



2018 Recognition Luncheon

Presented by the
Association of Environmental Authorities

March 13-14, 2018
Caesar's, Atlantic City





2018 Wave Awards

Best Management Practices

Ocean County UA

Ocean County UA is being honored with a 2018 Wave Award for Best Management following the installation of Roof Fall Protection at the southern Water Pollution Control Facility and the Southern Service Area Pumping Stations. This investment will reduce costs associated with workplace injuries and lost worker-hours, mitigating financial risk and liability to the OCUA. Workers at OCUA access the roofs through hatchways, and some equipment to be maintained located close to the roof edge, with no fall protection. These improvements change that. Management spread the cost of these improvements over the course of five years, minimizing impact on the OCUA's operations budget while still resulting in the desired safety improvements. With nine plant outbuildings and 13 pumping stations overall in the facility, the project could have been a burden, but smart management minimized the impact while still achieving the overall goal.

Energy Savers

North Hudson SA

In recognition of the strides they've made in leak detection, North Hudson SA is being honored with an Energy Saver Wave Award for 2018. The project, conducted in conjunction with SUEZ, owner and operator of the water utility, used closed circuit television equipment to inspect the water mains leading to the authority's combined sewer systems. This allowed the authority to identify and focus on hot spots that can further improve the authority's collaboration with SUEZ. Critical areas were pinpointed, and both utilities quickly realized reduction in flows. The Leak Detection Program demonstrates the value chain approach to conserving water and reducing embodied energy. The authority's estimated average energy cost is 2,352 kilowatt-hours per million gallons of water. By reducing flow by two million gallons per day (approximately 20%), the authority has saved \$103,000 in electricity each year — or more than \$5 million over 50 years.

Ocean County UA

Thanks to pump upgrades that have resulted in a more efficient system that uses less energy and that will pay for itself over time as a result, the Ocean County UA is being recognized with a 2018 Energy Savers Wave Award. The project was budgeted at just under \$200,000, but because of extensive planning and good fiscal management, the infrastructure upgrades could be self-funded by OCUA through the capital projects improvement program funds. The infrastructure improvements came about after flow studies revealed that more efficient pumping at Pump Station 6 could be achieved with the installation of a new pump. The new equipment is expected to benefit the community for many years to come through more efficient usage, lower costs to

run the station, and a reliable and well-maintained wastewater conveyance system. To date, the project has resulted in a two-year average energy reduction of 229,600 kilowatts – a significant change.

Forward Thinking Award

Cape May County MUA

Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority studied long-term solutions for managing biosolids that produced an array of useful and viable biosolids management approaches and demonstrated CMCMUA's options in the event third-party disposal is no longer efficient. As a result of this study project, CMCMUA is being honored with a 2018 Forward Thinking Wave Award. The project was undertaken because the authority's in-vessel sludge composting facility, which opened in 1987, was reaching the end of its useful life. The study explored anaerobic digestion and energy utilization; biosolids composting; biosolids drying; high-temperature combustion/oxidation and energy production and utilization; chemical sterilization; and third-party disposal. The study sought to weigh economic, technical, environmental, and social impacts as well as the degree of self-sufficiency each option would provide to CMCMUA. Ultimately, CMCMUA decided to continue to use third-party disposal because it would be the best route for the community. But because of the careful and comprehensive study, CMCMUA now has at hand a number of other viable options to fall back on in the event that third-party solutions cease to become the best route for the Authority.

North Hudson SA

North Hudson SA is a recipient of a Wave Award for Forward Thinking in 2018, for three endeavors: an asset management program, creation of a waterbody advisory system, and installation of a new wet weather pump station within the authority's service area. These combined efforts in planning, communication, and technologies will play an integral role for the community, protecting its environment. Two distinct GIS technologies which collect and collate a wealth of data on the authority's infrastructure for the asset management plan will reap long-term dividends in helping the Authority extend asset life and performance while reducing capital and operating costs. Meanwhile, the waterbody advisory system provides real-time, health-related information to the public whenever the NHSA combined sewer system overflows into the Hudson River, thus alerting boaters and fisherman when contact with the river water near outfall locations should be avoided. And finally, the new wet weather pump station is designed to alleviate flooding in the northwest sections of Hoboken. These three separate but interlinked endeavors combine to ensure that in the future, the authority is better able to respond quickly and accurately to situations that may impact the public it serves.

Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission

The Clean Waterways, Healthy Neighborhoods endeavor has earned Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) a 2018 Forward Thinking Wave Award. Working in conjunction with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension on community outreach, this project has helped inform the public on how green infrastructure can be utilized for stormwater management. It has achieved this through workshops, the development of nearly 40 municipal green-infrastructure feasibility plans, and seven demonstration projects, with three more planned for 2018. The goal is to create and utilize a branding that would help encourage the public and the municipalities to

embrace the area waterways as a resource that can improve the health of their communities, and in turn, to win their support for investing in clean water infrastructure through improvements to the wastewater treatment plant, CSO and stormwater controls. In addition, the Clean Waterways, Healthy Neighborhoods project helps showcase PVSC as a steward of the Passaic River, committed to investing in and improving the Passaic River as a resource to the region. This extended effort to shape public perception and understanding will benefit the community for years to come.

Sussex County MUA

For developing a six-phase plan to increase the lifespan and capacity of its landfill, the Sussex County MUA is being honored with a 2018 Wave Award for Forward Thinking. SCMUA's existing landfill is expected to reach capacity by 2021. At that time, the facility is scheduled to close and the authority will have to arrange for alternate disposal of county-generated waste. This project changes all that. In the first of six phases, SCMUA constructed approximately 2,400 linear feet of MSE berm, extended the landfill base liner system, and the constructed and installed of leachate side-riser valve chambers and electrical houses. This phase enables the landfill to remain open another eight years, it came in \$2 million less than initial estimates, and it provides the first step in an innovative, cost effective and environmentally sound landfill expansion. When all six phases are completed, this long-term project will offer an additional 40 years of capacity — through 2062. It also will provide revenue to support ongoing SCMUA solid waste operations.

Outstanding Associate Member



Bill Gettings

Bill Gettings, of Hazen and Sawyer, is being honored with a 2018 Outstanding Associate Member award in recognition for his dedication and hard work for the AEA, which is the latest of many significant contributions Hazen and Sawyer has made to AEA over the years.

Several years ago, Bill was drafted to head a new version of the long-standing AEA Conference Committee — the AEA Education and Conference Committee. With his background with the AWWA NJ Education Committee, his management skill, and his engineering background, Bill was instrumental in developing a newly invigorated committee that has been actively engaged in planning and/or advising on all AEA education and training efforts, including the Environmental Professional Development Academy. Led by Bill, the committee developed new approaches to finding and selecting conference and workshop speakers, and it helped AEA adapt when it became a direct provider of water and wastewater credits. Under Bill, the committee has evolved to play an indispensable role in developing content, reviewing proposals, choosing speakers, choosing relevant topics, supporting AEA education and training, reviewing conference reports and offering ideas and approaches to enhance AEA programs. AEA's overall education programs, workshops and conference have improved and are more relevant than ever thanks to Bill's tireless leadership.



Chris Langhart

For his dedication and efforts as a member of the AEA Legislative Committee, attorney Christopher Langhart is being recognized with a 2018 Wave Award for Outstanding Associate Member. Part of the McManimon, Scotland & Baumann team, a longtime AEA associate member organization, Chris has played a crucial role in AEA's legislative program by providing insightful feedback and thoughtful analysis of bills that affect or might affect AEA's members. Understanding the implications and impact of a new bill often takes a legal expert, and Chris has been generous in volunteering his time to fill that role, frequently at a moment's notice. Chris's deep understanding of New Jersey laws and regulations has been a source of strength to the AEA Legislative Committee. Chris's service and cheerful dedication have benefited every member of AEA. Those efforts make Christopher Langhart one of the AEA's most outstanding volunteers.

Life Member



Mike Ruppel

Many active and dedicated veteran AEA volunteers deserve to be nominated for Life Member recognition. This year, the AEA staff and Executive Committee overwhelmingly agreed that the nominee should be Mike Ruppel. On the South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority (SMRSA) website, you'll find the words "dedicated to protecting the environment." Mike's leadership proves those are

not just words. Under Mike's leadership, SMRSA has developed the ability to produce up to 68-percent of its monthly power through co-generation. SMRSA has received multiple Wave Awards under Mike, and it also won a 2014 Governor's Excellence Award for developing a portable pump station. As president of the AEA, Mike has worked to reinforce the idea that those who work in public agencies are public servants, and he has been key in establishing AEA as the voice of public water/wastewater/solid waste agencies. He has been a founder and strong advocate of the Environmental Professional Development Academy (EPDA), and he was a driving force behind AEA's establishing an Ethics Committee. As a Life Member, Mike will have the opportunity to continue to play an important role in AEA. His leadership and work are lasting, and this is why he is being given this honor.

Outstanding Commissioner

Members of the Board of Commissioners of Western Monmouth MUA

Each member of the Board of Commissioners of the Western Monmouth Utilities Authority (WMUA) is being recognized this year with an Outstanding Commissioner Wave Award. This break in tradition – the award is typically granted to a single commissioner – comes in no small part thanks to the Board's potent support of the Environmental Professional Development Academy (EPDA), a key endeavor of the AEA going forward. The Board demonstrated vision, foresight and leadership in being willing to co-sponsor the EPDA. As a result, the WMUA's staff has been transformed through the program, developing competencies and relationships that benefit not just the authority, but the public it serves. In taking the risk they did, the WMUA Board has both proven themselves willing to think long-term and also fostered positive relationships and acted in the best interests of ratepayers by recognizing the importance of succession planning and employee development, both of which are core components of the EPDA program.

Up and Comer



Brian Valentino

In recognition of his tireless efforts in helping shape the Environmental Professional Development Academy (EPDA), Brian Valentino is being granted the 2018 Up and Comer Wave Award. Currently the executive director of the Western Monmouth Utilities Authority, Brian

was one of the founding members of the Professional Development Committee (PDC) in 2015, and he volunteered to put together a program to expose rising talents within AEA member organizations to utility management. Brian was not just instrumental in creating the vision for the EPDA that emerged, he has also devoted countless volunteer hours to helping others in the industry develop new skill areas and industry connections. Brian's students share his passion and his drive to succeed. Many of them have already seen promotions as a direct result of the competencies gained by attending the EPDA. Their passion has energized and strengthened AEA.

Public Education

Bergen County UA

In recognition of its Environmental Awareness Challenge Grant for Schools, Bergen County UA is being named a Public Education winner in the 2018 Wave Awards. Since 2007, the BCUA has awarded grants totaling \$708,381 to 745 schools through the program. The Environmental Awareness Challenge Grant Program is intended to increase recycling and environmental awareness in Bergen County schools. All Bergen County public and private schools may apply

for grants of up to \$1,000 to conduct activities related to the environment and environmental awareness. Evaluating projects for creativity, use of “green” or recycled products, projects that benefit a large number of people, and other factors, the program encourages students to explore issues related to recycling and/or litter abatement, air pollution, water pollution, energy conservation and solid waste management. In turn, the program provides financial assistance to schools in the community to initiate and/or expand environmental programs. The Environmental Awareness Challenge Grant Program is funded 100% from NJDEP’s Recycling Enhancement Act Tax Fund Entitlements.

Evesham MUA

The scope of Evesham MUA’s Public Outreach Initiative, which includes a festival, calendar, and more, has earned the authority a 2018 Wave Award for Public Education. Each year, Evesham MUA designs and distributes a calendar to help promote awareness of the water/wastewater industry. It includes information on trash and recycling, and more, giving residents a single point of reference for much that takes place in their community. Over the years, these handy calendars have proven to be a valuable resource for residents. The EMUA also sponsors the Evesham Township Harvest Festival each year, which is an opportunity for vendors to display products and services, and for local organizations to put on presentations. The authority is present each year, spreading awareness of water conservation initiatives, educating the public on composting, outlining issues that contribute to groundwater contamination, and other important topics.

Mt. Laurel Township MUA (2 awards in this category)

In recognition of the tour program that has greatly benefited public awareness of water and wastewater issues, especially with regard to sustainability, the MLTMUA is

being recognized with one of its two 2018 Wave Awards for Public Education. The MLTMUA provides tours throughout the year to groups seeking further education on the role the authority plays in providing safe, clean water to the community. Its visitors have included engineering students from Drexel, the Mount Laurel Green Team, the Rowan at BCC Green Energy Camp, the DEP's Division of Water Quality, and classes of school children. Sustainability is a major focus for the authority and has become an important part of its education outreach program. Rowan at BCC Environmental Science classes, Doane Academy's Strong Ethical Leaders class, the Environmental Stewards Program, and numerous high school classes have taken advantage of MLTMUA sustainability program. From operators to management, the staff at MLTMUA works hard to make the tours enjoyable and informative, so that the public better understands what is entailed in providing safe water to the community

Mount Laurel Township MUA's Social Media Outreach efforts have earned it a second Public Education award. In 2017, MLTMUA created a social media presence to better interact and serve its customers. The pages not only keep customers in-the-know about regular system repairs, holiday changes, and important notices, but they also put a local face to national issues facing the water industry. For example, one post showed equipment damaged from non-flushable wipes. Each post like this is a teachable moment to show residents how actions that may seem small, like flushing a paper towel or wipe, can have harmful consequences and be costly the utility. MLTMUA also uses the platforms to inform residents about infrastructure upgrades, which brings awareness to the infrastructure needs of our industry as well as the proactive work being done by the utility. Social media may be commonplace in most industries, but local authorities are still adapting to this form of communication. Mount Laurel Township MUA has shown it is a leader in embracing this technology to better serve and educate its customers.

Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission

As a result of its efforts for World Lab Day 2017, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) is being recognized with a 2018 Wave Award for Public Education. Collaborating with the laboratory staff and its Educational Outreach Program, PVSC hosted the Montclair High School Environmental Club at an event where students toured the PVSC treatment plant, saw safety training, and had training on four laboratory analyses. In addition, PVSC created a custom laboratory student workbook that provided an introduction and details on analyzing for chlorides, chemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids and fecal coliform. This event, which is part of PVSC's long running Educational Outreach Program with schools within the service district, provided the students with an opportunity to learn about careers in the field of wastewater treatment. The endeavor was successful enough that a second World Lab Day event was held in February 2018.

Western Monmouth UA

Western Monmouth UA public outreach and public education programs have earned it a 2018 Wave Award for Public Education. These endeavors include the annual Family Day, which allows families of employees to tour the facility and learn what takes place there; involvement with both Manalapan Day and Marlboro Day, during which WMUA does demonstrations and showcases equipment to educate the public on how the authority works in the community; the Explorer Program (Environmental Science and Stem Program) through which students learn about environmental science and how the authority maintains a healthy environment for the community; and the school science fairs which WMUA has been participating in since 1992. Through this endeavor, students have studied and performed experiments related to water quality. Select students are then granted the WMUA Water Environment Award and have an opportunity to tour the Authority facilities.

Special Recognition Award

Sid Weiss, Diane Alexander, Steve Blankenship, Dennis Palmer
In recognition of their tireless (and continuing) work in helping draft connection fee reform legislation, Diane Alexander of Maraziti Falcon, Sid Weiss of Southeast Morris County MUA, Steve Blankenship of Hamilton Township MUA, and Dennis Palmer of Landis SA are being honored with a special 2018 Wave Award. Their combined efforts for the last two years has resulted in a connection fee bill that preserves a significant revenue source for AEA members and protects them against legal challenges related to it. Diane, Steve, Sid and Dennis have held hours of conference calls and meetings, among themselves and with the New Jersey Builders Association, negotiating hard, rejecting what would not be in members' interests, writing language, and discussing various paths forward and strategies. The measure seeks to ensure that authorities that charge for increased use of their water and wastewater systems have solid statutory backing. It could spare them costs of potential court challenges. Authorities located in areas of redevelopment have a fair way of recovering infrastructure costs. The story of this bill is ongoing. In December, the bill passed both houses but was vetoed by the outgoing governor. The bill has been reintroduced in the new, 218th Legislative Session. Although the outcome is not guaranteed, AEA is optimistic about its chances with the Senate and Assembly and our new governor. In any case, regardless of the outcome, Sid, Dennis, Diane and Steve deserve recognition and thanks for the extraordinary volunteer effort over the last two years. AEA's success is tied directly to individuals like these.

Congratulations to the 2017 EPDA Cohort

Dwayne Angley, Western Monmouth UA
William Apuzzo, South Monmouth RSA
Robert Bocchino, Rockaway Valley RSA
Jeffrey Booth, Evesham MUA
Rachel Brandt, Mt. Laurel MUA
Robert Brooks, Rockaway Valley RSA
Lana Carden, Plainfield MUA
Michael Cheety, Western Monmouth UA
Diallyo Diggs, Willingboro MUA
Larry Gindoff, Morris County MUA
Duane Gudzak, Ocean County UA
Dollie Hamlin, Plainfield MUA
Richard Ingenito, Ocean County UA
James Irons, Ocean County UA
George Kasternakis, Western Monmouth UA
Edward Kovacs, Jr., Western Monmouth UA
Bruce Matano, Western Monmouth UA
Ryan Mee, Ocean County UA
Joseph M. Natale, Hanover SA
Harry Nogowski, Ocean County UA
Lisa Oberreiter, Passaic Valley SC
Karen Oliver, South Monmouth RSA
Robert Pala, Western Monmouth UA
Richard Peal, Western Monmouth UA
Natalie M. Pisarrik, Rockaway Valley RSA
Scott Rosen, Ocean County UA
Keith Staples, Ocean County UA
Kyle E. Stewart, Stony Brook RSA
Christopher Vandenberg, Evesham MUA

Notes

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