OPERATOR TRAINING INITIATIVES

PRESENTED BY:
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MICHIGAN WEA
Topics

- Joint Expo & Operators Day
- Operator Training Classes
- Operator Scholarship
Joint Expo & Operators Day

- 2-day Joint Conference with MI-AWWA
- Held the first Tuesday & Wednesday every February in downtown Lansing
- Different from each organization’s annual conferences which are held separately later in the year.
- Joint Expo & Operators Day’s focus is primarily on operators
Joint Expo & Operators Day

- First held in 1992 and has been growing ever since!
- Represents about 10% of our annual income
- MI-AWWA handles the expo hall (booth registration, all exhibitor communication)
- MWEA handles the training side (including Operators Day training, registration, and auxiliary training: Infrastructure Funding Seminar, How to Talk to the Media, etc.)
Joint Expo & Operators Day

Operators Day agenda topics:
- Electrical
- GIS
- SCADA
- Valves
- Motor Testing
- Safety
- Cyber Security
Joint Expo & Operators Day

- 8 presentations are selected
- FOUR 45 minute presentations each morning
- Different agenda each day, attendees are encouraged to attend both days
- 300 attendees per ballroom
- They have the rest of the afternoon to explore the expo hall and have lunch
Joint Expo & Operators Day

- 2020 was our largest year so far!
- We were lucky it happened just 1 month prior to the start of the pandemic
- 1,125 participants in trainings
- 509 individuals who just came for the exhibits
- 153 companies participated
- More than 700 company staff working the exhibit booths
Joint Expo & Operators Day

- 2021 switched to a Virtual Operators Day Training ONLY
- Still had 2 days worth of education for operators
- Over 600 participants joined us over the 2 days!
  - Better than we had expected!
- Offered On Demand until May 31
  - Use sproutvideo.com for tracking
Joint Expo & Operators Day

- Polled vendors, and they were NOT interested in a virtual expo hall
- Added SPONSOR options:
  - $2,500 Sustaining Level (10 available)  
    - Only 2 signed up
  - $750 Contributing Sponsors (unlimited available)  
    - 21 signed up
- These came in lower than we had anticipated, especially the Sustaining Level
2021 net revenue was down 40% from 2020

Close to what we budgeted for, the increase in attendance helped offset what we didn’t get in sponsors

Hopeful that 2022 we will be back in person for the 30th Anniversary of Joint Expo & Operators Day
Operator Training Classes
Operator Training Classes

► 13 classes currently offered:
  ► Purpose and Fundamentals of Wastewater Treatment
  ► Basic Health & Safety Practices in Water Systems
  ► Fundamentals of Wastewater Math 1 and Math 2
  ► Fundamentals of Activated Sludge 1 and Sludge 2
  ► Fundamentals of Preliminary, Primary and Secondary Treatment
  ► Fundamentals of Wastewater Disinfection and Tertiary Treatment
  ► Fundamentals of Solids Handling
  ► Fundamentals of Anaerobic Digester Operation and Control
  ► Fundamentals of Collection Systems
  ► Fundamentals of Maintenance Practices 1 and Maintenance Practices 2
Operator Training Classes

- Several years ago we added Operator Exam Prep Classes
  - 10 – 15 students per class
- In Michigan we have 4 levels of Municipal Wastewater Operator: A, B, C, and D
  - A&B exam prep and C&D exam prep are grouped together
  - Creating a D only class with extra tips for first-time exam takers
Operator Training Classes

- 2020 numbers:
  - 40 classes total
  - 200 attendees total

- 2021 numbers:
  - 22 classes YTD
    - Expect to be at 50-60 by EOY
  - 250 attendees YTD
    - Expect to be at 600 by EOY
Operator Training Classes

10 NEW classes in development:

Funded by the WEF MA Seed Grant

- 3 Maintenance Classes: Pumps, Lubrication, and Electrical
- Advanced Collections Systems
- Remedial Math
- Lagoon Operations
- Laboratory Practices
- Process Modeling and Controls
- Utility of the Future 101
- Intro to Supervision/Management
Operator Training Classes
Operator Training Classes

WRRT Credential Program:

- Was developed to encourage those who are new to the industry to take our classes to build a good foundation of knowledge.
- Also shows their employer they are able to start and finish something.
- Is a stepping stone to the first level of their operator license.
- 105 graduates so far!
Operator Scholarship

- Water Resource Recovery Technician (WRRT) Future Leader Scholarship

- Started in 2017

- $1,000 each, up to 4 awarded annually
Operator Scholarship

- Applicants must currently possess a valid Michigan Wastewater Operators license and be planning to pursue either a Class B or Class A license.

- Can use funds towards classes, books, and tuition costs.
Questions?

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