

## **WWOA LMD Meeting Menasha, WI – February 24, 2010**

*By Bernie Hengels*

Wednesday February 24, 2010 was the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the year for the Lake Michigan District of the WWOA. We utilized the Germania Hall facilities in Menasha. There were 97 attendees, including our speakers and table-top vendors.

Immediately after registering, the attendees were treated to coffee, juice, sweets and fruit – all courtesy of McMahan Associates. Chairperson Kari Dennis kicked off the meeting at 8:15 am with an introduction of Mayor Don Merkes of Menasha. Mayor Merkes welcomed us to the City of Menasha and wished us a pleasant meeting and later tour of the wastewater plant.

Our first presentation was from Gordy Koch of Alpha Terra Science. Gordy's presentation was all about Personal Protection Equipment. The slide presentation was interlaced with short video clips that kept the audience's attention. Mr. Koch engaging approach keyed on how to understand and achieve OSHA and DCOMM compliance, so that the operators have a safe day.

Next up was Tony Kappell, a project engineer with McMahan. Tony presented "TMDL: Four Letters You Need to Know". TMDL by definition is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still safely meet water quality standards. McMahan has been involved with the Lower Fox River Basin TMDL process with representation on the DNR's technical team. Tony discussed and presented water quality targets and load allocation scenarios for the TMDL. He also provided an overview of current wastewater treatment technologies available for meeting low effluent phosphorous limits.

The LMD Business meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kari Dennis. First on the agenda was to approve the minutes from the Nov 5, 2009 meeting held in Wrightstown. Copies of the minutes were made available at the registration table. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes and a vote was taken to accept the minutes. Motion by Mikey Gonnering and seconded by Ron Austreng, the minutes were approved.

The Treasurers report was presented by myself. Copies were also made available at the registration table. The report was accepted by a motion from Kevin Skogman and seconded by Tom Dennis.

There was no old business at this time.

New Business: Chairperson Kari Dennis asked John Schoen to come up to the front of the room for a presentation of a plaque. John was thanked for his years of service with WWOA – LMD and Kari mentioned how much she appreciated the brief chance to work with him as Vice-Chair. John spoke of how grateful he was to have decided to serve LMD and how rewarding it turned out.

DNR Update: Dick Sachs mentioned a few items, including; that applications for the May 5<sup>th</sup> exam are now available on the DNR website or via contact with Dick Sachs. The application deadline is April 7<sup>th</sup>. Dick also mentioned that several new and revised study guides are available by visiting the website or by contacting Dick directly.

The WWOA Regional Coordinators report was presented by Chairperson Dennis in the form of a slide presentation that played periodically throughout the day. The slides listed all of the

upcoming training and event dates for 2010, including the Collection seminars and the Annual conference in the Dells.

Chairperson Dennis had a few announcements of her own. One was to ask for submissions for “Operator of the Year”. Submission forms were made available at the registration desk during and after the meeting. Further is time to put together a LMD Operators Challenge Team. Operators are encouraged to contact Vice-Chair August to sign up.

The date and place of the next meeting was announced. It will be hosted by the Village of Valders and held on May 20 at Mr. Lucky’s Charcoal Haus.

An announcement was made to all about looking for hosting sites for 2011. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact either Chairperson Dennis or Vice-Chair August.

Lastly a motion to adjourn was made by Glen Guerts and a second was made by Brian Helming. The audience was then treated to a mid-morning break of coffee and sweets compliments of McMahon.

Following break, a presentation on “The Versatility of Rotary Lobe Pumps” was put on by Robert Rhea of Börger Pump. Modern advances in pump design and features have made this technology the most versatile pump in the industry. Applications range from lift stations and membrane bioreactors to thickened sludge and dewatering cake and everything in between.

The final presentation before lunch break was from Tom Kruzick of William/Reid LTD. Tom presented the topic, “Level Determination in Lift Stations”. This was a discussion of pros and cons of various forms of level determination technology out there. In Tom’s 25 plus years in the wastewater industry, he’s seen and used many different types and engaged the crowd into a discussion of what works for them and what does not work for them.

After the plentiful feast of chicken, beef tips and their accoutrements, we got back to business with a presentation entitled “Tertiary Filtration Using Cloth Media Technology”, by Thomas Sichz of Aqua-Aerobic Systems. Thomas is a Professional Engineer based in Rockford, IL operating throughout the Midwest. Thomas piqued our interest in filtering by reminded us that water is our most precious resource. There was an active Q&A following the formal presentation where operators asked about life expectancies of filter media.

Next up was Randy Much, the General Manager of the Neenah-Menasha Sewerage Commission. Randy presented a slide program on the plant that we were about to see on our plant tour. Following the slide presentation Randy provided driving directions to all who were headed over to the plant. On the way out Dick Sachs handed out credit slips and indicated that there will be another credit slip following the plant tour.

Off to the plant.

Respectfully submitted by:

Bernie Hengels – LMD Secretary / Treasurer