



CT-AWWA/CWWA News

The newsletter of the CT-Section American Water Works and the Connecticut Water Works Associations

January 2004

What's the difference between the CT-AWWA and CWWA anyway?

By Dan Lesnieski, Chair of CT-AWWA and Ken Skov, President of CWWA

It may be confusing to have two separate organizations with a joint newsletter and joint fall and spring meetings. The two sister organizations often work hand in hand and most members belong to both organizations. The objectives of the Connecticut Section of the American Water Works Association (CT-AWWA) and the Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) are to further the water industry, but they go about it in different ways.

CT-AWWA is part of the 50,000-member American Water Works Association (AWWA), an international nonprofit scientific and education society, dedicated to the improvement of drinking water quality and supply. It is the largest and oldest organization of water supply professionals in the world.

CT-AWWA's 700+ members represent more than 60 utilities that supply water to approximately 3 million Connecticut residents as well as firms providing services and products to water utilities and regulators. Its committees include Associates, Water for People, Lab Operations, Education, Young Professionals, Cross Connections, Operator Certification, Water Conservation, Water Resources, the current committee on Security, and many more. Many of the technical committee members work closely with CWWA in developing positions and testifying on state legislative and regulatory issues.

CT-AWWA is dedicated to the promotion of public health and welfare by assuring drinking water is of unquestionable quality and sufficient quantity. By advancing the technology, science and federal governmental policies relative to the public drinking water profession's role in the stewardship of water resources, CT-AWWA strives to be an instrument of change in water technology.

While CT-AWWA is concerned with the overall water industry, CWWA actively promotes effective state policies that assure high quality public water supplies to protect public health.

CWWA is an association of Connecticut water utilities, open to all Connecticut water utilities. There are currently 27 publicly-owned (municipal and regional), 19 investor-owned and one Tribal Nation-owned utilities in the Association.

Each year, CWWA, through its Board and Legislative Committee, develops a government affairs agenda that outlines specific legislative and regulatory goals aimed at improving Connecticut's water resources planning, management and allocation policies. CWWA lobbies state lawmakers and public officials on proposed legislation and regulations. For example, CWWA won



continued on page 2

We're now In-Flow-Line

Beginning with the April issue of this newsletter, you'll notice the clever new name, **In-Flow-Line**. It was suggested and enhanced by "Bobby D" Robert D'Onofrio of EPPCO and a few cohorts, respectively, and is currently undergoing design. Thanks for coming through for us, Bobby. You always seem to be there when we need you!

ATCAVE 2004

Plans are under way for ATCAVE 2004 to be presented Wednesday, February 25 at the Aqua Turf in Southington.

The Associates Committee, chaired by Jack Jolls of Weston & Sampson, is once again the hosting committee for the vendors. Early registration of vendors is on track for a sell out.

Two courses for CEU credits will be offered in the morning session. The Cross Connections committee will present a shortened reprise of its very popular course that sold out in the fall, and NEWWA will present a course titled "How to Set Priorities and Make Decisions Under Pressure." CT Section members and smaller systems will receive a mailing that can be used to sign up for these courses.

The general session will run from 11:15 AM to 12:45 PM and will be opened by section chair Dan Lesnieski of Connecticut Water Company. Presenters will include Dr. Gerald Iwan of the Department of Public Health who will provide an update of the restructure of the health department, and John Herlihy of Aquarion Water Company who will provide an update on Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule and Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule.

The revamped school-to-career symposium will focus on college students. The Young Professional Committee, chaired by Matt Stosse of Connecticut Water Company, will coordinate that portion of the day. There will also be a job posting board.

The Young Professionals are also hosting "Fresh Ideas", a new national AWWA program that is described on Page 6 of this issue of the newsletter.

A highlight of the afternoon will be a keynote address on a "hot topic for CT Section".

Registration and lunch assistance will once again be provided by the Membership Committee, chaired by Rob Olejarczyk of Regional Water Authority. For further information on ATCAVE 2004, contact Section Coordinator Pam Monahan at 203-757-1855. 

CT-AWWA/CWWA News

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Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc.
President: Kenneth Skov, Waterbury Water Department

Connecticut Section, AWWA Chair: Dan Lesnieski, Connecticut Water Company

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What's the difference . . . ?

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passage of legislation protecting security-related water company information from disclosure under the state's Freedom of Information law and legislation exempting back-up wells and emergency interconnections from the diversion permitting process. The CWWA accomplished this while successfully defeating dozens of potentially harmful bills.

CWWA members receive timely updates on new and pending laws and regulations as well as information on how to comply with state and federal laws and policies. While membership is limited to water utilities, firms that provide services or products that support the industry may become CWWA supporters. Water utility members may also add utility staff to the membership list by paying a nominal annual fee.

Now that you know the difference between the CT-AWWA and CWWA please continue to be active in both of these organizations. To get involved or obtain more information about CT Section AWWA, contact Member Services Coordinator Pam Monahan at 203-757-1855 or grdsuccess@aol.com. To become involved with CWWA, or learn more about legislative and regulatory issues, contact Executive Director Betsy Gara, at 860-547-0566 or GaraLLC@hotmail.com. 💧

CWWA Contact Information

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CWWA Board Approves 2004

Government Affairs Agenda

CWWA's Board of Directors approved its 2004 Government Affairs Agenda on December 12. The approved agenda includes the following top legislative priorities:

- 💧 Improve the water planning process by defining the scope and responsibility of an overarching water resources governing body
- 💧 Streamline the diversion permitting process
- 💧 Reject efforts to impede the abandonment process where sources are not needed by a utility
- 💧 Reject efforts to unfairly impose conservation easements on water company lands
- 💧 Amend the state Department of Utility Control's (DPUC) definition of "small water companies" to exempt small companies from filing rate cases under certain circumstances
- 💧 Protect Connecticut's public water supplies by rejecting efforts to revise the minimum stream flow regulations in ways that are not consistent with good science and data
- 💧 Improve the Water Utility Coordinating Committee process by promoting consistency between the Water Utility Coordinating Committee and an individual water supply plan and addressing conflict resolution
- 💧 Safeguard Connecticut's public water supplies by rejecting efforts to undermine legislation adopted last year that protects the confidentiality of security-related water company information
- 💧 Authorize, through the use of the general permit process, the use of drinking water supply treatment plant residual solids for blending in compost or topsoil consistent with best management practices and controls
- 💧 Authorize the transfer of existing registered or permitted diversions
- 💧 Revise the minimum water diversion threshold for regulating withdrawals and permitting requirements
- 💧 Restore funding for the state's Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Program
- 💧 Authorize municipal water companies to execute municipal service fee warrants to collect unpaid fees for water, sewer and sanitation services
- 💧 Require municipalities to enforce water use restrictions during drought emergencies.

The Connecticut General Assembly convenes on February 4, 2004 and adjourns on May 5, 2004. 💧

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Connecticut DPH's Water Supplies Section Becomes the Drinking Water Division

In the summer of 2002, the Water Supplies Section of the Department of Public Health officially became the Drinking Water Division (DWD). That recognition coincided with a number of changes occurring within the DWD. Significantly, the staff was faced with considerable data responsibilities that the Safe Drinking Water Act required. It was also confronting the increased security brought about by the events of 9/11. The Department was reorganizing and the general environment of downsizing, improvements in efficiencies and the need to be customer friendly brought a time of change.

To address these issues, a restructuring of the DWD was undertaken. The goals were improvements in efficiencies, regulatory consistency, and opportunity for the staff to better serve the public. Over the years, a number of changes had been considered and are now being applied.

The previous regional structure has been replaced by a functional organization consisting of a Compliance Unit to address all regulatory/enforcement issues; an Engineering/Design Unit for plan reviews and approvals, including the Certificate Process and DWSRF; the Drinking Water Source Protection Unit that oversees implementation of the SWAP and water company lands permits; a Planning Unit, covering all aspects of the Water Utility Coordinating Committee process, individual water supply plans and legislative response; a Programs Unit, focused on public outreach, information, capacity development and administration of federal grants and an Operator Certification Unit which has oversight of operator certification, cross connection and security initiatives.

As with all new endeavors, change can be difficult or provide opportunity. It is the intent of the DWD to confront the challenges presented by a changing world. 💧

DPH's Water Security & Emergency Response Committee to Distribute Handbook

To help protect the public from the heightened threat of intentional contamination, the DPH Drinking Water Division has formed the Water Security & Emergency Response Committee. The Committee includes representatives of EPA Region 1, the Department of Environmental Protection, Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association, the Connecticut Section of the American Water Works Association, Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and the Connecticut Department of Public Health's Drinking Water Division working in partnership.

The Committee has developed a handbook that provides practical water security guidance to assist drinking water system personnel in developing vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans. It contains critical information on procedures to use when responding to and reporting credible incidents including proper lines of communication with state and local law enforcement, first responders and Federal and State regulatory agency personnel.

The Handbook will be made available at upcoming regional workshops to be held March 1 (Rocky Hill); March 3 (Groton); March 9 (Litchfield) and March 11 (Southbury). The objective of each of the four regional workshops is to communicate to community drinking water system personnel and first responders their responsibilities and relationships during an emergency, to increase their awareness of security and response issues, and to assist them with incorporating these issues into their day-to-day activities. It is the Division's goal to train drinking water system operators in security measures that become part of routine water system operations. This goal is primary to the Drinking Water Division's security mission. 💧

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Operator Exams Scheduled

The Drinking Water Division of the Department of Public Health has scheduled Operator Certification Exams, which will be held at the Metropolitan District Commission Training Center in Hartford. The dates and deadlines are:

Small Water System

Exam date: March 16, application Deadline: February 6

Water Treatment Plant Operator

Exam date: June 15, application deadline: May 7

Distribution System Operator

Exam date: June 16, application deadline: May 7

Exam applications are available at:

www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/DWD.htm

From there, click on "Drinking Water Division Programs", then "Operator Certification Program" and finally "Examination Dates and Application Packages".

For more information on the certification exams, contact Jennifer Pagach, Connecticut Department of Public Health at (860) 509-7333 or e-mail robert.rivard@po.state.ct.us. 💧

AWWA Announces Seminars on Vulnerability Assessments for Small and Medium Water Utilities

Utility personnel responsible for developing and implementing security plans and procedures for utilities serving less than 50,000 are invited to attend one of six regional Vulnerability Assessment seminars. Thanks to special funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, AWWA is able to offer this seminar at no cost for up to two representatives from each utility. Course material is licensed from AWWA Research Foundation and Sandia National Laboratories.

Each two-day seminar will cover subjects such as:

- 💧 How to plan and prioritize for your assessment
- 💧 How to identify threats to your utility
- 💧 How to identify facilities and assets that need to be protected
- 💧 How to understand the consequences of the loss of an asset
- 💧 How to evaluate your system's effectiveness in preventing an attack
- 💧 How to assess your risks
- 💧 How to develop a plan to reduce risk through operational changes

Seminar dates and locations:

January 7 – 8: Rapid City, SD
 January 21 – 22: Columbus, OH
 February 3 – 4: Birmingham, AL
 February 23 – 24: Boise, ID
 March 2 – 3: Prescott, AZ
 March 24 – 25: Oklahoma City, OK

Register and obtain hotel information at:

<https://www.awwa.org/education/seminars/register.cfm?SemID/=13> 💧

Rep. Pat Widlitz Receives CWWA's Legislator of the Year Award



(l to r) Cindy Fazendeiro, Connecticut Water Company; Tom Villa, Norwalk Second Water District; Rep. Pat Widlitz, and Carlene Kulisch, Regional Water Authority.

Representative Pat Widlitz (D-Guilford, Branford) received the Connecticut Water Works Association's Legislator of the Year Award for her outstanding leadership on issues affecting Connecticut's public water supplies and water quality.

"Rep. Widlitz has demonstrated a deep dedication to public health and environmental quality," said Carlene Kulisch of the South Central Regional Water Authority and CWWA Legislative Committee Officer. "This year, Rep. Widlitz championed legislation that will help water companies respond to water supply emergencies by authorizing the use of back-up wells and emergency interconnections."

"Throughout her legislative career, Rep. Widlitz has displayed a tremendous ability to balance the competing interests of various stakeholders and move forward with legislation that makes sense for Connecticut citizens," added Cindy Fazendeiro of the Connecticut Water Company and CWWA Legislative Committee Officer.

"In 1995, as a freshman legislator, Rep. Widlitz was instrumental in passing legislation to protect watershed areas. And now, as the Co-Chair of the Environment Committee, Rep. Widlitz continues to work for quality water, recognizing that Connecticut residents rely on public water utilities to provide them with safe, high quality water at a reasonable cost," said Tom Villa of Norwalk 2nd District Water Department and CWWA Legislative Committee Officer.

The award was presented to Rep. Widlitz at CWWA's Annual Fall Meeting. 💧

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OPINION

Safety: Is it just overhead for management and more rules and regulations for employees?

By William Greenhalgh

Well, let's look at it another way. Both management and employees understand that the work has to be done. The public depends on our combined services for their water supply needs. Everyone is concerned about money.

Management concentrates on customer satisfaction and control of the bottom line. Employees do the actual work that ensures that the water supply system continues to function. The public expects quality and economy for the fees they pay.

What we all must realize is that without people, there is no industry at all. Each of us has to remain alive and capable of performing our particular functions in order for the water supply system to function. All of the skilled training and years of experience are meaningless; all the managers, methods and technology mean nothing and the needs of the public and the fees they pay will be of no use if the people who do the work are sick, injured or no longer with us.

The philosophy of safety is that anything that is not part of the solution becomes part of the problem and adds to everyone's workload. Even professional rescuers and other safety providers realize that they can't give assistance if their own lives are jeopardized. Despite this obvious observation, accidents account for more deaths and disabling injuries to work-age people than any diseases known.

No job is more important than the person or persons tasked with doing it. By making safety part of the solution, managers can help their bottom lines by reducing health and compensation costs and as a by product, ensure a fully available work force to address work needs. Customers can realize lower rates and better responses to service issues. If employees accept safety as part of the solution, they will ensure that they will still be there and physically able to do the work that needs to be done.

As each of you does your best to perform your function in the environmental business of providing safe potable water services to the world, consider safety in every action that might jeopardize or seriously compromise your ability to be there for the next job.

William Greenhalgh, a Chemist/Safety Coordinator with Earth Tech's Safety Department in the New England Region, has 31 years of experience in coordinating and managing environmental and safety compliance services.

Those interested in finding out more about specific safety concerns in our industry are invited to join the CT-AWWA Safety Committee. Contact Fred Rogers at 860-628-5593 or e-mail him at frogers@southingtonwater.coxatwork.com

Volunteers are sought for Section's Booth at CPTV Science Expo

The Connecticut Section of the American Water Works Association again will sponsor a booth at the annual CPTV Science Expo, April 1-4 (Thursday through Sunday), 2004, at the Connecticut Expo Center in Hartford. The theme of the expo is "Science: Improving Life in the 21st Century."

The Section's Public Information Committee is planning the booth and is recruiting volunteers. Volunteers will be needed in four-hour blocks from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Thursday and Friday and 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM on Saturday and Sunday. Those who cannot volunteer for four hours may schedule a suitable time.

To volunteer, please call Matt Nozzolio at the MDC, 860-278-7850, ext. 3209, or send an email to mnozzolio@themdc.com.

The Expo is geared toward children between the ages of 4 and 14. There will be a total of more than 35 booths, which will be providing hands-on science activities. The event attracts about 20,000 children each year. Thursday and Friday will be dedicated as "School Days" and Saturday and Sunday will be open to the public. Please plan to help with this important project. 



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CT-AWWA Young Professionals Committee

The Young Professionals Committee in conjunction with the Associates Committee issued a call for papers entitled, *Fresh Ideas*. The program is open to professionals under age 35 or those new to the water industry. Papers will be judged at ATCAVE 2004 and the author of the best paper will win \$300 toward the expense of going to the annual conference. Abstracts were due on December 12.

Also, the Young Professionals Committee in conjunction with the Small Systems Committee is in the process of sending out a mailing that is designed to gather information needed to update the Technical Assistance Directory (TAD). The committee then plans to update the TAD and make it available in a format most useful to small systems.

Matt Stosse, the Young Professionals Committee Chair, sees the committee as one that gets involved with other committees to help them achieve their goals. This allows the committee members to network and get a flavor for all aspects of the CT Section – AWWA.

Matt reports that the committee has three new members for a total of 10. Others interesting in joining the committee or learning more about its work can contact Matt Stosse at the Connecticut Water Company, 860-669-8630, or mstosse@ctwater.com 💧



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Water Utility Lands Conference: Providing Source Protection and Open Space

Some 140 water utility professionals, lawmakers, public officials, land managers, town planners, and land trust and environmental organization representatives gathered recently to hear varied viewpoints on whether Connecticut water utilities should be allowed to abandon their reservoirs and sell the surrounding land for development.

Julie Belaga framed the issue from the Endangered Lands Coalition perspective and declared that the continued consolidation of the water industry put 110,000 acres of water utility lands in the state at risk of being sold for development. CWWA Executive Director Elizabeth Gara countered by noting that more than 90 percent of the approximate 3,600 acres of water company lands surrounding abandoned reservoirs had been preserved as open space or used for town purposes.

Remaining panel discussions explored: The Connecticut Fund for the Environment's latest legislative proposal that would require the DPH to consider the statewide need for a reservoir before approving its abandonment; ways to collaborate to protect water company lands and eminent domain and takings issues. 💧

Water Planning Council Advisory Group Submits First Report

The Water Planning Council Advisory Group (WPCAG) completed and submitted on November 20 its initial report to the Water Planning Council. The report reviews the work of the six 2002 subcommittees of the Water Planning Council (WPC). The WPCAG primary recommendation is for the WPC to initiate a process to provide for the integrated management of the state's water resources. This system would be responsible for effectively and efficiently protecting the safety and adequacy of the state's public and private water supply while protecting the physical and biological integrity of the state's water resources.

The WPCAG also recommended that the WPC appoint a committee to describe the steps necessary to develop and implement a comprehensive method of water allocation for the state.

The WPCAG report contains numerous other recommendations in the following subjects: water allocation, agency coordination and permit streamlining, water rates and conservation, water supply planning, land management and stream flow.

Among its recommendations, the WPCAG suggested the formation of work groups to revise the State Revolving Fund (SRF); explore ways to conserve water; develop a protocol for supply side master metering; suggest regulatory changes for source water protection and water supply and develop an interim approach and a long-term protocol to regulate minimum stream flows.

The WPCAG also recommended 2004 legislation that would allow Class B and C water companies to surcharge customer bills to recoup infrastructure investment and suggested other changes in rate-making to help these small systems. It suggested that responsibilities in a drought be clarified and authority be given to towns to curtail water use.

The WPCAG is now beginning to review the 2003 Workgroup reports. Larry Bingaman, Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations for Aquarion, is the co-chair of the Water Planning Council Advisory Group. James Vocolina, of the Connecticut Office of Consumer Council, is the other co-chair. 💧

TPL Releases Drinking Water Protection Toolkit

In early November, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) released a toolkit for Connecticut communities seeking to use land conservation to protect their drinking water supplies. *Protecting Land to Safeguard Connecticut's Drinking Water* provides step-by-step guidance on identifying potential threats to drinking water; setting conservation goals and priorities; determining land ownership; building partnerships; securing conservation funds and acquiring land and conservation easements. It also reviews recent trends in land conservation as a source protection strategy and makes recommendations for the state, water utilities, and communities. To download an electronic copy or order a hard copy, visit www.tpl.org/connecticut and click on the publication box.

For more information, contact Kim Danley at (203) 777-7367 ext. 2. 💧

Legislature Completes Streamflow Study

The legislature's Program Review & Investigations Committee released its streamflow report and recommendations on December 17. The study focused on whether the state has a coherent and comprehensive policy, planning process, and management structure to govern minimum streamflow. The report includes the following recommendations:

- ◊ The Water Planning Council should establish a multi-stakeholder workgroup to study the issue of increased interagency coordination regarding water resource management and planning
- ◊ The Water Planning Council must establish a multi-stakeholder group to begin developing a comprehensive water allocation planning process
- ◊ Any person or entity maintaining a lawfully registered water diversion should periodically file diversion information with DEP. Registered diversion operators should be required to periodically re-register their diversions and pay registration fees that will be used to fund water resource planning and programs
- ◊ The Water Planning Council should adopt an interim stream flow methodology by July 1, 2005, that can be used for all months of the year for planning, environmental analyses and permitting purposes
- ◊ DEP must convene a representative workgroup to examine revising minimum stream flow regulations
- ◊ The Water Planning Council, state agencies and various stakeholders must continue to work toward developing long-term stream flow rates for all months of the year using scientifically-defensible means and thorough data collection.

The full report can be accessed at: http://www.cga.state.ct.us/2003/pridata/Studies/PDF/Stream_Flow_Findings_and_Recs.pdf

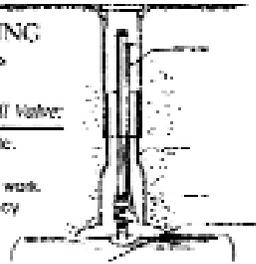
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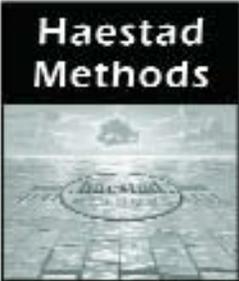
Those Attending the CT-AWWA/CWWA Joint Holiday Party Certainly Brought Good Cheer



Front row (l to r): Darlene Gurnon; Pam Monahan, CT AWWA Coordinator; Kevin Barber, Norwalk Second Water District; Andrea Maldonado, Regional Water Authority and Susan McLaughlin, The Metropolitan District. Back row (l to r): Adrienne Vaughan, Aquarion Water Co.; Marcey Munoz, The Metropolitan District; Don Carver, Waterbury Bureau of Water and Dave Kuzminski, Portland Water.



Maureen Westbrook of Connecticut Water Company prepares to enjoy a delicious holiday meal.



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CT Section AWWA Associates Committee begins Scholarship Program with Call for Applications

After more than nine months of planning, the CT Section AWWA Associates Committee Scholarship program is up and running. Section Associates Chair John Jolls announced that a \$1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to a student based on participation in school and community activities, financial need and relationship to the CT Section AWWA.

Applications are now being accepted from CT Section members or their children. The deadline is March 31 and the scholarship award winner will be announced in May.

Applicants must complete the application form and in addition to the essays required, include a typed autobiographical sketch and a transcript of his or her high school or college record.

Jolls said that the committee would like to increase the size of the scholarship in the future but since the scholarship is funded by fees generated by the Enhancers Program, increasing the number of Enhancers is an important next step.

Jolls was reluctant to take any credit for the new program. "Len Assard of Heitkamp was really the prime mover on this project," he said. "Len really felt that a professional organization such as CT-AWWA should use its resources to help with education."

For an application form, contact the Associate Committee Chairman, John D. Jolls of Weston & Sampson at (860) 659-8668. 💧

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