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Member Association News

Illinois WEA (IWEA)



IWEA's 2018 Collections Seminar was held on November 8 at the Hyatt Regency in Lisle, IL. Eighty-nine (89) people attended, including 18 exhibiting companies. **Keith Zollers**, Fox Metro Water Reclamation District, was recognized as IWEA's Golden Manhole Award recipient and conquered the Collection Facilities Committee's "feats of strength" to earn his golden manhole lapel pin.



IWEA Golden Manhole Awardee Keith Zollers.
(Photo: D. Bounds)

The agenda for the seminar included presentations on private lateral program implementation by Tony Conn of the City of Naperville, cured-in-place chemical grout methods by Todd Bonk of Visu-Sewer, and local inflow and infiltration program requirements for 2019 by Karol Giokas and Shilpa Ghia of RJN. A CMOM round table discussion was led by Dan Bounds of Baxter & Woodman, Michael Ott of Strand Associates, and Tony Conn. The day included a full breakfast, Chicago-style buffet lunch, exhibitor "quick talks" throughout the day, and an exhibitor-provided door prize drawing.

New England WEA (NEWEA)



NEWEA recently hosted a CSO/Wet Weather Fall Conference in Portland, Maine. Hosted at the Holiday Inn by the Bay provided the attendees a comfortable setting to discuss wet weather issues. Not to mention, mother nature provided plenty of rain during the event. Several exhibitors displayed their booths in the main speaking engagement area allowing networking during breaks and receptions. This event was attended by many locals, engineers, contractors, manufacturers and wet weather professionals.

Utah WEA (UWEA)



We are now asking for and accepting nominations for the Annual WEAU Awards. Please nominate someone in any of the following categories, Plants, Collection Systems, and Operators, Discharging or Non-Discharging Lagoons, Programs Specialists, and Supervisors.

WEAU is a member organization where members can nominate those individuals or organizations within our industry that deserve recognition by the association for their efforts. Individual awards must be nominated by someone other than nominee. If nominating an individual, please notify their supervisor and have them sign the form. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Matt Wiest at (801) 633-0036. Good Luck.

Fill out the form and get it back to Matt Wiest using any of the following methods.

e-mail to: matt.waterford@gmail.com, or mail to: Waterford Systems (attention Matt Wiest), 2850 East 3300 South, Ste 201 Salt Lake City, Utah 84109

Applications are requested back by **December 21, 2018**.

Call Matt Wiest (Waterford Systems) at 801-633-0036 with any questions or send an email to him at matt.waterford@gmail.com.

Forms are located online at <https://weau.starchapter.com/images/downloads/Awards Nominations/2018 weau nomination form .pdf>

WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

Collection Systems

Indianapolis, Indiana

SAVE THE DATE!

Collection Systems 2019

Indianapolis, Indiana

June 4-7, 2019

Collection Systems Awards

In each issue we like to recognize professionals and/or utilities in your Member Association (MA) who received a distinguished award in collection systems. Please contact Bri Nakamura at bnakamura@wef.org if you would like to contribute.

Georgia AWP ([GAWP](#))

Golden Manhole Inductees



- ◆ **George Barnes**, JAT Consulting Services, Inc. Cobb County Water System
- ◆ **John Evans**, Blue Cypress Consulting, LLC
- ◆ **Kumar Burkley**, Columbus Water Works
- ◆ **Ricky Jacobs**, Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority



Indiana WEA ([IWEA](#))

Congratulations to the 2018 Indiana WEA Collections System Award Winners.

The Large Facility Collection Systems Award

(for systems serving over 10,000 people) was awarded to the **City of Elkhart**. The City of Elkhart consists of separate and combined collection systems that include approximately 260 miles of sewer, 63 pump stations, 18 miles of force main, and 29 remaining CSOs. The City has been proactively addressing its many collection system regulatory requirements and challenges. The City has completed more than 50% of the required LTCP and Consent Decree control measures projects in only 30% of the time, eliminating 114 overflows annually. In addition to being ahead of schedule on their Consent Decree, the City utilizes a local company (EmNet) for CSO monitoring to install and maintain sensors at all 29 CSO locations and three rain gauges. The sensors at the CSOs collect real-time depth of flow information which is also used as part of an early warning system that sends Elkhart alerts when flows are rising to critical levels at any of our CSOs during dry weather. This has allowed Elkhart to respond to and avoid many CSO dry weather overflows. The City has developed a new public notification system that utilizes the monitoring sensors at the CSOs and the City's web site to give near real time notifications to the public. In advance of required regulations, the City preemptively initiated development of a thorough asset management plan considering social, environmental, and financial impacts and using a risk-based approach to determine the repair and replacement needs of the aging collection system. This project is almost complete, and the City will use this information to prioritize projects and coordinate with other City departments to reduce overall cost to the Elkhart community. The City of Elkhart sets an example for other CSO communities within Indiana.

The **Collections Professional of the Year** was **John Trypus of Citizens Energy Group**. Mr. Trypus is responsible for the planning, design and construction of one of the largest infrastructure projects in Indiana's history, the DigIndy Tunnel System, along with capital planning, design, and construction of Indianapolis' water and wastewater systems. Mr. Trypus routinely engages in and promotes new ways of planning, designing and implementing projects within the utility, professional engineering industry, and construction industry in Central Indiana. Within Citizens, Mr. Trypus recently led a value engineering program, the Tunnel Enhancement Evaluation, Performance and Optimization Plan (TEEPOP), to improve CSO control under Citizens' Consent Decree program while simultaneously evaluating areas for cost savings to maximize community, economic and environmental benefit of the program, which ultimately achieved over \$20M in savings. John successfully lead the evaluation and implementation of a revised

Septic Tank Elimination Program that significantly reduces costs to homeowners while maintaining low-cost construction for Citizens. Throughout his career, Mr. Trypus routinely encouraged his team to challenge generally-accepted practices and to search for new and innovative project solutions, many of which have become generally-accepted practices.

North Carolina WEA ([NC AWWA-WEA](#))



Collection System of the Year Winners

- ◆ Town of Smithfield PUD – Overall
- ◆ Charlotte Water – Large System
- ◆ Greenville Utilities Commission – Medium System

Wastewater Collection System Operator of the Year

- ◆ Bobby Faircloth, Brunswick County Public Utilities

Golden Manhole Award Winners

- ◆ John Allen, Fayetteville PWC
- ◆ Wendy Banks, Carolina Management Team, LLC
- ◆ Matthew Vessie, City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department



Collection Systems Awardee Jim Hewitt with WEF President Jenny Hartfelder (Photo: WEF)

WEF Collection Systems Committee (CSC)

The Collection System Award is presented to an individual for contributions to the advancement of the state of the art wastewater collection.

This year's awardee is our current Chair-Elect Mr. **Jim Hewitt**! Jim has devoted 30 years to making significant improvements to the collection system in Akron, Ohio, and has provided industry leadership at the local, state, and national levels. He has been a constant environmental steward for the state of Ohio and exudes passion for the work and mission of the water sector. As Akron's city engineer, Hewitt has played an integral role in award-winning projects, and under his leadership, the city's engineering department is responsible for the design and construction of \$1.4 billion in system improvements to meet a consent decree.

WEF CSC Honors 8 New Golden Manhole Awardees

At the Collection Systems Committee Meeting at WEFTEC on Sunday, September 30, the CSC awardee 6 members with the Golden Manhole Award. The Golden Manhole is awarded to the members who have showed significant contributions to the CSC, within the past years.

This years awardee's are:

- ◆ **Dave Brown**, Hach Company, North Carolina WEA
- ◆ **Gary Moore**, Washington University in St. Louis
- ◆ **Christy Willson**, Horner & Shiffrin
- ◆ **Chris Ranck**, Arcadis
- ◆ **Chip Smith**, WSP
- ◆ **Joan Hawley**, Superior Engineering



Golden Manhole Awardees (L-R) J. Hawley, C. Willson, C. Ranck, and C. Smith (Photo: WEF)

Congratulations to all the awardees and don't forget to wear your pins!

NASSCO SkillsUSA and NASSCO Team Up to Support Outstanding Skilled Trades Students

SkillsUSA is proud to announce that the National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO) has signed on to become an official sponsor of the organization. NASSCO is committed to setting industry standards for the assessment, maintenance and rehabilitation of underground infrastructure, and to assure the continued acceptance and growth of trenchless technologies.

"The underground infrastructure industry offers extremely viable and robust career opportunities in the water and wastewater sectors," said Sheila Joy, NASSCO's executive director. "Using impressive trenchless technologies that minimize the need to dig up pipes literally has changed the landscape for hiring young workers. Our partnership with SkillsUSA allows us to build awareness of the need to repair our failing underground infrastructure, support the construction segment and present career opportunities to young people who are seeking long-term, meaningful employment in an industry that keeps our communities healthy."

"This amazing sponsorship from NASSCO will help support critical programming at SkillsUSA's National Leadership and Skills Conference including the SkillsUSA Championships to be held in Louisville, Ky., June 24-28, 2019," said SkillsUSA's executive director, Tim Lawrence. "We are so grateful to NASSCO for its generous donation."

Nationwide, career and technical education (CTE) encompasses 94 percent of high-school students in the United States and 13 million college/postsecondary students in high schools, career centers, community and technical colleges, four-year universities and more. CTE and SkillsUSA are working to be a vital solution to our nation's economic and workforce challenges, such as high-school dropout rates, a weakened economy, global competitiveness and massive layoffs. At a time when opportunity for employment is critical, SkillsUSA and CTE are working to ensure students are equipped with the skills to successfully enter the workforce.

Technical News

Congress Passes America's Water Infrastructure Act

On October 10, the Senate voted on – and passed nearly unanimously by a vote of 99-1 - the biennial Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which include a number of major provisions that benefit drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure and policy. The conference report for the bill, known as [America's Water Infrastructure Act \(S. 3021\)](#), was passed unanimously by the House on Sept. 13.

The bi-partisan legislation includes provisions that WEF and its members have been supportive of and advocated for over the last several years. Specially, it will provide a two years extension to the EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program and authorize it to receive \$50 million per year, which will conservatively provide \$5 billion in low-interest federal financing for water infrastructure. The WIFIA reauthorization language includes a provision that permits State SRF programs to receive WIFIA loans directly with some preferential terms, such as 100% loan financing and one credit rating letter. The provision stipulates though that the SRF programs need to be funded at 105% of the fiscal year 2018 appropriation level and the state SRF programs cannot pass-through any of the WIFIA application fees to the SRF borrowers.

The bill also includes the creation of a new stormwater financing federal taskforce that WEF proposed and advocated for. The provision was originally legislation introduced by Rep. Denny Heck (D-WA) and [passed by the House](#) in July 2018. A similar provision was part of the Senate WRDA bill, which passed through Environment & Public Works Committee but not the full Senate. Specifically, the bill sets up a task force "composed of federal, state, and local governments and private (including nonprofit) entities to conduct a study on, and develop recommendations to improve, the availability of public and private sources of funding for the construction, rehabilitation, and operation and maintenance of stormwater infrastructure to meet the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.)"

Other major provisions in the bill include:

- ◆ Authorization of \$25 million per year in grants to non-profit entities to provide technical assistance to small publicly owned treatment works.
- ◆ Authorization of \$225 million per year in fiscal years 2019 and 2020 in grants to states and directly to municipal entities for CSO, SSO and stormwater infrastructure projects.

- ◆ Reauthorization of the Drinking Water SRF for three years at \$4.424 billion. Existing "Buy American" restrictions on non-American produced iron and steel will be extended through 2023.
- ◆ New two-year, \$8 million grant program for small and disadvantaged communities to support drinking water infrastructure.
- ◆ Formally authorizing EPA's WaterSense program, which the President had been attempting to eliminate.
- ◆ New grant program to provide \$1 million per year in fiscal years 2019 and 2020 to eligible organizations to provide water workforce job training, such as on-the-job training, skills development, apprenticeships, test-preparation, and other purposes.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works put out a [bipartisan press release](#) following passage of the legislation on Wednesday.



The Rapid City Water Reclamation Facility, located along Rapid Creek east of the city, may get \$26 million in upgrades to maintain capacity and quality. (Photo: Bart Pfankuch)

Upgrading wastewater systems a \$160 million task in South Dakota

Officials with the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources said in that "the biggest issue facing wastewater treatment in South Dakota and the United States is repair and replacement of aging infrastructure, along with funding for new technologies."

The DENR indicated that the State Water Plan, which guides project proposals and funding, now includes 36 identified but unfunded wastewater projects of various types with a combined cost of \$157 million.

With the massive demand for upgrades increasing the state is now looking into different funding opportunities and staffing needs, especially for small communities, which makes up about 80 percent of South Dakota's municipalities.

To learn more about South Dakota's planned water upgrades, [click here](#).



Another year, another great WEFTEC! WEF CSC WEFTEC Recap

The WEF Collection System Committee (CSC) hosted a meeting on Sunday, September 30 during the 2018 WEFTEC conference with nearly 100 members in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Dianne Sumego turned over to Luis Leon, Past Chair for the introduction of the New Vice Chair and promotion of officers.



CSC Past Chair Dianne Sumego with CLC Chair Keith McCormack (Photo: WEF)

The leadership for the 2018-2019 year includes Chair, Kevin Waldron, Chair-Elect Jim Hewitt, Vice-Chair Srin Vallabhaneni, and Dianne Sumego as Past Chair. Chair Kevin Waldron started the meeting with the recognition of outgoing chair Dianne Sumego. Dianne completes his third year in the Chair succession of the new organizational structure serving as chair. THANK YOU Dianne for your leadership!

After announcing the new leadership team for 2018-2019, Kevin Waldron recognized Outgoing Subcommittee Chairs and Group Leaders, whose dedication is a direct correlation to the success of our committee. Outgoing leaders recognized:

- ◆ Jimmy Stewart: Member Services
- ◆ Fernando Gonzales: WEFTEC
- ◆ Jaime Davidson: Program Symposia
- ◆ Mattie Engels: Webcasts
- ◆ Chris Ranck: Modeling TPG
- ◆ Justin Fenton: Awards
- ◆ Joe Strauch: Specialty Conference



CSC outgoing Subcommittee Chairs (L-R) J. Stewart, J. Davidson, M. Engels, C. Ranck (Photo: WEF)

Thank you to our Outgoing leaders for your efforts and leadership!

This year's Golden Manhole award recipients were announced by Steve Drangsholt and Dianne Sumego and given a deserved recognition by attendees. The Golden Manhole award recognizes professionals in our industry whom have gone above and beyond in both their professional and volunteer lives to help with the education, and improvement of our environment. This year's Golden Manhole recipients were:

- ◆ Dave Brown
- ◆ Gary Moore
- ◆ Christy Willson
- ◆ Chris Ranck
- ◆ Chip Smith
- ◆ Joan Hawley



Golden Manhole Awardee Gary Moore (Photo: WEF)

Outgoing Chair Dianne Sumego announced the Collection System award this year was being presented during the presidential Awards ceremony to Jim Hewitt for his 30 years of service to our industry at the Local, State, and National levels.



Special speaker Dr. Mo Najafi (Photo: WEF)

Our first guest technical speaker this year was Dr. Mo Najafi PE, F.ASCE Professor and Director Center for Underground Infrastructure Research and Education (CUIRE) at The University of Texas at Arlington. He gave an enlightening presentation on the Review Literature on Chemical Emissions and Worker Exposure Associated with CIPP Installations.

Our Second guest technical speakers were Patrick Woodall and Chris Parrish from the City of Atlanta. They gave a very interesting presentation on the work being performed in the Atlanta "Smart Sewer" program.

Committee activity highlight presentations were provided by Jaime Davidson for WEFTEC Program, Carl Chan for Modeling TPG, and Karyn Stickle for the Specialty Conference sub-committee.

This year's meeting included Live Polling during the meeting. Several questions were posed to attendees with responses via text messaging utilizing the Poll Everywhere app. Tabulated results were live displayed. Kevin Waldron led a roundtable discussion on the results of the Live Polling. The data captured from this will be beneficial for committee leadership to further refine the committee's mission, level of engagement, succession, growth planning, and ultimately the completion of our CSC Committee Plan that will be rolled out at Mid-Year.



Golden Manhole Awardee Dave Brown (Photo: WEF)

Texas Teams Sweep 2018 Operations Challenge Competition

One of the most anticipated events during WEFTEC, Operations Challenge is a unique and fast-paced test of the essential skills needed to operate and maintain wastewater treatment facilities, their collection systems, and laboratories—all vital to the protection of public health and the environment. This year's competition also featured the first time comprised entirely of women. Charlie's Angels, and representing the Water Environment Association of South Carolina. The event also broadened its international scope with the introduction of Acueducto de Bogota, the first team from Colombia to compete.

Over the past 31 years, Operations Challenge has steadily grown from the original 22-team event to this year's 44-team, two-division format. Teams are judged on the best combination of precision, speed, and safety. The winners are determined by a weighted point system for five events including collection systems, laboratory, maintenance, safety, and process control. This year's maintenance event tested teams' ability to perform routine maintenance on a submersible pump-- provided by KSB-- following a trouble alarm caused by a non-flushable wipe.

Winners in both divisions included:

Division 1:

- ◆ **First Place:** TRA CREWSers, WEA of Texas
- ◆ **Second Place:** OCWA Jets, WEA of Ontario
- ◆ **Third Place:** Elevated Ops, Rocky Mountain WEA

Division 2:

- ◆ **First Place:** Poseidons, WEA of Texas
- ◆ **Second Place:** Waste Warriors, WEA of Texas
- ◆ **Third Place:** Wasatch All Stars, WEA of Utah

WEFTEC 2018 Crowd Sets Record For New Orleans

With 20,740 registrants, the Water Environment Federation's (WEF) 91st annual technical exhibition and conference drew the most registrants ever for New Orleans and lived up to its billing as the world's largest annual water quality event.

WEFTEC 2018 also featured 1,019 exhibitors using 299,850 net square feet of space to showcase the latest developments, technologies and services for the water sector.

WEFTEC 2018 highlights included:

- ◆ The refreshed **WATER'S WORTH IT®** campaign, which WEF updated with a clean, modern look, expanded messaging platform, a new set of outreach resources, and a video "Why Water's Worth It." [Read more.](#)
- ◆ Unveiling of the **ReNEW Water Project**, the first-ever assessment of the amount of resource recovery at U.S. water utilities, including in the areas of water reuse, energy generation, and nutrient recovery. [Read more.](#)
- ◆ The debut of the **Intelligent Water Systems Challenge**, won by a team from the Great Lakes Water Authority and University of Michigan. The challenge had teams use innovation and data to help solve some of the most difficult issues facing water and wastewater utilities. [Read more.](#)
- ◆ The recognition of **32 Utility of the Future Today** recipients for transformational work in community engagement, watershed stewardship, and recovery of resources such as water, energy, and nutrients. [Read more.](#)
- ◆ Twenty-two municipalities receiving recognition in the **National Municipal Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Awards**, which celebrate administrators of municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) that perform beyond regulatory requirements. [Read more.](#)
- ◆ A beer garden to showcase **Pure Water Brew**, the world's most sustainable beer made from recycled water. The beer is a result of collaboration between pioneering brewers and water utilities. [Read more.](#)
- ◆ The 12th annual **Community Service Project**, which involved the installation of a rain garden and educational graphic about green infrastructure at Tremé Recreational Community Center.

WEFTEC 2019 will be held **September 21-25, 2019** at McCormick Place in Chicago. Planning is already underway.

Did You Know?

Wastewater 101: NapaSan Launches Citizens' Academy To Teach Residents about Water Services



When word began spreading on Facebook and through local media that the Napa Sanitation District ([NapaSan](#)) would be hosting its first citizens' academy this fall, Stephanie Turnipseed tried to keep her expectations in check.

In the past, we've found that people just don't want to know what happens when they flush the toilet," said Turnipseed, pollution prevention and outreach coordinator for NapaSan, which serves 80,000 customers in and around Napa, Calif.

But when the registration deadline arrived on Aug. 15, a total of 28 residents — nearly double the number Turnipseed expected — signed up for the free, four-week educational program. On the morning of Oct. 6, the group met for the first time. They took an in-depth tour of NapaSan's treatment facility along the Napa River. Participants are spending the next three Tuesday evenings participating in classes on water reclamation, onsite energy production, and the beneficial reuse of biosolids.

Each 2.5-hour session included a presentation by NapaSan managers, a hands-on activity or demonstration, and a light dinner. Turnipseed said program costs, including food, supplies, and advertising, totaled about \$1,000, not including staff time.

The district got the idea for the academy from the City of Napa, which launched its own citizens' academy to improve residents' understanding of city government, Turnipseed said. They also took tips from the larger-scale Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Martinez, Calif.), which hosts a citizens' academy focused on water recycling and resource recovery.

NapaSan's community outreach also includes school-based education programs, community plant tours, and an annual open house. The effort reflects the independent special district's desire to change public perception of their role in the community. To change perceptions, the district also rebranded, changing its name from Napa Sanitation District to NapaSan in early 2017, Turnipseed said.



A NapaSan employee educates a tour group about wastewater treatment processes. (Photo: NapaSan)

[Click here](#) to read more about NapaSan's Citizens' Academy!

*Keep reading and keep sharing! The WEF CSC Member Association e-Newsletter is going **quarterly!***

Share any successes, milestones, events, initiatives, innovations, fun ideas, etc. with all in our collection systems community by emailing a short summary to Bri Nakamura at bnakamura@wef.org

This issue is brought to you by...

WEF CSC MA Outreach E-Newsletter Team

- ◆ Chip Smith, Member Services Chair, *North Carolina AWWA-WEA, South Carolina WEA, GAWP*
- ◆ Stephen King, *Alabama WEA, Kentucky-Tennessee WEA*
- ◆ Stuart Bowns, *Kentucky-Tennessee WEA*
- ◆ David Brown, *North Carolina AWWA-WEA, Virginia WEA*
- ◆ Daniel Coleman, *Chesapeake WEA, Virginia WEA*
- ◆ Jane McLamarrah, *WEA of South Carolina*
- ◆ Jerome Iltis, *WEA of Texas*
- ◆ Jimmy Stewart, *Alabama WEA, Chesapeake WEA, GAWP*

- ◆ Kara Keleher, *New England WEA*
- ◆ Roger Lehman, *Pennsylvania WEA*
- ◆ Christine Radke, *Chesapeake WEA, Virginia WEA*
- ◆ Michael Quamme, *North Dakota WEA*
- ◆ Heather Veal, *GAWP*

WEF CSC Leadership and Support

- ◆ Kevin Waldron, Chair, *Kansas WEA, Missouri WEA*
- ◆ Jim Hewitt, Chair-Elect, *Ohio WEA*
- ◆ Sriniv Vallabhaneni, Vice Chair, *Indiana WEA*
- ◆ Dianne Sumego, Past Chair, *Ohio WEA*
- ◆ Bri Nakamura, *WEF Staff Liaison*