This year’s Plant Operations Tour was held on July 24 at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Stickney Wastewater Treatment Plant and Mainstream Pumping Station. The tour provided industry professionals with a behind-the-scenes look at one of the largest treatment plants and pump stations in the world. The Stickney tour was hosted by Reed Dring and Ahmad Laban, and started with an overview of the treatment processes and control room. The control room is the command center of the treatment plant, where each element of the treatment system is monitored and recorded. The weather is also continually monitored, because of its impact on treatment efficiency.

A guided tour of a few systems of the treatment plant followed. The first stop was the aeration tanks and utility tunnel. From there, the group moved on to the pump station, where blowers for the low-pressure air system are also located. Four blowers are rated at 200,000 cfm at 9 psi, 10,000 hp at 3,500 rpm. The district pays roughly $1.5 million per month for electricity, of which approximately 54 percent is attributed to running the blowers.

The group then toured the aerated grit system followed by the thickening and
President's Corner
By Kendra Sveum, President, IWEA

Early this summer, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) began seeking input regarding proposed changes of the wastewater certification rules to require continuing education units (CEUs) through the Board of Certification within the next 24 to 36 months. These new requirements would include 15 hours of CEUs for class 3 and 4 operators, and 30 hours for class 1 and 2 operators every three years. The individual renewal cycles would be staggered so that one third of the operators would submit documentation each year. The IEPA is currently using the regulations for certified public water operators as the model for these updated wastewater certification rules.

I believe that the proposed regulations embody several of our organization’s core missions:

• Advance the knowledge and technology in the design, construction, operation and management of the water quality systems and facilities
• Increase the knowledge and understanding of the earth’s water environment, and encourage and promote action necessary for its enhancement
• Develop and implement effective delivery mechanisms to rapidly disseminate knowledge concerning the water environment to members and other interested parties
• Promote sound policy in matters relating to the water environment
• Improve the professional status of all personnel engaged in any aspect of protecting and improving the earth’s water environment

One of the benefits of our organization is to help shape proposed regulations such as these to meet the needs of our membership. By the time this article is published, IWEA will have conducted a member survey to get your input on this proposed change. However, this is not a one-time discussion. The Board of IWEA would like to hear your input on the issue so that we can give a voice to each of you. Feel free to call or email at any time to discuss the possibilities.

Every member counts!

THANK YOU NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRS!

I would like to welcome our new Committee Chairs:

Newsletter Committee Chair: Bernie Held, Crawford Murphy & Tilly, Inc.
Safety Committee Chair: Mike Harvey, Donohue & Associates
Student Chapters Vice-Chair: John Watson, MWRDGC

Special thanks to our outgoing chairs:

• Newsletter: Kathy Cooper has retired from the industry this August. She served IWEA on the executive board and committee chairs for many years.
• Safety: Mark Termini has stepped down as chair to serve on the executive board.
• Student Chapters: Lou Storino has stepped down as chair to serve on the executive board.

We are still looking for a Chair for the Public Education and Student Affairs Committee. If you are interested, please contact me at (312) 583-7233.
2015 Scholarship Applications Now Available
By Carlee Scharnhorst, Scholarship & Charitable Giving Chair

An updated Clean Water Scholarship application is now available on the IWEA website. IWEA offers Clean Water Scholarships to students from Illinois or enrolled in an Illinois school and pursuing a water-related degree. Please spread the word so that we can get as many qualified applicants as possible. We have been impressed with the variety of applicants in years past and would like to continue that trend.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the golf outing this summer. Without such events, our scholarships and charitable giving would not be possible. We are looking forward to introducing a new scholarship fundraiser at the conference in February. Hopefully, the debut of the basket raffle will be successful and help to ensure the longevity of the scholarship programs. If you would like to sponsor a basket, please do so on your conference registration. Otherwise, look for us on the exhibit hall floor and buy a ticket for a chance to win your favorite basket.

IWEA Member Poll – Input on CEU’s for Operator Certification Requested
By Amanda Withers, Awards Chair

Illinois EPA may change the wastewater operator certification requirements in Illinois to require continuing education requirements (CEUs) within the next 24 to 36 months. Many other states require CEUs for wastewater operator certification, but Illinois does not, even for those operators certified in the 1970s and 1980s. The absence of CEUs has even created issues with operator reciprocity. Operators would have to submit proof of training documentation to IEPA every three years. One-third of all certified operators would have to submit their training documentation each year, probably with a renewal fee. The current fee is $10 every three years.

IWEA supports continuing education for wastewater operators, and the board would like to submit a letter to IEPA with some input from our membership about the potential requirements. Please consider whether the IWEA Board should support, oppose or remain neutral on the proposed requirements, and provide your input and comments to Tim Kluge at TimK@sddcleanwater.org by December 31, 2014. Also watch for additional upcoming opportunities to provide input to IWEA, and directly to IEPA in the future.

Delegates’ Corner
By Tim Kluge, Delegate 2014, Mary Johnson, Delegate 2016

During its meeting September 27 at WEFTEC, WEF officers and staff briefed the House of Delegates on the accomplishments of the past year, and the outlook for next year. President Sandra Ralston emphasized ongoing efforts in the areas of WEF’s four strategic objectives.

The first objective is to drive innovation in the water sector, which was demonstrated by the rebroading of treatment facilities as Water Resource Recovery Facilities. WEF’s efforts in this area focused on recovery of water, nutrients, and energy. Examples of activities included providing online training in biological nutrient removal, and partnering in the Leaders Innovation Forum for Technology (LIFT) program with the Water Environment Research Foundation. Strategies during the next year include expanding the National Biosolids Partnership brand and growing the Biosolids and Residuals specialty conference.

To enrich the expertise of water professionals, President Ralston mentioned WEF’s establishment of an online operations resource center, launch of an operator initiative and certification advocacy. WEF business strategies for FY 15 include retaining, growing, and diversifying WEF membership, enhancing the Utility Management conference and providing additional resources for stormwater professionals. For WEFTEC 2015 in Chicago, strategies include maximizing attendance and exhibitor participation along with enhancing the attendee experience.

To address WEF’s objective of increasing awareness of the value of water, work continues on the Water Advocates program and the launch of the Value of Water campaign. During the conference, Gina McCarthy, WEF and U.S. EPA Administrator, also announced the release of a report highlighting the economic importance of the water sector and the effect of needed water infrastructure improvements on job creation.

During the past year, WEF’s new strategic objective is to provide for the organization’s financial and organizational stability. This initiative is intended to ensure sustainability in business operations as well as provide an engagement group to assist new member associations.

Treasurer Rick Warner presented the 2015 WEF business plan and financial report. The business plan includes strategies to support the four critical objectives described above. As described, the plan incorporates an analysis of the water sector business climate along with WEF’s mission and resources. The total WEF budget for 2015 is approximately $23 million.

Dues will increase in 2015, as the second of three planned annual increases announced in 2014. For professional members, dues will increase by $15 to $116 effective January 1, 2015. It was noted that approximately 14 percent of WEF’s revenue is provided by membership dues, with WEFTEC providing the largest share of the remaining revenue.

The House also voted to confirm WEF Trustees, including IWEA member Tom Kunetz of Chicago.

Delegate work groups the coming year will include Member Association Leadership Development, Member Association Sustainability, Operators of the Future, and Water Advocacy/Value of Water.

The September 27, 2014 House of Delegates meeting was the last meeting of Tim Kluge’s term as an IWEA Delegate. Many thanks to Tim for his dedicated and ongoing service to the Illinois Water Environment Association.
On September 9, over 130 attendees, including seven exhibitors, gathered at the Medina Shriners in Addison for the third IWEA Nutrient Removal and Recovery Workshop. The workshop consisted of a comprehensive program, featuring discussions on nutrient removal and recovery from a technological standpoint, a proposed utility perspective and scientific research completed for policy making purposes. The program concluded with case studies presented by municipalities who shared some of the lessons learned and “do’s and don’ts” based on their experiences in operating a nutrient removal and recovery plant.

The keynote speaker for this year’s workshop was Dr. Beverly Stinson of AECOM. As the Director of Research and Development, as well as the National Wastewater Practice Leader, Dr. Stinson participated in numerous WERF-funded projects related to nutrient removal and recovery. With the upcoming phosphorus effluent requirements in Illinois, Dr. Stinson delivered a presentation focusing on strategies for phosphorus removal and recovery which included the use of RAS fermentation and dephosphorization of polyphosphate accumulating organisms to promote biological phosphorus removal, as well as side stream phosphorus management such as controlled struvite precipitation and issues dealing with sludge dewaterability and potential mitigation strategies. Dr. Stinson also discussed the latest developments on side stream and mainstream deammonification, a topic that she Dr. Stinson also discussed the latest developments on side stream and mainstream deammonification, a topic that she Dr. Stinson also discussed the latest developments on side stream and mainstream deammonification, a topic that she

In March 2013, IEPA began a process to establish a nutrient loss reduction strategy in cooperation with agricultural communities, environmental groups and municipalities. The goal is to establish a collaborative nutrient reduction strategy to address excess nutrients in Illinois waters and the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Mark David of the University of Illinois, who has been actively working with IEPA on the science assessment of the strategy, presented a summary of the findings and the latest developments. In general, assessment results indicated that 16 percent of the total nitrogen and 48 percent of the total phosphorus contributing to Illinois nutrient comes from point sources based on 1997 to 2011 data. Combining both point sources and non-point sources, the target reductions for both nitrogen and phosphorus in Illinois is 45 percent. A draft of the nutrient loss reduction strategy is scheduled for release and public comments in October 2014. For information about the strategy development and progress, go to www.cpa.state.il.us/water/ nutrient/index.

Dr. Catherine O’Connor of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago presented a non-conventional, “outside the box” concept in achieving nutrient reduction in Illinois. Alongside the IEPA nutrient loss reduction strategy, a new paradigm of environmental utility would provide a more sustainable, cost-effective, and holistic approach in improving the water environment and resolving water quality issues. It is not a secret that achieving nutrient removal at all major municipalities will cost millions and billions of dollars. According to the same science assessment led by Dr. Mark David, the costs associated for point source P removal has been estimated at $114 million per year. By establishing environmental utility, a separate fund will be collected and the fund will be used to address nutrient loads for all stakeholders. Instead of targeting individual point and non-point sources for load reductions, the fund will be used for projects that would address multiple sources collectively. The concept is in its infancy. As one can imagine, major obstacles include public, municipalities, and regulatory agencies acceptance. Questions such as organization/utility board structures, roles and responsibilities, delegation of authority between the proposed utility and regulatory agencies, and more importantly, how will money be collected for funding, are yet to be answered.

The Students and Young Professionals (SYP) committee met for the spring clean-up of the Pulaski Park Rain Garden in Chicago. IL. On Saturday, June 21, IWEA members joined forces to weed, plant, and mulch the rain garden, which collects rainwater from the Pulaski Park Pool House roof to alleviate localized flooding in the park. After years of difficulty in maintaining the plants, we were prepared to abandon the rain garden this year. However, this was the first year that the majority of plants were able to take root feet in diameter, and located 240 to 300 feet below ground. Flow from sewage and stormwater enters the tunnels through drop shafts that are conveyed to the Mainstream Pumping Station. Prior to pumping, water from the tunnel travels through mechanically cleaned bar screens. A sump is provided in front of the screen for heavy debris, such as rocks. Screened flow is then pumped to the district’s Stickney Water Reclamation Plant for treatment by pumps rated up to 330 cfs at 17,500 hp.

Mr. Marks presented on the history of the tunnel system and techniques used during construction. After the presentation, the group travelled down 350 feet below ground to where the pumps and valves are located. Everyone was very impressed by this truly modern marvel.

The IWEA Plant Operations Committee would like to thank the District and its staff for allowing IWEA to tour the facility and for taking time out of their busy day to present and discuss their facilities.

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IWEA Operators Challenge
By Greg Garbs, Plant Operations Vice Chair

The Plant Operations Committee has been very busy again this year planning the "Event of the Century"! Well... it's hard to beat last year! This year, the IWEA will have its Second Ever Operators Challenge. Yep, you heard right! This event is just downright fun and not quite as extensive as WEFTEC! The event will be on Tuesday, February 24 at 1 pm in the center aisle of the Exhibit Hall at the upcoming IWEA Conference to be held at the iHotel in Champaign.

The goal of the Operators Challenge is to provide a fun but educational experience. There are four challenges to participate in: Laboratory, Maintenance, Safety, and Operations.

The Laboratory challenge will consist of a low-level chlorine (SM 4500-CI. G) analysis. Each participant will be required to don the provided goggles, lab coats, aprons, and gloves. Emphasis will be placed on procedure, technique, set up and clean-up. The challenge criteria for grading will be twenty different aspects of the analysis. Judges will be knowledgeable and stringent, just like the regulators!

The Maintenance challenge is still in the air. The committee wants to have a familiar maintenance item that will still be a challenge. Last year, the challenge was to utilize the provided equipment and tools necessary to remove the lobes and rebuild a pump.

Like last year, grading will be on 20 different aspects of the job, including preparations, maintenance techniques, clean up, and use of or lack of proficiency. Judges are industry professionals and equipment representatives, so be on your toes!

The Safety challenge will be a chlorine gas connection to either a ton or 150 lb. cylinder. This will be interesting as Viking Chemical is busy working on the demonstration cut-away ton container. Equipment and safety gear will be provided. The participant will be required to use and don all necessary safety equipment such as a tyvek suit, gloves, helmet, mask, etc. and we're working on a twist to this event. Grading will be based on methods used to safely connect the chlorine container to the feed yoke!

Sharpen up your wits! The Operations Challenge is a quiz developed by the high academics at the Environmental Resources Training Center. These guys say the quiz will challenge even the most knowledgeable and astute operator. It's short, but the scenario will make you think.

The grade sheets will be submitted to the Head Judge table. There, in a top secret high security area, the knowledgeable judges will tabulate the results. The winners will be announced at the end of the event. Each participant will be awarded a Certificate of Achievement. The winners of each event will receive a trophy and the undying respect and adulation of the crowds.

This event is for individual participation, and you may enter as many challenges as you wish. This makes it easy and flexible for anyone to participate.

Watch for more information on the Operators Challenge in future issues of the Clarifier.

IWEA's Watershed Management Committee has continued to meet monthly to discuss news and resources available to watershed managers throughout the state. Committee members recently assisted with the planning for the "Beyond the Basics - Making Green Stormwater Practices Pay Off For Your Community" seminar hosted by The Conservation Foundation and Illinois EPA. The event took place on Sept. 9-10 at the Morton Arboretum.

The first day consisted of two pre-seminar workshops focused on watershed-based plans and ordinance reviews, and a tour of local green stormwater projects. The second day featured a keynote session on innovative funding options for green stormwater programs and projects, followed by three concurrent session tracks with four presentations each. Dan Bounds, IWEA Past President, moderated one of the session tracks.

Of particular note to Committee members were the presentations on planning for the right vegetation and long-term maintenance of that vegetation for successful green stormwater management. Discussion included designing in hydraulic operational flexibility, which is sometimes missing from many green infrastructure measure designs and can be critical for establishing vegetation.

The event was very well attended and highly informative on topics "beyond the basics" of green infrastructure program implementation, including marketing, funding, and long-term operation and maintenance.

Mr. Ziemba was a true pioneer in the care and preservation of the water environment through his work with the EPA as well as IWEA. In 1980, he was one of the charter members of IWEA, and served as President in 2005-2006. He served on the IWEA Executive Board for many years, and spearheaded multiple public education efforts as chairperson of the IWEA Public Education committee. He also organized the judges for the annual Clean Water Awards. In his early years, he was one of the first employees and supervisors for the Illinois EPA Chicago office when it opened in 1971. He later served the downstate Marion area where he completed his IEPA career in 2001 as regional manager. Larry loved the life of an environmentalist. He will be missed!

The Committee has also been planning this year's Watershed Management Track for the 2015 IWEA Annual Conference. This year's track will continue to provide the traditional information conference attendees expect, including the water quality standards update, TMDL program update, and nonpoint source program update from Bob Mosher and Amy Walkenbach at Illinois EPA. This year's track will also feature a panel discussion on watershed management programs and regulations, and watershed group updates from the Sangamon River/Lake Decatur Watershed, Lake Bloomington Watershed, Salt Fork Vermilion River Watershed, Lake Mauvaise Watershed, and the Vermilion River Watershed.

From the Shed
By Dan Bounds, Watershed Management Committee

ILLINOIS WATERSHED TRIVIA!
IT WAS A WET SUMMER FOR ILLINOIS WATERSHEDS. WHERE DID IT FALL IN THE SUMMERS OF RECORD, AND WHICH WATERSHED WAS THE WETTEST?

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The IWEA lab committee has been busy over the last few months. We held another Lab Skills Workshop at Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois. We decided to take our show on the road and see if we would have any interested participants, and to our surprise, we had a great turnout. We have decided to alternate the workshops every other year to other parts of the state. If you are interested in having the workshop come to your area, please send me an email at rebecca.rose@mwrd.org. Next year, we are planning to do our workshop in conjunction with WEFTEC in Chicago.

It is never too soon to think about next year’s IWEA Annual Conference. Plan to attend the lab presentations and participate in the Operators Challenge, which will include a lab event.

Now for something new! The committee would like to highlight different laboratories in our LabOratory column. If you are interested in seeing your lab highlighted, please contact the lab committee at rebecca.rose@mwrd.org so that we can get the information needed to profile your lab.

Fun Had By All at Annual Golf Outing

By Mark Halm, Golf Committee Chair

Thank you to all who participated in and supported the IWEA Annual Golf Outing held on August 1 at the Links of Carillon. We had a good crowd of 82 golfers turn out for an enjoyable day on the links. All proceeds from the golf outing support the Scholarship and Charitable Giving committee. The 2015 IWEA golf committee will be chaired by former IWEA President and Delegate, John Lamb.

The 2014 outing was sponsored by the organizations listed below.

DINNER SPONSORS
- Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc.
- LAIL Ltd.
- Peterson & Matz
- Xylem Inc. Flygt Products

HOLE SPONSORS
- AECOM
- Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc.
- Baxter & Woodman, Inc.
- Black & Veatch
- CE Soling & Assoc LLC
- Clark Dietz, Inc.
- Donohue and Associates
- Drydon
- Flow - Technics, Inc.
- Greeley and Hansen
- Grundfos
- HDR Engineering, Inc.
- IDCS, LLC
- IHC Construction Companies, LLC
- Metropolitan Industries
- Strand Associates, Inc.
- Symbiont
- Walter E. Deuchler Associates, Inc.

The 2014 Sylvanus Jackson Scholarship was awarded to Jessica Russell of Fairview Heights, IL. The 2014 Clean Water Scholarships were awarded to Colleen Lyons and David Klawitter. Ms. Lyons is an Environmental and Water Resources engineering graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Klawitter is a civil engineering student at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He worked with a team to research and apply green infrastructure improvements on campus.

WEF Initiatives

By Mary Johnson, WEF Delegate 2016

Water Works! Campaign

With a slogan of “It’s All Over if We Don’t Fix What’s Down Under,” the Water Works! Campaign is an ongoing effort spearheaded by the Value of Water Coalition. Its aim is to educate the public on the importance of clean, safe, and reliable water to and from every home and community, and to help ensure quality water service for future generations.

The Value of Water Coalition is made up of public and private members who share concerns about our water infrastructure. Public members include the Water Environment Federation and the American Water Works Association.

You can learn more about this initiative at www.waterworkscampaign.com

Water Advocates Program

The Water Advocates Program is a simple and effective way for industry professionals to effectively engage elected officials and the public on water issues. It is designed to heighten the advocacy skills of WEF members by providing them with the planning tools and materials needed to carry the value-of-water message to public officials who make decisions about supporting water at the federal, state, and local level. WEF’s goal is to create a network of water advocates in every state.

Many water advocates shared the message during Water Week 2014 as part of the National Policy Forum and Fly-In. This event highlighted the need for a robust national policy to protect water resource recovery facilities from the challenges of a growing population and climate change effects. Another Fly-In is planned for 2015.

To join the Water Advocates Program email wateradvocates@wef.org

The committee would like to supervise an ammonia analysis.

An ammonia analysis at the Lab Skills Workshop
Three case studies were presented in the afternoon session. Mr. Alan Grooms of Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District shared their experience in starting up and operating a phosphorus recovery facility at the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant in Madison, WI. The second case study was presented by Mr. Myron Erikson and Jon Burke of the city of Wyoming Clean Water Plant in Wyoming, MI. The plant is a biological phosphorus removal plant of 15 MGD, averaging an effluent phosphorus concentration of 0.33 mg/L (from 6.1 mg/L). The third case study was presented by Mr. Bob Trueblood of Fox River Water Reclamation District in Elgin, IL. The West Wastewater Treatment Plant of the District operates as a 5-stage Bardenpho process, achieving an effluent of 0.2 mg/L TP (from 4.3 mg/L) and 8 mg/L TN (from 30 mg/L).

All presentations may be downloaded from the IWEA website.

The workshop was co-sponsored by the Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies and the Illinois Association of Water Pollution Control Operators. I would like to thank all the speakers who delivered excellent presentations, as well as all of the committee members and exhibitors. Without their help, the workshop would not have been such a success.

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**Plant Profile**

**By Lee Melcher, Plant Operations Chair**

**Location**

City of Belleville Wastewater Treatment Plant

**Plant Director**

E. Royce Carlisle

**Influent Design**

Plant 1
- Daily average flow: 8.0 MGD
- Daily maximum flow: 16.0 MGD

Plant 2
- Daily average flow: 4.4 MGD
- Daily maximum flow: 11.0 MGD
- Storm flow: 200 MGD

**Effluent Limits**

- BOD: 10 mg/L
- TSS: 12 mg/L
- Ammonia (Apr-Oct): 1.5 mg/L
- Ammonia (Nov-Mar): 1.9 mg/L
- Total Phosphorous: 1 mg/L

**Effluent Performance**

- BOD: <5 mg/L
- TSS: <5 mg/L
- Ammonia: <0.5 mg/L
- Total Phosphorous: <0.1 mg/L

The city of Belleville WWTF was put into service in 1940. It started as a conventional, activated sludge treatment facility. The plant went through multiple upgrades throughout the years that include additions of anaerobic digesters, primary and secondary clarifiers, trickling filters and tertiary filtration.

Belleville’s collection system consists of 250 miles of pipe. Approximately 35 percent of the system is combined flow. Belleville developed, and IEPA approved, a long-term control plan (LCTP) to reduce and eliminate its combined sewer overflows (CSOs). The first and second phases of the LCTP have been completed. These phases included a 200 MGD CSO pump station, storage lagoons, 4.4 MGD plant expansion and piping infrastructure that will eliminate many of the city’s CSOs.

The expanded plant is an extended air process (continuous sequencing reactor provided by Schreiber) with Aquaguard bar screens. Flygt raw sewage pumps, Vulcan washer- compactor and Enaqua UV disinfection. Improvements to the existing plant included main pump station control panel replacement, a new maintenance garage and plant-wide SCADA system.

Plant expansion also afforded the opportunity to upgrade the sludge digestion process to auto thermal aerobic digestion (ATAD provided by Thermal Process). This process was chosen to not only replace the existing plant’s aging anaerobic digestion process and its pending rehabilitation cost, but also provide the necessary capacity to handle both the expanded plant and the existing plant’s sludge needs. ATAD now produces a Class A Sludge. Processed sludge is dewatered with two Ashbrook, two-meter Wiinkle type presses.
The city of Belleville has also finished a complete tertiary filter upgrade for the existing plant. The 1970 vintage Greenleaf filter system was replaced with fabric media filters (Fuzzy Filters from Schreiber). These filters can be loaded up to 30 gpm/ sq. ft. The small footprint afforded by these filters also allowed the city to upgrade and modernize its non-potable process water system.

The CSO pump station utilizes Huber automatic bar screens, Vulcan washer- compactors, Serpentix conveyors, and Flygt high flow tube pumps. Excess flow is pumped from the CSO pump station to two stormwater holding basins until flows allow for return to either treatment plant for full treatment.

The Sewer Rats represented the Illinois Water Environment Association and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago in the 2014 Operations Challenge competition at WEFTEC in New Orleans. The new team started competing together last year and took the Division II, 3rd place title in Chicago. This year they moved up to the Division I competition. It is quite an accomplishment for a new team and a big jump in the level of competition. While the team did not place this year, their hard work and competitiveness embodied the spirit of the competition. The team looks forward to building on their experience this year and competing at WEFTEC in Chicago in 2015.
Reflections on WEFTEC

By Mark Halm, WEFTEC Delegate

WEFTEC was a resounding success this year, with WEF reporting a total of 20,385 registrants, and 1,027 exhibitors. What a great collection of people demonstrating that Water’s Worth It: Our Effort, Our Health, Our Future and Our Passion. The “Water’s Worth It” campaign and the similar Water Works campaign highlighted at the conference are great ways to engage the public. Be a voice for water, check-out www.waters-worth-it.org.

On Monday morning, I was sitting in the opening session and highly caffeinated after a night in the French Quarter. Luke Williams, who is a professor at New York University, began speaking and I quickly discovered I didn’t need the coffee. Mr. Williams energized the crowd during the opening session with his keynote address titled Innovation and Leadership. Mr. Williams had great seminars this year on Nutrients Removal and Recovery, and Soil in the City—I am looking forward to our conference this year in Champaign. Maybe a disruptive innovation will be revealed!

IWEA Conference Registration Now Online

By Laurie Frieders, IWEA Executive Director

Join us for the 2015 Annual Meeting, Feb. 23-25. This great industry event puts true focus back onto Illinois wastewater and stormwater treatment. Conference highlights include:

- Technical Sessions, Workshops and Ops Challenge
- Exhibits
- Receptions, Luncheons and Awards Banquet
- Plant Tour
- Young Professionals Events

Access the attendee registration form on the IWEA website, iweasite.org.

Exhibitor Booth Registration and Sponsorship Opportunities are still available and can be accessed online. Early exhibit registration discount ends on October 31.

WEFMAX Is Coming To Town

By Chuck Corley, WEFMAX Committee Chair

Mark your calendar for May 4 – 6, 2016 and get ready to join dozens of your fellow WEF and IWEA members at the annual WEFMAX (WEF Member Association Exchange). This annual event rarely comes to Chicago, but in 2016, IWEA will host one of the four WEFMAX meetings at the Hard Rock Hotel on Michigan Avenue near Wacker Drive. In addition to the WEFMAX business, many on and off-site activities will take place geared to the WEF philosophy of the member association exchange of ideas, experiences, ways and means of organizing and serving their respective associations. Participation is open to any WEF member, especially current member association leaders and soon-to-be leaders. Every WEFMAX in 2016 will have a common WEF theme and agenda. The Chicago WEFMAX will add a unique venue. Planning is underway, and you can participate two ways. Join in the WEFMAX experience in 2016, or join us in the planning now. Or both. For the latter, contact Chuck Corley, WEFMAX Committee Chair, 815-987-7040 or ccorley@comcast.net. Many more details will be announced as the plans progress.

Get ready, this is the WEFMAX you don’t want to miss!

First Quarter Financial Report

By Debra Ness, Treasurer

The first quarter of the IWEA fiscal year ran from July 1 through September 30. During the first quarter, IWEA had total income of $39,684.08 and total expenses of $73,964.46.

Moving into the second quarter, IWEA will need to file the required IRS Form 990EZ. This is filed annually under the Federal IRS statutes as a 501(c)(3) organization. IWEA will also file the required Attorney General report in December.

Financial Statement at the end of the first quarter is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank Accounts</th>
<th>$127,533.41</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>$3,983.60</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Accounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Month Reserve CD</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Month Reserve CD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Month Reserve CD</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Month Reserve CD</td>
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<td>24 Month Reserve CD</td>
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Total | $187,523.33 |

ACCkomodations:
The hosting hotel is the iHotel & Conference Center at 1900 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820, 217-819-5000, stayatthei.com The conference room rate is $129.00 per night. Call 217-819-5000 and mention “IWEA15” to receive this rate.

Additional rooms are available at Comfort Suites Champaign-Urbana. To receive the $99.00 per night room rate, call 217-328-3500. Make sure to mention the group name: IWEA15.

For more information or links to online registration, access the IWEA website at iweasite.org.

Financial Statement
State Senate Bill 3507 Municipal Service Connection Fees

The governor has issued an amendatory veto on Senate Bill 3507. The original version of the bill granted townships the right to charge a connection fee for water or sewer service, but would have limited the amounts that municipalities or townships could charge for such fees to 1/6 of the annual estimated amount of charges for the user. The governor’s amendatory veto removes the limits for the service connection fees. The overall fate of this bill will be determined during the fall veto session where both chambers will have the opportunity to agree or disagree with the governor’s changes.

IEPA published a draft version of the new MS4 permit for public comment during the summer. IEPA received numerous comments and is currently in the process of considering revisions. Interested parties can still view the summer draft on the IEPA public notice website. IEPA will be providing additional details once the revisions have been drafted.

Pending SRF Program Changes

IEPA is currently working to implement changes to the SRF program related to the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), which was signed into law earlier this year.

One such change is to allow entities to apply for either a 20-year or a 30-year loan period. IEPA is hoping to adopt new rules within the next few months that allow for the longer loan period, and to provide criteria for the longer-term interest rates. Additional rule changes are also underway to allow for the financing of stormwater related projects through the SRF program.

IEPA has also indicated that anyone submitting a SRF loan application after October 1, 2014 will be required to prepare a Fiscal Sustainability Plan. To date, USEPA has not provided much guidance on preparing such a plan. However, the WRRDA bill contained the following requirements for a fiscal sustainability plan:

“(E) for a treatment works proposed for repair, replacement, or expansion, and eligible for assistance under subsection (c)(1), the recipient of a loan shall—(i) develop and implement a fiscal sustainability plan that includes—(I) an inventory of critical assets that are a part of the treatment works; (II) an evaluation of the condition and performance of inventoried assets or asset groupings; (III) a certification that the recipient has evaluated and will be implementing water and energy conservation efforts as part of the plan; and (IV) a plan for maintaining, repairing, and, as necessary, replacing the treatment works and a plan for funding such activities; or (ii) certify that the recipient has developed and implemented a plan that meets the requirements under clause (i);”

CSO treatment facilities may or may not see similar requirements, depending on where the flow diversion occurs. Diversions which occur prior to the WWTP headworks will be considered upstream of the plant. These facilities will not see new removal requirements. Plants with CSO treatment diversions that occur after their headworks will either have to comply with the same requirements as excess flow facilities, or perform a “No Feasible Alternative Analysis” documenting why it’s not feasible.

IL Offensive Condition Narrative Standard Revisions.

IEPA held a stakeholder group meeting on October 27 to review proposed changes to the state’s current offensive condition narrative standard found at IAC Title 35, Subtitle C, Chapter 1, Part 302.203. The proposed changes are intended to better define when excessive algae and plant growth are occurring. The workgroup is intended to provide input to the IEPA prior to an eventual proposal being prepared for the Pollution Control Board.

Keep your eyes open for these upcoming events!

IWEA Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting/Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 13, 2014</td>
<td>Collections Systems Seminar</td>
<td>Hyatt Hotel Lisle, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 20, 2014</td>
<td>Biosolids Seminar</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5, 2014</td>
<td>Executive Board &amp; Committee Chair Meeting</td>
<td>Starved Rock Lodge, Utica, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 23, 2015</td>
<td>Government Affairs Conference</td>
<td>Chicago Marriott SW, Burr Ridge, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 23-25, 2015</td>
<td>IWEA 36th Annual Conference &amp; Exposition</td>
<td>Hotel Champaign, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4-6, 2016</td>
<td>WEFMAX</td>
<td>Hard Rock Hotel, Chicago, IL</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please see iweasite.org to register for events.
Illinois Water Environment Association is a Member Association of the Water Environment Federation dedicated to improving Illinois’ surface, sub-surface and atmospheric water. The ILLINOIS CLARIFIER is a quarterly publication of IWEA providing pertinent information by, for and about IWEA Members. The opinions contained herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the IWEA or the ILLINOIS CLARIFIER committee. Copy deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October. Direct comments and inquiries to: Illinois Clarifier, Karen Dix Managing Editor; email: ILClarifier@Juno.com; website: http://iweasite.org/ Printed on recycled paper. Share with a friend and prospective member, then recycle.

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By Cheryl Kunz, Marketing Chair

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