

WVOA LMD Meeting Valders, WI – May 20, 2010

By Bernie Hengels

Mr. Lucky's Charcoal Haus in Valders was the site of the Thursday May 20, 2010 meeting for Lake Michigan District. We had 87 attendees in total including our 6 table-top vendors.

Following registration, the members were treated to sweets, fruit, coffee and juices compliments of Robert E. Lee & Associates. Chairperson Kari Dennis was not present due to maternity leave and Vice-Chair Kris August started the meeting at 8:15 am by introducing Village President Christopher Burton who in turn welcomed us to the Village of Valders.

First up for presentations was Matt Giese of Midwest Chemical and Equipment. Matt's topic was on Chemical Safety: What your supplier should be telling you. Matt engaged the audience with topics that need to be discussed each and every time chemicals are used in a plant operation. Safety, safety, safety is the key. Ask the questions, read the labels, wear proper PPE, use the proper tools and equipment and have a plan in place for containment- should there be a spill. This was a very informative session.

Next up was Brian Huza and Jim Fischer of ITT Water and Wastewater/ Flyght Products. Their presentation was entitled "How to design and maintain a small circular wet well submersible pump station." Both Brian and Jim took turns speaking and they did utilize a PowerPoint slide show with their talk.

Vice-Chair August then proceeded to call to order the LMD business meeting. First on topic was to approve the meeting minutes from the February 24, 2010 meeting. Minutes were both posted online at the WVOA website and made available the morning of this meeting. There were no additions or corrections. Motion to approve by Kevin Skogman and seconded by Len Heimerman. The minutes were approved. The Treasurers report was put on the screen and presented by myself, Bernie Hengels. Copies were also made available. The report was accepted by a motion from John Schoen and a second by Eric Nysse. New Business: Vice-Chair August covered general notices from the state section of WVOA. We did have a DNR update from Dick Sachs who mentioned that the operator testing results from the May 5 exams would be mailed out on May 21. Secondly, Dick talked of a "housekeeping" rule package that was recently mailed out and was available on the department's website. Thirdly, Dick mentioned that the department is currently working on procedures for the recently passed Thermal Rule and the Lower Fox River TMDL. More details will be released in the next few months and a report made at the next meeting. A motion to close the business meeting was made by John Schoen and second by Len Heimerman.

Morning break was compliments of Robert E. Lee & Associates.

Next up were Cory Erickson and John Laird of Coating Specialists, Inc. Cory and John presented Surface Preparation & Coatings in the Water & Wastewater Industry Overview. Their detailed PowerPoint presentation included many before and after surface prep slides showing and discussing the proper procedures necessary for good results. Further a discussion of available coatings to be used in the various environments found in our industry ensued. Photographic examples of both good and bad surface prep / coating applications were shared with the audience.

The fourth presenter for the morning was Jon Butt of Symbiont. Jon's presentation was "An Introduction to Computer Wastewater Process Simulators". This presentation is designed to introduce a class of computer software that is available to all. This class of software has been developed to mimic the response and performance of the activated sludge process. Jon walked through the simple process of inputting basic plant data into the software and the computer would run several simulations based on this data. The presentation concluded with a discussion of the limitations of the software along with suggestions as to the best use for this program.

Lunch was served family style and everyone seemed to enjoy the bbq ribs and chicken.

Following lunch, Paul Schuette of Sanitaire presented "Diffuser Maintenance". Fine bubble diffused aeration- membrane vs ceramic and maintenance. Photos were shown of fine bubble aeration both before and after cleaning / replacement. Discussions of when to clean and when to replace were presented along with the different type of materials that can be used. Further case studies of diffuser types and cycles were presented from various users around the country. The typical life of a diffuser in the municipal field is 5 – 10 years, whereas it is 2-6 years when in industrial use.

Our host Len Heimerman introduced what we were about to see at the plant tour and he was assisted by his lead operator, Marc Stephanie. Following this introduction, Vice-Chair August took a motion to end the formal part of the meeting and release all to head over to the plant.

Respectfully submitted by:

Bernie Hengels – LMD Secretary / Treasurer