

Mississippi Water Environment Association

Summer 1999



MWEA Awards



Kevin Elliott - MGCRWA receives the William D. Hatfield Award from WEF Past President, Dale Jacobson.

The awards luncheon was great fun this year. We had a wonderful meal of rib-eye steak followed by inspiring words from WEF Past President Dale Jacobson. Several awards were bestowed this year beginning with the William D. Hatfield Award, presented to operators of wastewater treatment plants for outstanding performance and professionalism. Dale Jacobson presented the award to this year's recipient, Kevin Elliott of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional Wastewater Authority (MGCRWA). Kevin has been chief operator or operations manager for three separate facilities all chosen as a Mississippi Outstanding Wastewater Facility. One of these facilities was also chosen as a first place winner in the EPA Region IV O&M Excellence Award Program. Kevin has also been a consistent participant in Association activities.

Brenda Flick was presented with the Past-President plaque for her inspiring service as 1998 President. Brenda was instrumental in improving the organization of the Board and committees during her three year commitment. We are a better association because of her efforts.

Carroll Murphy, chairman of the Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Facility Award Committee, made the presentation for this year's award to the Town of Nettleton. The town operates an aerated lagoon facility which greatly impressed the committee with organization and excellent maintenance on a small town budget. As part of the presentation, we were treated to a slide show of the facility by Larry Murphree of MDEQ. Congratulations to the town and their operators.

As a finale to the luncheon activities, the MWEA 5-S Society inducted two new members. In keeping with tradition, there was a short "roasting" of the inductees followed by their tongue twisting rendition of repeating the name of the group (Mississippi Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers) five times. Congratulations go out to Jerry Mitchell and Chuck Henderson on becoming members of this elite group. *



Brenda Flick is honored as outgoing President of the MWEA.



Plant Operator, Richard Rhudy, accepts the Outstanding WWTP Award for the Town of Nettleton.



Representatives from the Town of Nettleton are honored for the 1998 Outstanding WWTP in Mississippi. From left: Mayor Thomas Riley, Charles Mullins, G.C. Rhudy and Operator Richard Rhudy.

From the President

Active Role by Members Requested

by Allen Pate

It is indeed a pleasure to serve as your President for the coming year. We have several things on the agenda for the coming year and I feel confident that we will make the Association much better. I encourage everyone to take an active role in the Association to help it to become stronger.

If you did not make it to the annual conference in June, you missed a great conference. The hotel was magnificent and the technical sessions were better than ever. We greatly appreciate the vendors who were present and hope they made some new contacts to help grow their businesses. If any of you who were present have any suggestions or ideas for next years conference, please let us know, or better yet,

become part of the Program committee. We hope that , as usual, we learned from this year and can make next year an even bigger success.

We will be having a meeting with our WEFMA liaison within the next few months to get input from the Federation. We, as the board, have many ideas and questions for which we will be seeking Federation guidance in the coming year. Hopefully by utilizing their resources, we can take many steps forward this year.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please feel free to contact me at (662)495-4674 or by e-mail at apate@bryanfoods.com. *

42nd Annual Meeting a Success

Our 42nd Annual Meeting and Technical Conference was held at the Jackson Hilton and Convention Center June 9-11. Thanks to all of you who came out and made the conference as success.

Once again the event was both educational and fun. Twenty seven technical papers made for a complete technical presentation that received great reviews from a consistently full room of attendees. We learned about issues from the enforcement procedures of MDEQ to the measurement of ultra-low chlorine residuals and the treatment of TNT contaminated wastewater. The student papers were fasci-

nating and well received in the second annual student competition. Todd Frnech from MSU won the award for the best presentation for his paper on the "Treatment of Trichloroethylene Using Aerobic Bacteria and the Influence of Clay Adsorbents on Activity".

As always, the 21 exhibitors who displayed their wares were a huge part of the conference success. Not only did they enthusiastically discuss their products and services with the attendees but they also joined in for our luncheons, social hours and some of the technical sessions. Thanks to each of you! We couldn't do it without you! *

Conference Exhibitors

Environmental Bacteria Corp. - *Wayne Greer, Sam Reynolds*

General Pump & Equipment - *Wally Lammons*

S&N Airoflo - *Greg Brown, Eric Tatum*

Interon Corp. - *Tom Hartis*

Bio Gro - *Royce Nelson, John Scaduto*

C.C. Lynch & Associates - *Trey Campbell*

Bonner Analytical Testing Co. - *Pat Soileau*

Environmental Business Specialists - *Mike Foster, Ed Goff*

The Eshelman Company - *Bill Putney, Wade Warren*

Waste Management Technologies - *Daryl Donaldson, Ron Donaldson*

Environmental Enterprises, Inc. - *Michael Strikmiller*

Delta Process Equipment, Inc. - *Chuck Henry, Bob Weible*

Argus Analytical, Inc. - *Greg McKnight, Toni Jones*

Environmental Technical Sales, Inc. - *Sam Agnew, Mike Todd*

Centro Inc. - *Richard Montgomery, David Pressier, Matt Jones*

Phoenix E&P Technology - *Leguin Williams, Chuck Kleinpeter*

Southeastern Tank, Inc. - *Jay Whelchel*

Hach Company - *Danny Hutcherson*

National Small Flows Clearinghouse - *David Pask*



Brownfields: The Future of Urban Redevelopment?

by Alec D. Van Ryan and Ken Ruckstuhl
Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.

Urban redevelopment has spawned a whole dictionary of buzz words over the past 20 years ... from urban sprawl to smart growth, from Neo-traditional communities to sustainable redevelopment.

But none of these individual concepts and initiatives has caught fire like the new redevelopment nom d'jour. "Brownfields."

Brownfields as a concept came into fashion more than five years ago as word to define the concept of adaptive reuse of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund sites. Over the years since Superfund was first adopted in 1980 EPA learned the bitter lesson that just cleaning up a piece of property and putting a fence around it with "keep out" signs did not allow the property to be returned to productive use.

Planning for end use of a property could reduce cleanup and litigation costs and get more sites cleaned up.

EPA began to understand that planning for end use of a property could reduce cleanup and litigation costs and get more sites cleaned up.

By considering an end use, the cleanup could be facilitated by:

- potentially reducing the cleanup costs with the incorporation of realistic risk-based cleanup standards. EPA (and most states following EPA's

lead) previously set all cleanup standards based on the assumption that children would be living on the site and consuming the soils on a daily basis. This might be a reasonable assumption for a daycare center, but didn't take into consideration that the site contamination might be in the middle of an oil refinery.

- allowing for deed restrictions and engineering controls. A deed restriction that followed the land would prevent the oil refinery from being redeveloped into a daycare center. Engineering controls would ensure the refinery land is paved, preventing worker contact with underlying soils.

EPA's common sense approach to contaminated properties began to evolve as the owners of contaminated property began to see the advantages of this new direction. Developers, realtors, lenders, insurance companies, and municipalities also saw the advantages of Brownfields.

Thus the term Brownfields has evolved into defining properties that are underutilized or abandoned sites that are, or are perceived to be, contaminated. Brownfields sites may reap benefits of this new thinking if the state laws governing potentially contaminated sites include the Brownfields concept.

In April of 1998, the State of Mississippi enacted a Brownfields and Voluntary Cleanup Act that adopted the

principles of Brownfields. In July 1999, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) formally put in place Brownfields Regulations to allow this common sense approach to land recycling.

The Mississippi law and regulations provide three winning features:

1) they provide the means by which MDEQ may enter into a "Brownfields Agreement" approved by the Commission on Environmental Quality, with persons desiring to redevelop Brownfields property;

2) require the use of a risk-based cleanup and allow for the consideration of deed restrictions and engineering controls and;

3) provide persons implementing the Brownfields agreement with liability protection that will limit cleanup liability to the risk-based requirements in the Brownfields agreement.

Brownfields programs are becoming a national success story. Now Mississippi has become a leader by using a common sense approach that encourages cleanups rather than creates barriers to cleanup. Mississippi's Brownfields approach also serves to help protect some of our precious "Greenfield" undisturbed property by productive reuse of our existing abandoned or underutilized resources. *

Gatian Chosen WEF Director-Elect

Nick Gatian was chosen as director-elect at the business meeting in June. Nick will succeed Trey Campbell during the '99 WEFTEC conference in New Orleans in October and will serve for three years.

Nick is currently employed as the MDEQ Environmental Trainer for the South Region of the state. He has been in this position for nine years where he provides classroom and on-site training for wastewater operators and technical assistance to municipal facilities. Nick holds a Class IV Wastewater Operators

Certificate and a Certified Environmental Trainer designation from the National Environmental Trainer's Association (NETA). His prior professional experience includes two years as the Sludge Coordinator for Harrison County Wastewater Management District and six years as a Pollution Control Technician for MDEQ.

Nick served on the MWEA Board as Vice-President/Past-President from 1995-1997. He most recently served as chairman of the Program and Public Education committees. *

Letter to MDEQ

In 1969, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality was created (known as the Air and Water Pollution Control Commission). At that time an Operator Training section was formed to train wastewater operators across the State. Since its beginning, this program has been a valuable tool for providing training and on-site technical assistance to engineers, environmental managers, and operators associated with wastewater treatment. For the past two years, however, the operator training position for the central region of the state has been vacant. We, the members for the Board, felt that this is an important position to the membership of the MWEA. Therefore, we gave approval for a letter to be written to Mr. Charles

Chrisolm, Head of the MDEQ office of Pollution Control by Allen Pate to express our desire to have this position filled. The following is the body of that letter.

I am sending you this letter on behalf of the MS Water Environmental Association Board of Directors and its membership. The MWEA is comprised of management and engineers in the wastewater industry. Our membership is deeply concerned over the ongoing failure of your Department to replace the wastewater trainer in the Central Region of the state. This position has been vacant for two years. The trainers are an invaluable asset to the wastewater operators in the state. They are usually the first technical contact an operator will call in the event of a problem. The trainers, in some cases, are the only personnel from your Department that the operator knows. There are approximately 750 certified wastewater operators and hundreds of managers and engineers in the state who depend heavily on their contact with these individuals for training, technical assistance, and maybe even more importantly, as the public relations person from your agency.

The individuals you presently have do a tremendous job, but are stretched entirely too thin. I have had much conversation with many of the operators, managers, and engineers and they are deeply concerned over this issue. Your Department's efforts to re-engineer itself, to be better able to serve the interests of the state, is falling short in this particular instance. Surely, it is not too much for the 750 certified operators and the hundreds of professionals who provide for the quality of the water environment of this great state to ask that you arrange for budgeting for one of the most important positions in your organization. It is imperative that this position is filled as soon as possible. If you have any questions or comments, or if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (662) 495-4674.

We Need Your Help!

We are looking for volunteers to help on our committees and with other small tasks that we undertake here at the Mississippi Water Environment Association. You can choose from any one or more of the following committees or projects: Awards, Program, Membership, or the Public Education committees.

This year we are also going to start a Student Chapter at Mississippi State. We are always

looking for some one to help with putting our newsletters together. If you have any experience or some good (brief) technical advice for our readers, we can include it in our technical section. We want to make this an informative newsletter and without your help that will not be possible. If you would like to help or if you have some comments, please contact us at 662-495-4674. *

Mississippi Water Environment Association

c/o Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.
6360 I-55 North, Suite 250
Jackson, MS 39211