They recognize our successes in environmental cleanup, and want to benefit from our experience.

As I write this article, I am in Monterrey, Mexico, for the Sociedad Mexicana de Aguas (SMAAC) conference. SMAAC is a WEF MA. Like Guangzhou, Monterrey is an industrial city. But unlike Guangzhou, Monterrey already has addressed many of its environmental problems by providing wastewater treatment service to about 90% of the nearly 4 million residents in the metropolitan area. However, in Mexico, Monterrey is the exception. Most urban areas of Mexico lack adequate wastewater collection and treatment systems.

For example, Mexico City, host of the World Water Forum, is the largest city in the world, with an estimated population of about 30 million. They recently have opened three wastewater treatment plants, which together can treat a little more than 1 billion gal/d — certainly not adequate capacity for such a large population, but a step in the right direction.

The World Water Forum, created by the World Water Council, is a meeting of global water leaders and stakeholders taking place once every 3 years to raise awareness on water issues. At the forum, representatives from around the world talk about their water challenges and successes, and leaders from the nations of the world meet to discuss national and international water policy.

WEF is interested and participating in these global forums for two reasons. First, the water environment is global and affects humankind throughout the world. Pollution that enters the planet's water system anywhere will ultimately impact water quality everywhere. Second, WEF's membership represents the best technical and scientific minds in the field of water quality. While the majority of our members reside in North

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WEF HIGHLIGHTS

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NPDES Permits Program Course to Cover Emerging Issues

The Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.), in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), presents the training program, NPDES Permits Program Overview Course for Permitees Including New and Emerging Issues.

The permit development and issuance process requires a significant investment of resources for both the permitting authority and the permit holder. Currently, EPA provides training on the basic requirements and methods for issuing NPDES permits to permit writers. This new course will provide training for the permit holder on a process to foster increased involvement in permit development and implementation. The objective of this course is to increase understanding by both the permit holder and permit writer as a means to help reduce permit issuance time and lead to increased permit compliance.

The program will include lecture and discussion, and provide attendees with a strong understanding of the purpose of the NPDES program as well as the mechanics for developing, issuing, and implementing an NPDES permit.

Legal issues permit holders need to consider will be included in the discussion of the overall program. The course also will provide a synopsis and review of new tools that workshop attendees may consider. In addition, there will be discussion of new water quality approaches such as watershed-based permitting and water quality trading.

The program will be held June 6–7 at the Peppermill Hotel Casino in Reno, Nev. The registration deadline is May 26. More information and online registration can be found at www.wef.org by clicking on "Workshops" in the "Training and Professional Development" submenu in the "Conferences & Training" channel.

For additional information concerning course content, contact Lara Hughes at (703) 684-2442 or lhughes@wef.org.

WEF Improves Web Site Usability for Members

After a total redesign in the summer of 2005, the Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) has now added several improvements to its primary Web site, www.wef.org, to enhance member usability. In the near future, the site will also offer exclusive members-only content. Members will log in, and the Web site technology will distinguish their unique member information, preferred subscriptions, and recognize any committee to which they belong.

Menu. One of the more significant changes is the reorganization of the Web site menu, specifically "Membership and Careers." This section has been restructured to help members locate the information they need quickly and easily. More comprehensive member information, including a Frequently Asked Questions page, has also been added.

Advanced Search. The Advanced Search feature now offers additional specific ways to narrow a search, such as limiting the search return to display only PDF files or PowerPoint files.

Font Size. In response to member feedback, the font size has been increased throughout the Web site, and the "Marketplace" and "News Center" icons have been enlarged. Also, the sensitivity of the pull-down menus has been decreased so that they are now less "slippery" when a user scrolls over them with a mouse.

Online Subscriptions. WEF will soon have the capability to offer online subscriptions through its Web site. Subscribers will be able to access their publications electronically in addition to the mailed print copies.

All of these current and future improvements are a means for WEF to reach its goal of keeping the Web site as updated and as user-friendly as possible. We encourage our members to explore the site and offer any feedback they may have to Web Content Manager Julie Boerner, at juboerner@wef.org.

New York Water Environment Association member Ligia Kearney Santos shares Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) information with educators at the Feb. 3 United Nations conference, The Global Challenge of Water, in New York City.

23rd Annual Wastewater Operators Conference Set For June

Wastewater treatment professionals from the United States and Canada will meet June 4–7 in Chicago for the 23rd annual National Operators Training Conference. The conference will focus on improving wastewater treatment plant operations with a broad menu of sessions examining specific issues in operations.

The program kicks off Sunday, June 4, with sessions on wastewater sector security training. Workshops on wastewater microbiology and process control, and process control via clarifier software, will also be offered.

Glen T. Daigger, senior vice president and chief technology officer for CH2M Hill (Englewood, Colo.), will give the keynote address, discussing "Future Challenges to the Wastewater Profession and the Role of Operations in Addressing Them" on Monday, June 5. Daigger is a former professor and chair of the environmental systems engineering department at Clemson University (Clemson, S.C.), as well as a widely published author.

Following Daigger's keynote address, Suzanne Melec, deputy commission, will discuss the "Greening of the City of Chicago."

Breakout technical sessions are planned for Monday afternoon, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Specialists at the sessions will focus on lagoon management and the use of barley straw to improve lagoon performance, nutrient management, handling and processing sludges generated by biological nutrient removal systems, operational control, activated sludge issues, and a variety of technology issues.

The lighter side of the conference will include poster sessions, a T-shirt auction, and an optional dinner cruise on Lake Michigan. Participants can also choose to take one of two post-conference tours: a Chicago Water Tower walking tour, and a "Process Control In-Control" treatment plant tour. Another optional tour scheduled for June 8 will take delegates to Aqua Aerobics (Rockford, Ill.), for a manufacturer's plant tour.

The conference takes place at the Swissotel in Chicago. For additional information, visit www.notc2006.info.

COLLECTION SYSTEMS 2006

Infrastructure Stewardship: Partnering for a Sustainable Future

CONFERENCE TOPICS

- Great Lakes Issues: Regional Concerns
- Wet Weather Control Technologies: How to Address CSO/SSO/Stormwater Concerns
- System Operation and Maintenance: How to Maintain the Necessary Controls
- Workforce: Maintaining Stability and Quality in a Changing Environment
- Public Engagement: How to Get and Keep the Customers on Your Side

For more information and to register online, please visit www.wef.org and go to "Conferences and Training"

Water Environment Federation® Preserving & Enhancing the Global Water Environment

mwea michigan water environment association

This conference and exhibition is held in cooperation with the Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA).

Purified water is now a reality to Iraqis with the opening of a new water treatment plant. Capt. Brian McCarthy, commander, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and Hussein Jabor, mayor of Al Mahawil, listen to Numan Dahr describe the plant's capabilities. U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Michael Molinaro, 2nd BCT PAO; 4th Inf. Div.

That partnership goes beyond patrolling the streets and tracking down terrorists, said Capt. Brian McCarthy, commander, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

U.S. company commanders meet with local leaders in cities and villages throughout Iraq on a regular basis to assess each community's needs and find creative and cooperative ways to solve problems.

"We are working hand-in-hand with the Iraqi people to provide security and the ability to do good things for the people of Iraq," McCarthy said.

McCarthy and Jabor worked together on the clean water project, which began 2 years ago with the help of coalition forces.

Widespread Benefits

One million L/d will pump through the Al Mahawil station on a daily basis. Local farmers will benefit from the opening of the plant as well, McCarthy added, and a healthy local agricultural industry will create a stronger economy, which will profit everyone.

If things go to plan, later this year, completion of a similar project on the other side of town will bring clean drinking water to more than 20,000 residents for the first time in many years, McCarthy said.

"People need to see the progress being made," said Jabor. "They need to know that we're taking care of the future of Iraq. Soon, our security forces will allow us to live and prosper all over this great country of ours. We will have more and more project openings, and the ceremonies will get bigger and better."

> *"People need to see the progress being made. They need to know that we're taking care of the future of Iraq."*
>
> *— Hussein Jabor, Mayor of Al Mahawil*

Register Now for WEFTEC®.06 in Dallas

Join the Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) Oct. 21–25 at the Dallas Convention Center for WEFTEC®.06 — our biggest WEFTEC yet!

WEFTEC is the premier water quality event that connects water professionals to a world of knowledge, education, networking, technology, and solutions. As an attendee, you can design your own educational program from more than 100 technical sessions and 20 educational workshops. Each session and workshop offers the latest information on the hottest topics in the water quality field.

Take advantage of the opportunity to exchange expertise and ideas with more than 900 exhibiting companies and 18,000 professionals from around the world. WEFTEC attendees can discover the newest technological developments in the water and wastewater world.

WEF now offers an updated and improved WEFTEC Web site. More user-friendly than ever, www.weftec.org

is the best way to stay up-to-date on the latest WEFTEC information. Hotel information and online registration is available now at www.weftec.org.

Symposium Highlights Innovative Uses of Organic Residuals

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (Pacific Southwest) and the Water Environment Federation (Alexandria, Va.) are co-sponsoring the Pacific Southwest Organic Residual Solids Symposium: Innovative Treatment and Uses for Organic Residual Solids in the Western States, July 12–14 in Sacramento, Calif.

The papers for the symposium will cover the development and marketing of innovative uses of biosolids, manures, food wastes, and other organic residuals.

Sessions will include current and projected volumes and qualities of organic residual solids in the West, markets for organic residual solids, new technologies, facility site selection issues, emerging pathogens and pollutants, and successful project case studies for matching supply and demand.

The target audience for this symposium includes representatives from municipal, agricultural, and industrial organic waste treatment facilities; manufacturers of useful products from organic residual solids; agronomists; consultants; engineers; farmers; extension service professionals; scientists; nutrient managers; and research organizations.

The symposium will be held at the Radisson Hotel Sacramento. For more information, contact Lauren Fondahl at fondahl.lauren@epamail.epa.gov or Gene DeMichele at edemichele@wef.org.

From the President *continued from page 2*

America and have participated in our own environmental cleanup over the past 40 years, their experience is critical for addressing water quality challenges outside of North America.

As environmental leaders and as citizens of the world, we have an obligation to understand the global water challenge. We are responsible for leading the way to improving the global water environment, and to providing access to safe and sustainable water supplies for the developing world.

J. Michael Read
2005-2006 WEF President

FREE
BENCHMARKING SUMMARY

Participate in data collection, March thru May 2006

Drinking water and wastewater utilities are invited free of charge to participate in the 2006 Benchmarking Performance Indicator Survey. Participating utilities receive a valuable and free statistical summary against which they can measure their performance and efficiency in 22 key benchmarks.

To participate, utilities complete the 2006 Benchmarking Performance Indicator Survey between March 1 and May 31, 2006. Contact Benchmarking Program Manager Angela Lafferty at 303.734.3427 or alaffert@awwa.org to sign up.

More information is available at www.awwa.org/science/benchmarking.

American Water Works Association

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Call For Abstracts: Disinfection 2007

The Disinfection Committees of the Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.), American Water Works Association (Denver) and the International Water Association (London) are sponsoring a sixth specialty conference to be held February 4–7, 2007, in Pittsburgh. The abstract submittal deadline is June 12.

The conference, Disinfection 2007 — Current Practices and Future Trends in Disinfection: Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, Water Reuse, and Biosolids, provides a forum for water industry professionals concerned with disinfection needs and technologies. The conference will focus on all aspects of the disinfection of water, wastewater, reuse water and biosolids.

Technical topics to be presented at the conference will include but are not limited to the following:

- Disinfection Resistance;
- Emerging Pathogens;
- Modeling Disinfection;
- Risk Assessment;
- Reclaimed Water;
- Disinfection Byproducts;
- Source Tracking;
- UV Design/Operations;
- Dechlorination Technologies;
- Disinfection System Validation;
- Innovative Technologies and Applications;
- System Sizing; and
- O & M Issues

To submit your abstract, please visit our Web site at www.wef.org and locate the "Disinfection 2007 Conference" under "Conferences and Training."

Call For Abstracts: Residuals and Biosolids Management Conference 2007

The Water Environment Federation's (Alexandria, Va.) Conference Program Committee is soliciting abstracts for oral presentations, workshops, and panel discussions to be presented at the Residuals and Biosolids Management Conference, April 15–18, 2007, in Denver. The abstract submittal deadline is June 26.

The Committee is especially interested in topics that lend themselves to interactive panel discussions. Specific conference topics will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Research and Development Activities;
- Land Application, Land Reclamation, and Managing Nutrients;
- Marketing of Biosolids and Residuals Products;
- Success Stories;
- National Biosolids Partnership Activities/Environmental Management Systems;
- Building Public Support and Addressing Political Aspects;
- Advances in Stabilization Technologies;
- Conditioning and Dewatering Technologies;
- Bioenergy Technologies;
- Odor Control;
- Regulatory or Legal Issues and Changes;
- Colorado/Rocky Mountain Regional Issues; and
- A Student Session

To submit your abstract, please visit www.wef.org and locate the "Residuals and Biosolids 2007 Conference" under the "Conferences and Training" menu.

Progress Report *continued from page 1*

as well as a 1-hour session on the program, May 1 in Washington, D.C.

The National Association of Water Companies (Washington, D.C.) invited the American Water Works Association (AWWA; Denver, Colo.) and WEF to present the program and share experiences at the Water Utility Executive Council Meeting in Puerto Rico on April 5.

At the **AWWA/WEF Joint Management Conference**, Program Committee Chair and WEF Vice President Adam Zabinski talked about the program in the opening session of the February event. AWWA past president Katy McCain was also present.

The Federal Water Quality Association (Washington, D.C.) invited WEF to share the program at its luncheon on Feb. 23.

The New York Water Environment Association (Syracuse), a WEF MA, learned about the program during the opening session of its annual conference Feb. 6.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Division Retreat invited WEF to share the plan and elements of the program to its wastewater division in December 2005.

For more information on Water is Life, and Infrastructure Makes It Happen, or to learn how to get involved, contact Linda Kelly at lkelly@ wef.org or visit www.waterislife.net.

Lane Wins Maine Operator Award

Steven Lane, superintendent at the Winterport (Maine) Water and Sewer Districts, recently received the Maine Operator Award from the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA).

This award is given annually to a person involved in the operations of wastewater treatment facilities in each of the six New England states. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual whose personal service has contributed to excellence in plant operations, either directly at a treatment plant or indirectly through service to plant operations personnel. At the time of receiving his award, Lane also was inducted into the NEWEA Crystal Crucible Society for his positive contributions to the betterment of individuals associated with the wastewater laboratory profession.

In addition to being an outstanding example of a conscientious and successful facility operator and superintendent, Lane also volunteers many hours administering the formatting and updating of the Maine Wastewater Control Association (MWWCA) Web site, www.mwwca.org. The site contains excellent information for wastewater treatment operators and the related professions in Maine, and throughout the world.

CHARLES TYLER

Steven Lane accepts the Maine Operator Award from Douglas Miller, 2005 New England Water Environment Association president.

Always alert to current issues and dedicated to information sharing, Lane established a Web site for lagoon system operations in 1996 when he discovered a need for operational information for such systems. He works continually to keep both Web sites updated and useful for operators. He pursues and authors such regular features as plant/facility profiles, operator profiles, and current news articles about wastewater treatment and related items, as well as information about the MWWCA. Lane also is a member of the *Operations Forum* Editorial Advisory Board.

Lane received his Maine Operator Award and induction into the Crystal Crucible Society at NEWEA's annual conference in Boston, January 22–25.

WEF Announces Wastewater Security Training for POTWs

The Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.), through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), announces a new training and technical assistance program to assist publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) in reducing vulnerabilities to manmade threats and natural disasters.

Since 2002, WEF has been working to train all sizes of water and wastewater utilities on how to conduct vulnerability assessments of their facilities and update their emergency response plans (ERPs). Previous training programs have focused on large, medium, and small POTWs as well as Train-the-Trainer sessions for state and local training and assistance providers. Utilizing the VSAT™ (Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool) software, training for each series was developed for specific-size POTWs, but was similar and versatile enough to benefit any size facility.

The latest program consists of several 3-day regional workshops on vulnerability assessment and emergency response training. VSAT™ will continue to be the primary focus; however, other tools, including the EPA ERP CD on tabletop exercises, will also be integrated. In addition, WEF will structure the training to present the 14 features of an active and effective security program developed by the National Drinking Water Advisory Council. As a follow-up, WEF is planning webcasts for all attendees as a "refresher" course and will develop a Web-ready, self-learning module as another method for wastewater security awareness. The training will be provided at no cost.

"WEF greatly appreciates the support of EPA's Water Security Division that enables us to continue providing high-quality training at no cost to wastewater utilities," said Eileen O'Neill, WEF's chief technical officer. "We are particularly pleased to be able to emphasize emergency response readiness and include tabletop exercises that can help wastewater systems be better positioned to restore vital services in the event of an emergency."

2006 Wastewater Security Workshops and Webcasts

Denver: June 27–29
Minneapolis: July 11–13
San Francisco: August 1–3
Follow-Up Webcast: September 12
Providence, R.I.: September 19–21
Dallas: October 17–19
Kansas City, Mo.: November 8–10
Atlanta: November 28–30
Follow-Up Webcast: December 12

POTWs treating 2.5 mgd or greater are invited to attend and eligible for travel reimbursement. Other interested parties may attend on a space-available basis, but will not eligible for travel reimbursement. CEUs are available by request in most states. For more information and to register, visit www.wef.org/watersecurity.