

**Southern District WWOA Meeting
Hosted by the Boscobel WWTP at the
Boscobel Bowling & Banquet Center
Thursday – August 19, 2010**

There were 36 people in attendance at the meeting. We were greeted by Roy Swanke – Southern District Chairperson who introduced Mayor Steve Wetter of the City of Boscobel. Steve told the audience he has been Mayor for a number of years and has found the wastewater treatment plant to be a very positive experience. He recalled how in the early 1980's a regional WWTP idea was being promoted, however, as often is the case, surrounding communities were not in favor of such a proposal. Steve appreciates that the facility is in compliance and that Scott and his staff produce "holy water". He invited everyone to visit and enjoy the many features the Boscobel area has to offer.

Our first presentation was by Mark Cupp – Executive Director of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway. Mark's PowerPoint presentation was titled Lower Wisconsin Riverway. A decade of cooperative effort between citizens, Environmental Groups, Politicians, and the Department of Natural Resources ended successfully with the passage of the law establishing the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway and Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board. This law established the land management and acquisition standards for the riverway and became effective on August 9, 1989.

The Wisconsin River flows unimpeded by any manmade structures for 92 miles from the dam at Prairie du Sac downstream to its mouth at the Mississippi River. From its point of origin on the Wisconsin-Michigan border, the river flows south, then west to its confluence with the Mississippi, a distance of 430 miles. Over 80,000 acres of land on both sides of the river have been designated as the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway.

In order to retain the aesthetics of the riverway, a multitude of activities are regulated, which include; timber cutting standards, stairs & walkways, piers & boat storage facilities, swimming rafts, utility facilities, high voltage transmission lines, roads, junk & solid waste, mines & quarries, brush & weedy vegetation, signs, public access facilities, etc.

Mark showed numerous examples where property owners were good stewards of the land and had homes which blended in well with the surrounding landscape. He also had examples of where structures did not meet the intent of the riverway protection requirements and were required to mitigate the impacts the activities caused. Due to the protection efforts of the Riverway Law and Board, future generations will be able to enjoy the many recreational activities the lower Wisconsin Riverway offers without seeing "human scarring" of the countryside!

After our break, Jonathon (Jon) Butt – Symbiont gave a PowerPoint presentation titled What is Sustainability and Why is it Important?

What is It?

Key Concepts.

How will it Effect You?

WWTPs have practiced sustainability for many years. We design systems to provide long service (20+ years); we practice efficiency in a multitude of things we do at a treatment plant; and lastly, we reuse as often as practicable.

Jon envisions WWTPs in a leadership role. We are a technological community. Our resources are critical to sustainability and we use resource recovery. There is a changing view of wastewater treatment plants to a concept of resource recovery centers.

Jon spoke of the ‘triple bottom line’ (Sociology/Ecology/Economy).

Economy includes the true cost of ownership (capital + operating expenses). Cradle to grave analysis, cost to the environment & cost to the local economy.

Environment goes beyond effluent limits and includes impacts to air, water & land.

Social equity includes the welfare of the employees.

How will sustainability affect you? You will be asked to expand your area of expertise. You will need to be part of the process. Your opinion will matter. You will be part of the solution. You will need to lead by example. More interaction with the public.

Brian Watring, Hilti, gave the morning’s final presentation – Drilling and Anchoring Systems. Brian had a wide variety of Hilti tools to demonstrate the capabilities of the equipment (cordless, measuring systems, direct fastening, drilling & demolition, anchoring systems, diamond coring & cutting, screw fastening systems and cutting). He spoke of the numerous anchoring techniques often employed and how the equipment he was demonstrating could assist in achieving superior results compared to J-bolts being imbedded within concrete. Not to mention, the ability to properly locate anchor positions when equipment is on-site and not having to worry about anchor placement when placing concrete.

Brian also demonstrated the Active Vibration Reduction (AVR) device built into Hilti equipment to prevent operator injury if a large amount of torque is transmitted to the equipment (prevents wrist/arm injuries).

Brian also demonstrated an anchor adhesive and how to apply it to deep penetrations. A question and answer session was held with a wealth of useful information shared. In addition, Hilti has an equipment rental program available. Buyer beware if purchasing used equipment as the Hilti brand has a theft deterrent embedded electronic chip which locks out equipment after resting a predetermined amount of time.

After lunch, Roy Swanke conducted the business meeting for the Southern District. After approval of the agenda, minutes, election of new Secretary (Scott Stimart – Boscobel WWTP Superintendent) and the Treasurers Report, Roy told the group about various upcoming events. The WWOA annual conference will be held in Wisconsin Dells (Kalahari Resort) from October 19th to October 22nd (pre-conference workshop will be 2 consecutive sessions). Roy also reminded the group about various scholarships and tuition reimbursements that the WWOA has to offer. The UW Water library is our reference library location. Please refer to the WWOA.org website for details about the library and upcoming events. Roy solicited nominations for various awards to be given out at the annual conference in Wisconsin Dells and to start thinking about nominations for next year's conference.

Roy presented Scott Stimart a plaque acknowledging the appreciation of the Southern District for hosting the meeting in Boscobel. Presently we are looking for host communities for 2010. Be thinking of nominations for next years Southern District WWTP Operator of the Year Award (every year we struggle with nominations). WWOA is again seeking teams to participate in the Annual Operators Competition. Bernie (on behalf of the membership) presented Roy an engraved plaque in recognition of Roy's contributions to the Southern District for the past 3 years.

After adjournment of the business meeting, door prizes were then drawn. Thank you to all of our vendors for the prizes and support with their displays at the meeting and a special thanks to Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District for the use of their laptop computer!

DNR Update: Jack Saltes, Waste Water Engineer for the Wisconsin DNR. Dave Carper was introduced to the group and he is the recently appointed new Basin Engineer for the area (maps & contact info was made available). Jack then mentioned that the Thermal Rule has been promulgated with few expected requirements for municipalities (thermal requirements will be addressed during WPDES permit reissuance). The proposed new phosphorus rule is scheduled to go to the Legislature and another Senate hearing is to take place. A draft SSO rule has been crafted, with an advisory committee meeting scheduled in September, with a tentative fall/winter public hearing. Duane Schuettpelz has returned to the agency to finalize this rule.

Jack reminded everyone about the CMOM requirements and that all communities need to begin addressing those requirements if they haven't already begun that effort. NR 114 (Operator Certification) is going to be revamped with less subclasses proposed and possible elimination of advanced exams. Workforce Development received a sizable grant to develop an apprenticeship program for WWTP operators. Jack is also forming a General Wastewater Exam workgroup.

Permit backlog will continue to grow as the permit drafter for the Southern Region is working on a part-time basis. Your current WPDES permit is in effect until a new permit is issued.

Our next speaker was Patrick Ostrenga from OSHA and his topic was NFPA 70E, the Good, Bad & Ugly. Discussed were electrical hazards, arc flash, arc blast & electrical safe work practices (ESWP). Pat noted that there is 1 fatality per 300 recordable work related injuries, whereas there is 1 fatality per 10 recordable electrical injuries. Many recorded electrical injuries were shown to the group to emphasize that electricity is not to be taken lightly. Following proper safety procedures is paramount to preventing injury or death. The dollar figure associated with an electrical incident is “shocking” and the personal trauma can be worse

Proper equipment, clothing and proper lockout procedures are key to preventing injuries. No matter the costs associated with equipment down time, all repairs/installations need to occur on de-energized equipment.

Lastly, the members were given a tour of the WWTP by the Boscobel staff.