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AERIAL VIEW OF
THE CITY OF FORT ATKINSON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT,
FORT ATKINSON, WISCONSIN

The Clarifier

VOL. 259 FEBRUARY 2025

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The Clarifier is the publication of the Wisconsin Wastewater Operators' Association and is intended to inform and educate the membership on issues related to the treatment and control of wastewater. The Clarifier is produced five (5) times each year: February, April, June, September, and December. All members are encouraged to contribute to the mission of the Clarifier.

The Wisconsin Wastewater Operators' Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating, informing, and advancing the wastewater profession. WWOA has approximately 2,000 members divided throughout six regions: Southeast, Southern, Lake Michigan, North Central, Northwest, and West Central.

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Presidents Message: What made you become a wastewater operator? A call to engage youth in essential careers

In an era where environmental sustainability and public health are more crucial than ever, the role of a wastewater operator stands out as both vital and rewarding. As someone passionate about making a difference in my community, I am drawn to this profession for several reasons. However, it's not just about my aspirations; it's also about the future of our workforce. By promoting youth apprenticeships, we can inspire the next generation to fill these essential positions and ensure a sustainable future for our communities.

The Importance of Wastewater Operators

As wastewater operators, we play a crucial role in maintaining the health of our ecosystems and communities. Operators are responsible for treating and managing wastewater, which ensures that harmful pollutants are removed before the water is released back into the environment. This not only protects public health but also preserves our natural resources.

In an age where climate change poses significant challenges, skilled operators are essential for developing innovative solutions to water management issues. Their work contributes to cleaner waterways, reduced pollution, and overall improved quality of life. For those who are environmentally conscious, the opportunity to be part of such a vital field is a strong motivator.

Personal Connection and Career Aspirations

My interest in becoming a wastewater operator stems from a deep-rooted commitment to environmental stewardship and community service. I have always been fascinated by how our infrastructure works behind the scenes to keep us safe and healthy. Engaging in this field would allow me to combine my technical skills with my desire to contribute positively to my community and society. Moreover, the role offers diverse career paths, from technical positions in treatment facilities to management roles in environmental compliance. This variety ensures that there are opportunities for growth and specialization, keeping the work dynamic and engaging.

Engaging the Youth: The Need for Apprenticeships

To address the current shortage of skilled workers in this field, it's crucial to engage young people through youth apprenticeship programs. These programs provide hands-on training, allowing students to gain practical experience while earning a wage. By introducing them to the rewarding nature of this work early on, we can cultivate a new

generation of wastewater operators.

Youth apprenticeships can also help bridge the skills gap in the workforce. Our younger generations may not be aware of the critical nature of these roles or the career potential they offer. By collaborating with schools, local governments, and industry professionals, we can create awareness campaigns and mentorship programs that highlight the importance of wastewater management.



Benefits of Youth Involvement

1. **Skill Development:** Apprenticeships offer valuable training, equipping young workers with the technical skills needed in wastewater management, such as laboratory analysis and equipment operation.
2. **Career Pathways:** Exposure to this field can lead to various career options, ensuring that young people have access to stable and rewarding employment opportunities.
3. **Community Engagement:** By involving youth in local infrastructure roles, we foster a sense of pride and ownership over community resources, and encouraging civic responsibility.
4. **Sustainability Focus:** Engaging young minds in wastewater management can spark innovative ideas for sustainability, which in turn will help communities adapt to future environmental challenges.

Conclusion

Becoming a wastewater operator is more than just about a job; it's a commitment to protecting our environment and enhancing public health. By investing in youth apprenticeship programs, we can attract young workers to this essential field and build a skilled workforce ready to tackle the challenges of tomorrow. Together, we can ensure that our communities are not only sustainable but also resilient for future generations. Engaging youth today means securing a cleaner, healthier future for us all.

Marc Stephanie

Pete Albers – Man of Many Talents

When you look at the life and legacy of Pete Albers one may be led to think he was born a wastewater operator. Not necessarily so, Pete was 36 years old before he began his career as a WWTPO. Upon graduating from high school Pete spent the next 18 years in various jobs unrelated to wastewater. They included auto mechanic, heavy equipment operator and truck driver. During this same time, he spent 8 years in the Army National Guard.

In 1967 Pete began his career at the Village of Kewaskum Water Pollution Control Facility. He would spend the next 26 years there and retired as Superintendent in 1993. In 1968 Pete attended the very popular two-week wastewater training class at UW Madison. At the time this was the only classroom training available and was the means by which Operator certification could be achieved. Pete was certified in 1968 and carried the certification number 870. During his time in Kewaskum, Pete also served as Operator in the neighboring community of Allenton for 16 years.

After retiring, Pete was not one to sit still. He valued all the friendships made in the wastewater field and just couldn't let go. He spent the next 25 years in the Consulting Engineering field working for Crispell-Synder Engineers as a field inspector and then 20 years as Client Liaison for Applied Technologies Incorporated. I'm sure many of you had the opportunity to visit with Pete and hear his entertaining stories at the booths during the WWOA Conferences. Pete was a people person and constant promotor of the wastewater industry and WWOA.

Enough of Pete's professional wastewater legacy, Running parallel with his career was his dedication to a developing wastewater organization that began at the same time. In fact, Pete was recognized as one of the early founding members of the Wisconsin Wastewater Operators' Conference (WWOC) which had their first Annual Conference in 1967 at the Biggars Hotel in Appleton.

Pete served on the Board of Directors from 1975 – 1980 and was President in 1980. He was also recognized with the Bernauer Award (1992), the Service Award (2015) and in 2017 he was recognized for 50 continuous years of attendance at the Annual Conferences. One of Pete's proudest achievements in WWOA was being recognized as an Honorary Member in 2006.

In closing, Pete was well known and recognized in the wastewater/WWOC/WWOA organizations. He mentored many young people thru his internships at wastewater

plants and thru his mentoring and promotion in WWOA. He valued friendships and relationships; his perfect sitting was a good drink and a good meal and good conversation. He is missed by many.

Testaments – Pete Albers

I met Pete and Leo during my first outing with the WWOC. It was a WWOC golf outing in Port Washington. After our original meeting, we worked together on the golf committee for many years including outings at Kewaskum and Sheboygan. Pete was always a joy to be with, always helping with a winning smile. Pete always enjoyed his perfect Manhattans which helped make the work easier. Pete was always ready with a encouraging word for anyone who was willing to serve and work for the WWOA. As a founding member, his greatest desire was to see the organization grow and be successful. He will be sorely missed by all of us at future WWOA conferences. He will be with us in spirit making sure we do it right.

Carol Strackbein – Good Friend, WWOA Honorary Member

I gave a presentation on biosolids thickening many years back at a WWOA regional meeting in Grafton. Pete was sitting in the back of the room and I remember him coming up to me afterwards. He complimented me on doing a nice job and said I should keep up the good work. At the time, I was a young sales engineer getting to know my way around and it meant a lot to hear some words of encouragement from him. Since that time, whenever I saw him at WWOA conferences or on the road he always asked how I was doing and we had some nice conversations. He was a real gentleman and I know a strong supporter of WWOA and our water / wastewater industry.

Bob Lecey – Retired, Energenecs

I got to know Pete during my first stint at the Village of Kewaskum Wastewater Plant from 2013-2018. Pete would stop in multiple times during the week to discuss the interns he trained who went on to run many different plants, the projects he was helping on with Jim Smith at Applied Technologies, his WWOA motorcycle rides to Daytona bike week, deer hunting trips to his son's property in Minnesota, the doctors not knowing how to make his hearing aids work, chasing rats out of the incinerator haul truck, sharing a ride and room at the WWOA conference with Leo Templeton, and most importantly he stressed the need for two things: 1. Socializing and keeping good contact with other Operators as they will be the ones to help you when needed. 2. Keeping the mind and the body busy is the key to a long happy life.

Ben Propson – Wastewater Supervisor Village of Kewaskum

This Is Not a Funeral!

This sign is what greeted you if you attended Pete Albers' Celebration of Life Reception on September 24th in West Bend.

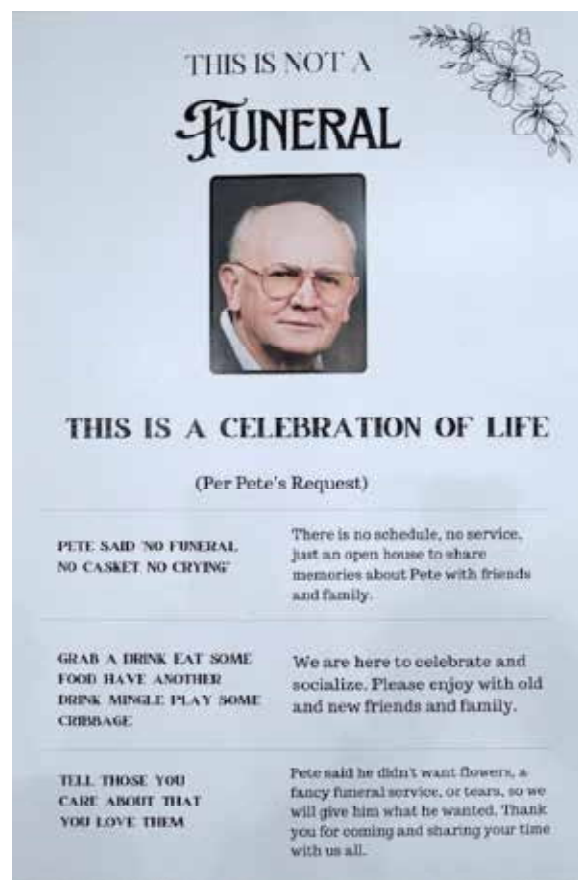
The announcement was a surprise to many, yet it was true to the way Pete wanted it to be. A chance to visit and renew friendships and relationships. Have a drink, and then have another! The food was plenty and varied, many came and went, all in the way Pete would have wanted it.

The last message was straight from the heart, "tell those who you care about that you love them" whether it be family, friends, associates or co-workers. Sadly, all too often we take this for granted. Pete is asking us not to take it for granted, honor his legacy by telling someone close to you that you do love them and value their friendship.

Pete: Long Lasting Customer Relations

Applied Technologies Incorporated (ATI) was fortunate to call Pete an employee for 20 years until he retired at the age of 88. Pete wasn't just an employee though; he was also a trusted friend and teacher. He regularly took new engineers and operators under his wing, introducing them to his colleagues and sharing his passion for the wastewater treatment industry.

He loved attending trade shows, "taking rides" to visit plants (i.e., "schmoozing"), sipping a smooth glass of Crown Royal, and playing a friendly game of Cribbage. We miss Pete greatly, but we're thankful for the many fond memories and funny stories he blessed us with.



Stories – Pete Albers

I got to know Pete during my first stint at the Village of Kewaskum Wastewater Plant from 2013-2018. We had many talks over those few years where he gave me a lot of background history on things. He remembered everything. When I left Kewaskum for Fond du Lac he would still call or stop in to make sure I was doing ok. I think he used me as an excuse to stop at the Fond du Lac WTRRF to see his great friend Mary Kunde who he worked with on many WWOA functions.

I returned to Kewaskum in 2023 and when I saw Pete he simply said "glad to have you home!" He was highly influential, not only as an Operator, but also as a person to look up to and learn about life from. His DNR Operator certification number was 870. I remember that because it is the model of my favorite shotgun known for its reliability and longevity. How fitting that it applied to Pete.

*Ben Propson – Wastewater Supervisor
Village of Kewaskum*

Apparently when you became an operator in Kewaskum a "unlisted" job duty was to help retired Operator Pete put up his disgustingly heavy Sunsetter awning each Spring and take down each Fall. There was a minimum of 5 planning sessions prior to each. This involved using two rickety wooden ladders that were not rated for the weight of the awning much less the person. Followed by or preceded by the death defying hanging of the awning in the ceiling of the garage for storage.

Apparently, I proved my worth during this activity and was "hired" by Pete to annually trim his bushes and trees to his wife Joan's artistic approval. On one particular occasion I was asked to also help install a new bird house that his wife had painted. Two hours of waiting for Joan to finish the masterpiece and Pete convincing her it was good enough we got it hung. Pete always rewarded my efforts with a mandatory beer in his basement bar or a meeting in my office with fresh "sweet rolls".

Ben Propson – Wastewater Supervisor Village of Kewaskum

The City of Fort Atkinson Wastewater Treatment Plant

Plant History

The City of Fort Atkinson Wastewater Treatment Plant was built in 1972. The plant at that time was a conventional activated sludge plant. The plant was modified in 1981 to a diffused air system for the digesters, and in 1982 there was the addition of a 890,000 gallon liquid storage tank. In 1989 there was another upgrade to the plant that included a diffused aeration system for the activated sludge process. Construction to the plant in 1991 and 1992 was necessary to accommodate the increasing wastewater loads from families and industries. With the new plant upgrades the city was also able to focus on important issues like dechlorination, nitrification, and a better solids processing procedure. In 2020 the plant started the first phase of a two phase plan to start upgrading an almost 30 year old plant. Phase I of the construction was to convert an old aeration basin into a leachate and centrate equalization holding tank with divider wall, mixing and a return pumping system. Phase I also included replacing a raw influent pump as well as power and controls for the new pump as well and the three that would be replaced in phase II. The second phase of the project started in 2021 and lasted until 2024. Phase



Aerial picture of the Fort Atkinson WWTP

II of the project was an update and rebuilding of existing process equipment as well as adding new and replacing old technology. The influent wet well was completely reconstructed, primary and secondary clarifiers were rebuilt, aeration tanks were modified, the aerobic digestion system was modified, and a tertiary process was added as well. This project could not have been done without the help of Donahue engineering, Staab construction, and Altronex Controls.

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Raw Wastewater

Raw wastewater is conveyed to the facility by gravity and the help of three lift stations via a 42" sanitary sewer interceptor.



Screening inside

Raw wastewater enters the headworks where it is split into two channels and goes through Savaco perforated filter screens. The organics and non organics are washed off the screen at the top and dropped into a sluice where they enter a Vulcan Washing press/Compactor. These processes



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immediately achieve up to 90 % organic removal from the screenings and 70-85% volume of the screenings to go to the landfill. Four Flygt dry pit submersible pumps then lift the wastewater to a grit chamber and removes fines and then gravity flow to the primary clarifiers. In 2024 Influent BOD averaged 366 mg/L and Influent TSS averaged 195 mg/L.

Primary Clarification

In Phase II of the project, rebuilding of the primary clarifiers was needed. We kept the concrete tanks but replaced all the equipment (clarifier

mechanism, weirs and baffles, sludge and scum removal, walkways, etc.), manufactured by Evoqua. Primary clarifiers are essentially large calm settling tanks that remove on average 70% of solids and 30% of organics.

Activated Sludge System

Fort Atkinson is an advanced wastewater treatment process that utilizes A/O (anerobic/oxic) biological nutrient removal (BNR). It is a process that removes organics as well as nitrogen and phosphorous. Primary effluent and RAS enter

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Aeration and digester



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a mixed unaerated zone. This is where they would see anoxic and anaerobic conditions. These unaerated zones provide the perfect condition to start the EBPR process. After the anaerobic zones the mixed liquor flows to aerobic bioreactor zones. The aerated zones provide the perfect conditions for BOD removal and nitrification. This is also where you get the advanced uptake of soluble orthophosphates into PAOs happens.

Secondary Clarification

In Phase II of the project we also rebuilt the secondary clarifier equipment (clarifier mechanism, weirs and baffles, sludge and scum removal, walkways, etc.) The secondary clarifiers are used to separate the activated sludge microorganisms from the treated water. This is done by letting the mixed liquor flow into these large calm tanks. Here the heavier solids (micro-organisms) sink to the bottom of the tank leaving a clear effluent to head to tertiary filtration. The microorganisms now get pumped from the bottom of the clarifier and wasted out of the system or returned to the activated sludge system where they are mixed with the primary effluent. Mixing the primary and the secondary return provides the activated sludge system with healthy organisms at all times to feed the incoming waste.

Biosolids Thickening

A portion of the biosolids that doesn't get returned into the system from the secondary clarifiers is wasted out of the system daily. It is transported to the gravity belt thickener. Once thickened it goes into our digesters. We waste everyday to maintain balance between the amount of waste coming into the plant and the number of microorganisms we have to feed on the waste.

Aerobic Digestion

Aerobic Digestion was also upgraded during the project. The plant has three aerobic digesters that breakdown

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Digesters covered



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primary sludge and thickened activated sludge (TAS). The objective of the digesters is to breakdown the sludge so that there is less to be dewatered and to also stabilize the sludge for land application. Aerobic digester 2 and 3 were modified in the project and each have an aerated zone and just a mixing zone. There is however a baffle wall that separates the aerated and mixing zone. This baffle wall allows for underflow from the anoxic zone to the aerated zone. The recycle between the two zones is intended to move the nitrified sludge from the aerated zone to the anoxic zone for denitrification and alkalinity recovery. Digester 2 and 3 after anoxic mixing will then transfer through a trough down to digester 1 for re-aeration. After re-aeration, digester 1 is then pumped to the sludge handling building to be dewatered via the centrifuge. During the project we also covered the digesters to retain heat during the cold months. This has been a huge benefit to the dewatering process.

Centrifuge

The centrifuge is also designed to remove the water from the biosolids. The centrifuge takes digested biosolids and mixes them with polymer where it is then spun with force

to remove the water from the biosolids. The result since covering the digesters has been about 25% solids. From this point the solids are either taken directly to a farmer's field to be land applied or we store them on site in our biosolids storage area.

Tertiary Treatment

The Tertiary Treatment System consists of a Secondary Effluent Wet Well with 4 Flygt submersible pumps, Secondary Effluent Channel, three mix tanks, Filter Influent Channel, Two 5 MGD Aqua-Aerobics Disc Filters, Filter

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Tertiary building

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DORAL

EQUIPMENT RIGGING AND METAL FABRICATION



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Effluent Channel, Sampling Box and Tertiary Effluent Channel. The disc filter's purpose is to remove BOD and TSS, but ultimately remove phosphorous. The Disc Filters remove these variables between the secondary clarifiers and the chlorine contact tank. The plant operates one disc filter most of the time while the other one is maintained and ready for high flows or can be put online if we are getting close to reaching our limits. We have not had that problem. The secondary effluent enters the wet well and channel where it hits the rapid mix, coagulation and flocculation tanks. The secondary effluent can be chemically treated to enhance phosphorous removal. Ferric Chloride can be added by the rapid tank mixer and move towards the coagulation tank where the dissolved phosphorous is converted into small particles of ferric phosphate. Polymer can be added in the coagulation tank as well, however staff have not had to do this or seen the benefit to adding polymer yet. The phosphate particles are now formed and move through the final Flocculation Tank, Secondary Effluent Channel and enter the Disc Filters. The Secondary Effluent flows through the cloth media on the outside of the Aqua-Aerobics Disc Filters. This is where the solids collect. The water will rise in the filter basin and hit a level where the filter will then backwash or solids waste. This is when the solids are vacuumed off the outside of the filter or sucked off the bottom of the basin and returned to the

head of the plant for re treatment. Any effluent moving through the filter enters the Tertiary Effluent Channel to the Chlorine Contact Tank. The Tertiary building has two YSI orthophosphate analyzers. We have a variety of ways to adjust our ferric dosing based on the analyzer outputs.



Disinfection

Disinfection

The tertiary effluent runs to the disinfection area but is only chlorinated in the summer months of May through September. It is dechlorinated with sodium bisulfate.

YEARLY AVGS	YEAR	FLOW	BOD	TSS	TOTAL PHOS
BEFORE SCREENING AND TERTIARY FILTRATION	2022	2.025MGD	8.0 MG/L	9.0 MG/L	.83 MG/L
AFTER SCREENING AND TERTIARY FILTRATION	2024	2.645 MGD	3.0 MG/L	2.0 MG/L	.27 MG/L

Sportsman's board

Have a picture for the Sportman's board?

Send the picture and a description of where you were hunting or fishing to doralee.piering@energenecs.com.

We will do our best to put it in the next available issue of the Clarifier.

Clarifier deadlines 2025

Issue	Deadline
April	March 14
June	May 16
September	August 15
December	November 14



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Medford hosts December northwest regional meeting

The Winter meeting of the Northwest Regional WWOA was held on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at Marilyn's in Medford.

Forty-six operators, vendors, engineers, and regulatory staff were welcomed by Medford Mayor Mike Wellner. The following technical presentations were given:

- Medford's Case of Aeration Control by Tom Robarge of Energenecs
- Blower Design Considerations by Rachel Lee of LAI Ltd.
- Got Rags? by Travis Walker of Crane Engineering
- Clean Water Fund Program: Infrastructure Projects and Funding for Communities by Lisa Creegan of WDNR
- WDNR Update by Arthur Ryzak
- Distribution System Planning and Funding - Mike Stoffel, Ayres
- City of Medford Wastewater Treatment Facility Overview by Al Zenner, City of Medford and Jeremiah Wendt, SEH

Past President Josh Voigt provided an update from the WWOA



Attendees at the Northwest Region meeting

Brooke Klingbeil called the business meeting to order, Susan Wojtkiewicz of Donohue & Associates, Inc. presented the Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report.

Elections were held to fill two regional leadership roles because Andy Buescher of Staab has decided to step down as Vice Chair and Debbie Hyke of Energenecs has retired. Chad Smith, Director of Public Works for the City of Owen, was nominated for the position of Vice Chair and elected on a unanimous vote. Dan Smith of William Reid was nominated and elected Treasurer on a unanimous vote.

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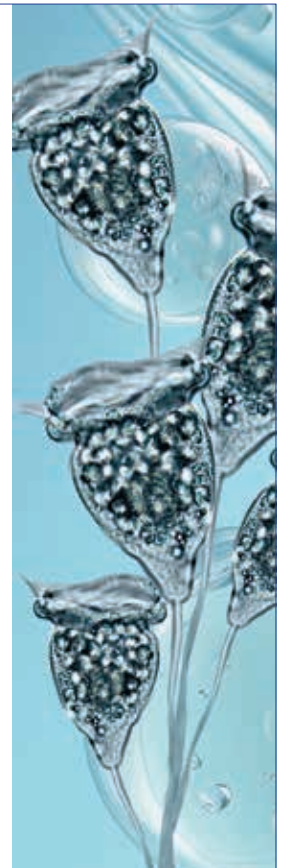
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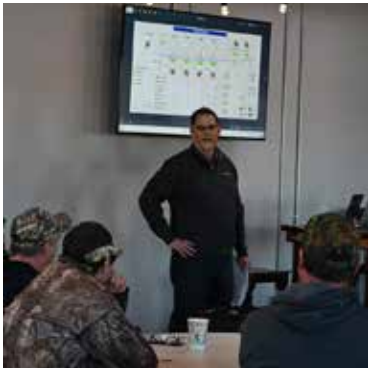
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continued from page 16



Tom Robarge of Energenecs talked to the group about aeration control



Arthur Ryzak of WDNR provided a department update

Eric Storm and Dan Smith seconded a motion to move the bank account from Blaze Credit Union to BMO Harris or Associated Bank. The vote passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Jay Jochimsen moved, and Chad Smith seconded a motion to make a \$100 annual contribution to the Northcentral Regional Ryan Giefer Scholarship Fund. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The day concluded with a tour of the Medford Wastewater Treatment Facility, highlighting recent major upgrades. 🌐

Medford Wastewater major upgrades



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Shaping Wisconsin's workforce: Youth Apprenticeship and Inspire WI, empowering the next generation

The future of Wisconsin's workforce depends on equipping students with the skills, experiences, and confidence to succeed in an ever-evolving job market. CESA 6's Youth Apprenticeship (YA) program and Inspire WI are two innovative initiatives at the forefront of this mission, offering students opportunities to connect with local industries, gain hands-on experience, and explore meaningful career pathways. WWOA is now a member of both of these programs.

CESA6 Youth Apprenticeship: Bridging Education and Industry

The Youth Apprenticeship program, part of the Department of Workforce Development's statewide initiative, provides high school juniors and seniors with the chance to learn directly from industry professionals while earning high school credit and a paycheck. Through partnerships with businesses in sectors like healthcare, manufacturing,

agriculture, IT, and more, YA enables students to develop technical skills and explore careers before graduating high school.



CESA 6 has been a leader in the Youth Apprenticeship program across central and southeastern Wisconsin, creating opportunities for students and businesses to connect meaningfully. For industries like wastewater management, the YA program offers a unique way to address workforce needs by hiring high school students as high-functioning assistants. While these students may not yet be full-fledged employees, they bring a surprising level of capability and enthusiasm, making them valuable contributors to your team.

WWOA members can leverage the YA program to train and mentor young talent, preparing them for future careers in the field. These apprentices can support operations by handling a variety of tasks while learning essential skills, ensuring they're workforce-ready upon graduation. In addition to technical knowledge, YA participants develop critical workplace skills such as teamwork, communication, and time management—qualities that will make them strong assets in the wastewater industry.

Inspire WI:

Connecting Students, Educators, and Employers

While the YA program builds skills on the job, Inspire WI takes career exploration to the next level by connecting students and educators with businesses through a digital platform and real-world experiences. Inspire WI's mission is to bridge the gap between classroom learning and career opportunities by fostering collaboration between schools, students, and local industries.

Through Inspire WI, members of WWOA in the region have the opportunity to actively engage with the next generation of talent. Inspire WI facilitates events such as company tours, mock interviews, job shadowing, and mentoring,

continued on page 19

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continued from page 18

enabling students to gain hands-on exposure to the wastewater industry. These experiences help young people understand the relevance of their education while exploring rewarding career paths in this essential field.

In addition, Inspire WI equips educators with

the tools and insights needed to align classroom instruction with workforce demands, including those unique to wastewater operations. Since partnering with Inspire WI, WWOA members are able to showcase the critical role their industry plays in public health and environmental sustainability, inspire students to pursue these careers, and ultimately ensure a pipeline of skilled individuals ready to join the workforce.

The Power of Collaboration

The partnership between schools, businesses, and organizations like the Wisconsin Wastewater Operators

Association (WWOA) is what makes these programs truly impactful. As a recent member of YA and the Inspire WI programs, WWOA is poised to take full advantage of these collaborative efforts to address workforce challenges while preparing students for rewarding careers in the wastewater industry.

WWOA members are encouraged to actively engage with the next generation of talent by hosting events such as company showcases, job shadows, or Youth Apprenticeship placements. These opportunities not only highlight the importance of the industry but also inspire students to consider wastewater management as a meaningful career path.

By working together, we can build a pipeline of skilled, passionate individuals ready to make a difference in their communities and meet the growing demands of the industry. For more information about CESA 6's YA program or Inspire WI, visit our websites at the links below.

YA Apprenticeship Program:

<https://www.yawisconsin.org/>

Inspire WI: <https://inspirewi.org/> 



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**WISCONSIN WASTEWATER OPERATORS ASSOCIATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA**

10:00 a.m. Monday, October 21, 2024

Meeting Room: Lawrence

1. Call to order, Roll Call – J. Voigt

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Jeremy Cramer, Past President | ☐ Katie Jo Jerzak |
| ☐ Josh Voigt, Pres. | ☐ Cody Schoepke |
| ☐ Marc Stephanie, Pres. Elect | ☐ Nate Tillis |
| ☐ Ben Brooks, V.P. | ☐ Aaron Eichhorst |
| ☐ Jenny Pagel | ☐ Courtney Harris, Exc. Secretary |

2. Agenda Changes, Additions, or Correspondence

3. Approval of Minutes: August 2024 Meeting. **MOTION** to approve the August 2024 meeting minutes. M. Stephanie; 2nd Ben. **APPROVED.**

4. Pre-Conference Meeting at 12:00 PM to review BEOs

continued on page 21

POP QUIZ!

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5. **Committee Reports** – J. Voigt

Clarifier - /Jon Butt/Katie Jo

Executive Committee - Josh

Exhibits, Manufacturers & Consultants- Tom Mulcahy

Nominations - Jeremy Cramer

Resolutions & Bylaws - Jeremy Cramer

Technical Committee - Ben Brooks

- All bios are collected and printed for speakers.

Annual Awards - Marc Stephanie

Annual Award Plaques- Randy Herwig

Arrangements, Local

Arrangements, Permanent - Kevin Freber

continued on page 22



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Career Development /Young Professional - Katie Jo/Nate Tillis

- Held a training w/ Centrisys tour at Kenosha on 8/1, and Brewer outing on 8/28

CSWEA Liaison - Cody Schoepke

- Article published in the Clarifier supporting CSWEA's request to search for another individual to attend the 2025 D.C. Fly-In
- WWOA will continue to sponsor with a \$500 contribution
- Next CSWEA Wisconsin Section meeting – 11/20/24 at The Delafield Brewhaus. A remote option is available.

Conf. Events: Bike Outing - Tom Crouse

Conf. Events: Golf Outing - Tom Mulcahy

Conf. Events: Sporting Clays - Jeff Smudde/Josh Voigt/Bucky Walters

Conf. Events: Operators Competition - Jenny Pagel/Aaron Eichhorst

continued on page 23

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*continued from page 22***Events-Government Affairs - Schoepke/Ben Brooks/Jeff Smudde**

- CSWEA is the Chair for the 2025 GAS event and the event once again will be held at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin with the event being held on February 20, 2025.
- The Gas Planning Committee has met twice thus far and had decided on a registration fee of \$80.00

Events-MWOE- Nate Tillis/Cody Schoepke

- Agenda is finalized. Topics Include: Lab FAQ, Biosolids Drying and RNG-Pipeline Injection examples, Genset Maintenance, and a DNR Update
- Discussion
 - Doing a raffle for the WWOA seminar to get people in the room and keep them
 - Work on better signage
 - Will use Whova App

Events-Spring Biosolids – Ben Brooks/Aaron Eichhorst

- CSWEA is the Chair for the 2025 SBS event and the event will be held at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Stevens Point, Wisc. Event will be held on March 18, 2025, and the registration fee will be \$80.00 to attend.
- The SBS Planning Committee has met once thus far, but will meet again soon.

Historical – Photos - Tom Crouse*continued on page 24*

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continued from page 23

Historical – Records - Jeremy Cramer

Membership / Directory- Harris

Operator Training- Nate Tillis/Aaron Eichhorst

- Ops 2 Ops Training in Sheboygan/Kiel took place 8/7/2024. Moderate attendance but overall successful training. There was an issue with DNR credits that is now resolved.

Promotional Items - Marc Stephanie/Aaron Eichhorst

Publicity - Jo Jerzak

Regional Coordinator - Aaron Eichhorst

Scholarships - Jenny Pagel/Katie Jo Jerzak

- All of the 2024 scholarship applicants were notified by e-mail by August 8th, 2024 whether they would be receiving a scholarship or not this year from WWOA or its member affiliates. A \$1000 Tuition reimbursement check for member Ryan St. John was mailed out on the first week of October. All eleven scholarship recipients were invited to attend the annual award banquet of the WWOA and 10 will be in attendance. Ten \$75 gas station gift cards were mailed to the attending recipients to assist with travel expenses associated with attending the award banquet. Hotel reservation and banquet dining options have been taken care of.

Website - Nate Tillis/Jeff Bratz

6. Old Business: All

- a. Regional yearly fees
- b. Permanent Operator Competition committee member NON BOD
- c. CESA/Inspire WI YA Program– WWOA Involvement– C. Schoepke
- d. DNR exams – want to do it at the 2025 conference

7. New Business – All

- a. New CD
- b. AEG Contract – will auto-renew November 2nd by midnight.
- c. For the December meeting – need accurate numbers for Biosolids Symposium and MWOE for budget.
- d. Vote on budget revision **MOTION to have a member of the oversight committee present the WWOA budget during the Business Meeting. M. Stephanie. 2nd N. Tillis. APPROVED**

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8. Important meeting dates

- February - Technical Committee Meeting
- February – MWOE [Feb 11 & 12, 2025](#)
- February - Government Affairs [Feb 28, 2025](#)
- March - Spring Biosolids [March 18, 2025](#)
- April - BOD Meeting
- August - BOD Meeting

9. Set up for the conference.

10. Adjournment



WWOA Spring Sporting Clays

Thursday April 24th, 2025

Wild Wings Sportsman's Club
Campbellsport, WI

See registration in this issue



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Recognize individuals in this amazing profession!

It is important to elevate and to help advance our profession and the people that work in it! One way to do that is to recognize those around us that have made a difference. Recognition is something that shows someone the value of their contributions and inspires them and others to continue to work harder at their jobs. So many people in this organization work so hard to help others, without expectation of any recognition. Yet, being recognized is an overwhelming experience as the individual comes to realize that their efforts have been noticed by their peers. Receiving an award in front of one's peers at the annual awards banquet is both a humbling and pinnacle moment for recipients.

It's often hard to determine who exactly deserves one of the WWOA awards because so many individuals are deserving. I encourage you to take a look at the lists of past winners of these awards (WWOA Annual Awards page www.wwoa.org/events-awards/annual-awards), and then consider individuals that meet the award criteria that have yet to be recognized.

It is time to start filling out the nomination papers for the Annual Conference Awards. Please take the 5 minutes to nominate someone today. There are many people in our industry that are deserving of these awards.

We are looking for nominees for the following awards: ASSOCIATION AWARDS (Note: WWOA Board members are not eligible for these awards)

George F. Bernauer Award: Criteria include successful plant performance, and/or successful solution of important or complicated operational problems, and/or outstanding contributions in the field of wastewater technology in the State of Wisconsin. The nominee may be a municipal, industrial, or institutional operator, administrator, or educator in Wisconsin. It is not limited to WWOA members.

Koby Crabtree Award: Presented to a WWOA member for excellence in technical support provided to others in the field of wastewater treatment. The individual should be a recognized authority in some aspect of wastewater, share knowledge through presentation, contribute to problem solving, and provide service regardless of compensation.

Albers-Templeton Service Award: Presented to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the WWOA in the areas of promotion, operation, management, program participation, or education. The nominee must be an active member of WWOA for a period of ten years.

Newcomer of the Year Award: Recognizes an operator, support staffer, or environmental technician with less than three years of experience as of August 1st of the year nominated. The nominee should demonstrate higher than average growth in their place of employment, a willingness to learn, innovation on the job, and exceptional enthusiasm for their profession. The nominator should be a supervisor, manager, peer, coworker, or DNR personnel familiar with the day-to-day efforts of the nominee. WWOA membership is not required, and a two-year membership or renewal is included in the award.

Membership Award: Presented to the WWOA member who sponsors the most new WWOA memberships.



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REGIONAL AWARDS

Regional Operator of the Year Awards: Given out to someone who has demonstrated excellent plant performance, and/or successful solution to a problem, and/or contributions to the wastewater field. It is open to Wisconsin Certified operators of municipal, industrial, or institutional wastewater treatment facilities.

This award is not just limited to actual plant operators, but is open to those working in a variety of areas, including biosolids, collections, engineering, lab operations, maintenance, etc. The nominee must be at least a five-year member of WWOA.

The nomination form and instructions for all the awards can be found on the WWOA website www.wwoa.org/events-awards/annual-awards.

Please note, the Regional Operator of the Year Award nominations should be submitted to the Regional officers listed on the nomination form by **July 22, 2025**.

All other awards need to be submitted by August 5, 2025 for consideration.

Feel free to contact me if you would like any further information on the awards, the nomination procedure, or if you have a question if a potential nominee meets specific award criteria.

Thank you in advance for taking the time and effort to nominate individuals and allowing WWOA to recognize these deserving recipients!

Sincerely,
Ben Brooks
Awards Committee Chair



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Register now for Spring Sporting Clays. Deadline April 11, 2025

Thursday, April 24th, 2025

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Lunch at Noon

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Questions contact: bpropson@village.kewaskum.wi.us

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Names of Shooters _____

Total Paid @ \$70 each _____



Back for 2025!

WWOA SPORTING CLAY TRIATHLON

2024 was the first year of the Triathlon with 16 people competing in all three events. With 1st and 2nd place being only 2 targets apart. There are three WWOA shoots throughout the year. *Participation in all 3 events* qualifies each shooter for awards to be presented at our Annual Conference with one person named:

WWOA Sporting Clay Triathlon CHAMPION

Champion to be based on greatest total birds broke between all three events. There will also be a random drawing of all shooters who competed in all three events for a prize.

EVENTS:

Spring Sporting Clays	Wild Wings April 24 th
Ryan Geifer Memorial	Location and time TBD
Annual Conference	Location TBD October 14th

*2024 Sporting Clay Triathlon Champion
Ben Propson Total Score 134*

If paying online please email a copy of your registration to bpropson@village.kewaskum.wi.us. Credit Card Payment and registration online through WWOA website available, however mailed registration with check can be sent to address below:

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Scholarships available through WWOA

Several scholarships are awarded each year to assist full time students enrolled in degree programs relating to the field of wastewater treatment and waster resource management.

A college or university student can submit one application packet in order to be considered for all of the available scholarships. If the student is selected for more than one opportunity, the scholarship committee will recommend the student receive the scholarship of greatest dollar value.

Annual application deadline for all scholarships is July 1.

The scholarship program has grown over the years due to the increasing demand for professionals in the wastewater treatment field and the dedication of those sponsoring scholarships.

Member partner Crane Engineering generously sponsors a \$2000 scholarship each year.

WWOA North Central Region is sponsoring the \$2000 Ryan Giefer Memorial Scholarship

Member partner North Central Laboratories generously sponsors one \$5000 scholarship annually. The NCL scholarship is paid out over two academic years. (\$2500 the first year, and \$2500 the second year)

WWOA sponsors three \$2000 scholarships annually.

The WWOA is now offering a scholarship for students enrolled in a degree or certificate program in the field of wastewater treatment or water resource management. This is a \$1000 scholarship and is available to full and part-time students.

Please direct any questions to: scholarships@wwoa.org

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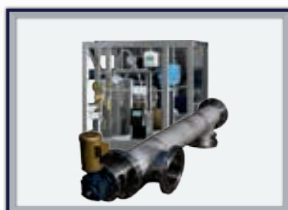
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Let WWOA help fund your goals

WWOA's mission is to foster an environment that promotes the teaching and sharing of knowledge within the wastewater industry. One of the ways members do this is to support each other advancing in their careers through education. The WWOA offers two types of tuition aid to support this.

One type of tuition aid offered is a \$1000 reimbursement for courses taken related to a member's career in wastewater. This aid is meant to help offset the cost of a degree program at a technical college or university. Applications are due in June and the award checks are sent out on in September. A member may apply for this reimbursement one time per year.

The second type of tuition aid is a \$250 payment available at the beginning of each year. This type of aid is meant to provide funds to a member whose employer may not cover certain training costs. This payment could be used to offset costs of a training seminar, attending a conference, taking

operator certification exams, an online training, or any other learning option related to wastewater operations. This aid will be awarded as needed any time after the 1st of the year. This aid is currently available for 2025 and the application process is very simple. Members may apply for this tuition aid one time per year.

The application for both of these types of tuition aid is available on the WWOA website. Questions can be e-mailed to scholarships@wwoa.org

Regional meeting dates

April 3

Lake Michigan

Whitelaw

Other meetings

March 18

Spring Biosolids

Stevens Point

April 24

Spring Sporting Clays

Campbellsport

Innovation – share your ideas!

How do you replace a valve on a biogas line that has failed? Thanks to an operator, we know you could inject shaving cream upstream from the valve to hold back the biogas until the valve can be replaced. This innovative idea came from Beloit.

I bet every operator has that one innovative idea that he or she uses almost everyday. Operators are some of the smartest and most innovative people I know. Maybe it is something you do to help with the treatment process. Maybe it is something you do to make maintenance easier.

No matter what it is, your fellow operators want to hear your ideas. Maybe something you do might help someone else.

Here what I want you to do – email me your idea. Or you can call. I'll draft a short article on your behalf about your idea. You approve the article, and we'll include it in an issue of the Clarifier. What could be easier?

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