

Share Your Thoughts

A Message from the NHWPCA President

Ryan Peebles, NHWPCA 2023 President

To each and every one of you that are taking the time to read this as well as being a member of the New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association, I would like to pass on a sincere Thank You for your hard work and dedication to the state of New Hampshire. As most of you know you are commonly referred to as Wastewater Treatment Operators. In my opinion, each and every one of you is much more than that. You are ENVIRONMENTALISTS! You folks are the ones that treat the raw sewage that comes into your facilities

so that it can be released back into our streams, rivers, lakes and for some the ocean. The same bodies of water that we boat in, fish in, swim in and for some the water that our drinking water is obtained from. Most people in the public sector have no idea what it takes to become an Environmentalist of wastewater as well as what it takes to maintain the facilities in good operational order, in preparation to release safe uncontaminated water. I often say to people that are aware of what occurs in these facilities, "If it was easy, everyone would do it".

Not to offend anyone; but as I looked around the room at our recent winter meeting, I saw that some of us, including myself, have more grey hair then we did when I first started as a Polymer Technical Rep. This is an indication that we are all getting or are already old. I often ask myself, Self "What will this industry look like in 20 years?" The first concern that comes to my mind is where and how do we get young people involved and interested? I honestly do not have the answer. However, one of the things that each and every one of us can do is put our best foot forward to work on getting the "fresh out of school" interested as well as Veterans, college graduates and yes, even that 30, 40 or 50 something aged person that is just looking to make a career change. If we are not proactive, WE as well as our environment will be paying the ultimate price in the future. I am making it one of my top priorities as your president in the next year to help break this cycle. Reaching out to Technical Schools, High Schools and Veteran Affairs as well as Temporary Employment agencies to get interest in what you all do and what people could be doing and make a good living at. No, none of us will ever be RICH, but you can make a good, honest living while being a Wastewater Environmentalist.

Part of this battle is for the owners of these facilities to be looking at wage rates as well as providing potential employees with what the benefit packages are worth. Showing what the yearly health insurance costs are, life insurance benefits (if any), paid holidays, vacation benefits, as well as retirement benefit



Continued on Page 3

NHWPCA Board

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Editor's Words



Stephanie Somersworth WWTF

I recently had the best time tour-guiding here in Somersworth! You're probably thinking that I'm talking about our recent Winter Meeting, but as much fun as that was, I had an even better time tour-guiding for a local third-grade class. There is a teacher that does a community unit for his third-graders every year and they tour several City departments, including both the drinking water and wastewater facilities. The students were all well-behaved and asked good questions. One of the questions was "when you were in third-grade, what did you want to be when you grew up?" I'm pretty darn sure that no third-grader wants to grow up and treat wastewater for a living, so this was a great question! It was also a difficult question for me. When I was 8 or 9 years old, I not only had no idea what I wanted to be, I had begun a list of things that I did NOT want to be. I definitely did not want to be a dentist. I didn't want to be a doctor or a phlebotomist. I also didn't want any job involving horses, polar bears or sharks. The answer that I came up with for the students was "artist". I never really wanted to be an artist, but I was able to tell the students that after a while I realized that I wasn't very good at art, and as much as I enjoyed it, it wouldn't be a good job for me. I then told them how much I liked science and math in school and I was good at those subjects and my wastewater operator job allows me to use those subjects every day. Then I brought them into my office where the walls are covered with colorful, but not very good, paintings that I've created. I told them that I still like art and paint for fun. I think that it was a decent lesson. Maybe I should have been a teacher?

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Upcoming Events

- Mar. 1 - NHWPCA/NHDES PFAS Training Class
- Mar. 8 - Legislative Breakfast
- Mar. 17 - Ski Day
- Apr. 14 - Trade Fair w/ Board Meeting
- May 1 - Clean Water Week
- Jun. 6 - NEWEA & NYWEA Spring Meeting & Exhibit
- Jun. 23 - Summer Outing w/ Board Meeting
- Jul. 29 - Fisher Cats Game
- Aug. 3 - Golf Tournament

Go to www.nhwPCA.org for live links to online registration



NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Stephanie Rochefort, Mary Jane Meier, Steve Clifton, Ryan Peebles, **YOUR NAME HERE**. We welcome additional members. We are looking for meaningful articles for the Wastewater Operator in a timely fashion. Send submission articles for *THE COLLECTOR* to: Stephanie Rochefort via email at srochefort@somersworth.com.

Editor: Stephanie Rochefort

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package and 401K employer contributions. When all these values are calculated and divided by 2,080 hours then this is your true hourly rate with no overtime. Not just \$20 per hour for 2,080 hours. This is how a salary should be presented to each and every employee no matter what the career is.

Then last but not least, once new employees are hired and settled in how do we prepare them to become Grade 1 operators? My thought is **On the Job Training** is the best way. Get them involved and we as a community of operators must be involved in their training. Helping prepare each and every one of these individuals for their written Exam is typically much easier once the hands-on part is learned. I personally am not a good test taker at all. I get worked up, frustrated, lose confidence in knowledge of the information, and shut down. How can we and the DES as well as the State of NH make it easier to prepare these individuals for testing and increase the Pass/Fail ratio. My feeling is once a new Wastewater Environmentalist becomes a Grade 1 Operator they are typically to some degree invested and hooked on the task at hand, however; if they keep failing and do not have certification success then the interest ceases quickly. All these tasks cannot possibly be obtained by myself or the board of the NHWPCA alone.

My challenge to each one of you that are reading this newsletter during the next 365 days and beyond is to **get involved** in recruiting and creating interest in our job search for Wastewater Treatment Environmentalists. You do not have to dedicate a lot of time to make an impact on this issue. NHWPCA has a total of 416 registered members. If each of us took only two hours this year to work on and communicate with the schools and surrounding tech schools that would be add up to 21 weeks' worth of time invested on this subject. Also do not be afraid to speak with people in your daily lives and tell them what the field is all about and how they can get involved.

Let us not allow ourselves to do the same thing that many of us have been doing which is nothing other than talking about it. Let us all take action. Albert Einstein's statement in regard to insanity was... "Doing the same thing over and over again

and expecting different results". Let's all stop being insane with our environment's future.

In closing, once again thank you for all that you do as Wastewater Environmentalists and have a safe, healthy and prosperous 2023.



Blurbs, Blurbs, & More Blurbs

POTY Award Winner 2022 Portsmouth, Pierce Island

Portsmouth Pierce Island Wastewater Treatment Plant is the 2022 POTY award-winning facility. Pierce Island has recently been through a major upgrade to meet the more stringent Nitrogen limits posed in its latest permit. The bigger challenge was to design and build a plant in the small footprint of Pierce Island that would meet the needs of the new permit. The facility is currently the only Biological Aerated Filter (BAF) facility in the United States with an average daily flow of 4.8 MGD and a peak flow of 22.0 MGD. A site visit and evaluation of the facility submitted application was conducted by the NHDES POTY Award team. The facility was found to be a perfect candidate to receive the POTY award. The recently completed facility demonstrates an efficient and unique treatment process that can meet the permit needs. In addition, the exceptional staff, construction crew and engineers should be recognized for the award-winning state-of-the-art facility. For these reasons and more the Portsmouth, Pierce Island Plant was awarded the 2022 NHWPCA POTY Award.

2023 POTY Award Call for Applications

NHWPCA and NHDES encourage wastewater treatment plants to submit applications for the 2023 POTY Award. The application review will include a ratio basis of employees to activities, ratio compliance to testing and review of submitted DMRs. DMRs can be submitted as hard copies or electronically. Compliance scoring is based on a ratio of all tests performed in one year versus the number of violations for that test. Required DMRs are for the period

covered from January 1 through December 31 of the previous year. Applications will be reviewed by the NHDES POTY Award Team. If your plant is chosen as a finalist, a site visit will be conducted and all information submitted will be verified. All treatment plants are eligible. Applications can be found on the NHWPCA website and are due by the end of August.

2023 NEWEA & EPA Awards

NHDES Staff Recognized for Energy and Training Awards

Two NHDES Water Division Wastewater Engineering Bureau staff were recognized at NEWEA’s Annual Conference on Wednesday, January 25, 2023. Sharon Nall, Sustainability Section Supervisor, received NEWEA’s Energy Management Achievement Award for her achievements in advancing energy awareness and reductions at New Hampshire’s wastewater treatment facilities (WWTfs) who are among the highest energy consuming facilities in the state. Sharon is a true energy champion, incorporating energy management into all aspects of her work and engaging with local, state and federal partners to help maximize funding for energy efficiency projects. Anthony Drouin, Residuals Management Section Supervisor, received a US EPA – Region 1 New England Wastewater Trainer of the Year Award for his dedication and commitment to providing outstanding training opportunities for New Hampshire’s wastewater community.



Sharon Nall receives NEWEA’s Energy Management Achievement Award



Anthony Drouin receives a US EPA - Region 1 New England Wastewater Trainer of the Year Award

Congratulations, Newly Certified Wastewater Operators!

In order to become a certified wastewater operator at a particular level you need to receive a 70% or higher grade on the wastewater exam, as well as meet the requisite operating experience necessary for that grade level. The December 2022 wastewater exam had an overall pass rate of 88% (37 of 42 passed), with an average passing grade of 78%. From the 37 who passed we welcome 23 who are receiving their first operator’s license. Please congratulate them all when you see them doing what they do best; serving as “Everyday Responders” (Wastewater Operators) in the communities where they work.

- Cory Allard, Rochester, 1
- Frank Angeline, Littleton, 1-OIT
- Bradley Bailey, Hampton, 1-OIT
- Merle Branconnier, 1
- Andrew Carr, Franklin, 1-OIT
- Ryan Eaton, Jr., Seabrook, 1
- Colin Haase, Lebanon, 1-OIT
- Joel Hersom, Rochester, 1-OIT
- Devin Keane, 1-OIT
- Brendon Lynch, Stratford, 1
- Ian Maclachlan, 1
- Shawn T. Marsh, Peterborough, 1
- Colin McDonnell, Portsmouth, 1-OIT
- Andrew M. Tarr, Keene, 1
- Brent C. Willette, Somersworth, 1
- Zach Wood, Portsmouth, 1
- Michael Worters, Colebrook, 1,
- Randy Boisvert, Pease, 2,
- Derick Brown, Ashland, 2,

Patrick Carr, Nashua, 2
 Dean T. Costello, Concord, 2,
 Jillian K. Fisher, Milford, 2
 Brandon Flanders, Seabrook, 2
 Jonathan Forbes, Farmington, 2-OIT,
 Joshua Hamel, Exeter, 2,
 Cabot Howard, Exeter, 2
 Travis J. Kulak, Merrimack, 2-OIT,
 John Meyers, Dover, 2-OIT
 Ryan K. Monahan, Concord, 2-OIT
 Tyler E. Rich, Berlin, 2-OIT
 Adam Williams, Rochester, 2
 Justin L. Hall, Dover, 2-OIT
 Jamie Jarest, Peterborough, 3
 John M. Kudlich, Portsmouth, 3-OIT
 Christopher Pelletier, Keene, 3
 Sylas G. Slayton, Seabrook, 3-OIT
 Stephen A. Roger, Newmarket, 4

The following operators received certification via reciprocity:

Anthony Laurin, 2-OIT
 Thomas Lambert, 2
 Ian Anderson, 3
 Joseph Jordan, 3,



Announcements

NHWPCA Annual Trade Fair

By Michael R. Theriault, PE, Wright-Pierce

The NHWPCA would like to invite all of you to the Annual Trade Fair on Friday, April 14, 2023 at the Sheraton in Nashua, NH (formerly the Radisson). The Trade Fair floor will occupy the large Grand Ballroom which has historically served a number of our events. As usual the Ballroom will be available on the evening of Thursday April 13, 2023 for exhibitor and booth setup.

The Trade Fair will include two breakout technical sessions to earn CEUs for those who choose to attend. A number of NH NEWEA and EPA award winners will be recognized in person as these individuals and teams deserve. The event will be capped off by lunch with our fellow Association colleagues and a raffle of exciting gifts. For attendees or exhibitors desiring to stay overnight,

the hotel has set aside a block of rooms for our group.

We look forward to seeing you. Formal announcement and registration to be distributed shortly.

2023 Summer Meeting – Save the Date

Michael R. Theriault, PE, Wright-Pierce

Friday, June 23, 2023

10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Ellacoya State Park, Gilford, NH

Come and socialize with other Association members and attendees over a corn hole tournament, a game of horseshoes, or in the sun at the beach! The Summer Meeting will include a buffet of chicken, steak tips, grilled veggies, chili, and hot dogs. Soda, water, and refreshments will be provided. Formal announcement and registration to be distributed shortly

Newsletter Committee Looking for New Members

By Steve Clifton

It is time for some new blood on the Newsletter Committee. I started out on the Newsletter Committee by replacing Tom White as newsletter editor back in 2008. I remained on the committee when Stephanie Rochefort took over as editor. It is now time for me to step down and for the Newsletter Committee to get some new blood with fresh ideas and an overabundance of energy.



The real work of a committee member is to plan each of the four newsletters by brain-storming ideas, discussing who among our wastewater community may be able to write an article based on those ideas and then reaching out to ask for an article to be written. Once a topic is identified, it is easy to find the right person that is willing to write the article. It is usually someone who has spoken out or spoken up about the industry, what is unique or special to consider, and why they want everyone to know about the subject.

So, you may be thinking, what inspired me to get involved in the wastewater treatment field? Water quality and the environment always interested me. I started to get involved in the industry early on in my career, having the opportunity to work at the Lawrence Experiment Station in Lawrence, Massachusetts during my college years. I would learn later on that the experiment station had quite a history, having been called the Mecca of wastewater treatment back in the early 1900s. The idea of activated sludge came directly from the experiments that were being performed at the station. Water filtration and wastewater aeration/filtration led to the famous paper by Ardern and Lockett in the UK, proclaiming “activated sludge” to be a thing.

Early work experiences include being an operator at Digital Equipment Corporation in their deionized water treatment facility and the Milford, NH wastewater treatment facility at the initial startup in 1982. This really inspired to me to understand the nuts and bolts and theory of treatment. Underwood Engineers kept things interesting by providing challenging projects, from piloting activated sludge to design of the MUCT facility in Somersworth, the Pease SBRs in Portsmouth and the MLE/A2O facility in Lebanon, NH.

I have been a member of the NHWPCA since the 1980s. Anyone in the industry is served well by joining the Association and being an active member. As I always say, “The world is mostly run by the people who just show up”.

I happily served as treasurer of the association for 7 years – 2001-2008; Newsletter Chairman from 2008-2011, then member until 2023; and finally, NEWEA NH State Director from 2018-2021. I am stepping down, but will still be an active member of the association.

The combination of using basic science and math skills and applying them to engineering solutions to protect the environment is what I liked most about this work.

I would like to offer some parting advice to future members of the NHWPCA Newsletter committee - It is the people you meet and work with throughout your life and grow to mutually

respect that make this short time on earth worthwhile.

So, jump in and join! You won't regret it.

Asset Management Article Series – Asset Inventory

Eliza J. Styczynski, NHDES WWEB

The first step in managing assets is identifying their existence and location and knowing their current condition. Many communities do not have a complete inventory of their infrastructure assets that includes essential information like age, condition, and expected life of such assets. An inventory of assets is essential for utilities to operate efficiently. Along with the inventory, you must conduct a condition assessment to have a better understanding of the state of each asset. To develop the initial inventory, there are several resources that can be drawn upon such as:

- As-built drawings,
- Operations and maintenance (O&M) manuals,
- Invoices,
- Staff knowledge,
- Visual observations,
- Interviews with stakeholders and consultants, and
- Community leaders.

Managers and operators should use as many approaches as deemed necessary to get the best initial inventory of assets.

Questions to ask about inventory:

- What assets do I own?
- Where are my assets?
- What condition is each asset in?
- What is the remaining useful life of each asset?
- What is the value of each asset?

A common mistake that many utilities make during this process is getting hung up on trying to decide which software and technology should be used to create the inventory list. While the use of technology is encouraged to create efficiency in collecting and analyzing the data, software is not the only method to achieve this goal. A spreadsheet, or even a handwritten list,

could be effective to at least get started. NHDES provides a basic downloadable Excel-based inventory template (<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/inventoryspreadsheetexample.xlsx>), which can help start the inventory process.

Inventory Starting Points:

- Identification number (ex. Unique number assigned to the asset),
- Asset name,
- Location (ex. Street name and/or address, name of building),
- Asset category (ex. Pump), Asset type (ex. raw water pump),
- Pertinent capacity information (ex. size, length, horsepower, etc.),
- Installation date and estimated remaining useful life,
- Condition,
- Likelihood of failure (LoF),
- Consequence of failure (CoF), and
- Overall risk ratings.

Examples of inventory types, estimated useful life, and unique identifiers can be found in Appendix A of the Asset Management Handbook & Toolkit (<https://www.des.nh.gov/business-and-community/asset-management>).

If you have any questions about asset inventory and where to get started, feel free to reach out for more examples on how to get started specific to your community.

Have a great spring, and as always feel free to reach out with any questions!

Eliza.J.Styczynski@des.nh.gov, 603-271-1989

10 Questions to Get to Know Our Board

Name: David Webber

Position on the Board: 2nd Director at Large

1. Who is your current employer and for how long have you worked there?

I am the Operations Supervisor for the City of Concord NH Wastewater Division. I have been with the City of Concord NH for over 6 years.

2. What is your favorite thing about your career?

I find it very rewarding to come up with solutions to the many challenges the wastewater industry faces.

3. Why did you decide to go into this field?

I took a couple classes while studying environmental science in college that focused on the wastewater treatment process. Shortly after graduating with my bachelor's degree I applied for an operator position at a local facility.

4. What makes you laugh the most?

My Olde English Bulldog named Darwin. I got him when I moved to New Hampshire in 2016.

5. If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Pizza

6. When you're not working, what are your hobbies?

When I am not at work I am generally working in my garage or at my camp in northern New Hampshire riding ATVs with my family.

7. Which is your favorite NHWPCA event or meeting?

The winter meeting this past December was the first NHWPCA event I attended. I really enjoyed the facility tour and then the lunch afterwards.

8. What is one thing about our association that you'd like to accomplish/change?

My goal will be to familiarize people with the association and try to get more people involved in the association.



Providing Planning Synergy: Integrating Resilience & Adaptation with Asset Management

NHDES Wastewater Engineering Bureau (WWEB) and Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau (DWGB) are in the process of establishing a Resilience & Adaptation Program (RAP) to aid municipalities and water utilities with identifying natural disaster and climate related vulnerabilities within their systems and assisting with corrective implementation measures. The RAP covers both drinking water and wastewater infrastructure and integrates with existing NHDES Asset Management Program framework. Typical areas of assistance include:

- Vulnerability assessments
- Integration of infrastructure vulnerability data into asset management programs and emergency management related plans

- Identification of funding resources
- Training and community outreach
- Design strategies to address target concerns

A foundational component of RAP development is the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) contract that NHDES awarded to Weston & Sampson. This contract is currently in progress with nine participating communities including Hooksett, Salem, Milford, Plymouth, Rochester, Exeter, Keene, Merrimack, and Dover – all of which have well-established asset management programs to build upon. NHDES structured the CCVA contract to evaluate all drinking water and wastewater assets (both horizontal and vertical infrastructure) for vulnerabilities to natural disaster or climate related events. There is a deeper emphasis placed on critical systems and components that, if compromised, would be detrimental to operations.

Currently, the initial site assessments have been completed for four of the nine communities. The site assessment portion includes sitting down with utility staff to discuss areas of concern,

Consider community and landscapes

Focus on:

- Characterization, Location, Systems
- Timeframes
- Partnerships and Teams

Consider:

- Diverse, Interdisciplinary, Inclusive
- Multi-Sector

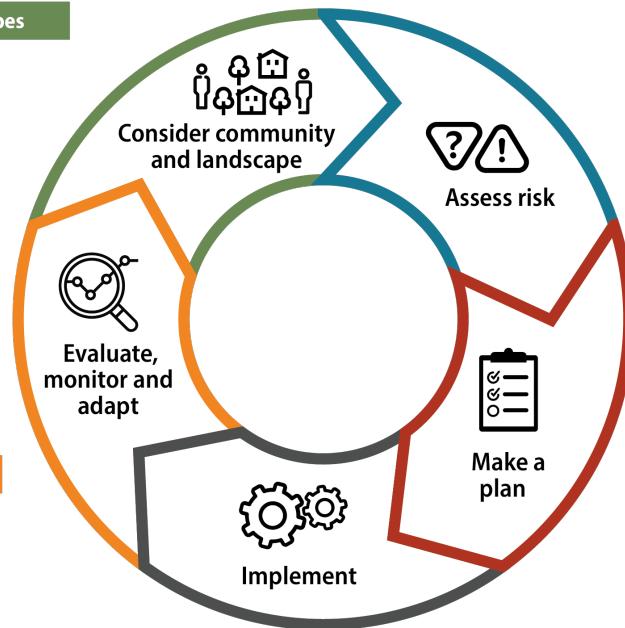
Evaluate, monitor and adapt

Action:

- Resilience Indicators
- Decision-Making Criteria

Consider:

- Metrics and Evaluation



Implement

Action:

- Funding and Finance Opportunities
- Projects, Policies, and Procedures

Consider:

- Long/Short-Term Actions
- Hazard Mitigation Linked With Adaptation

Assess risk

Compile and understand:

- Data, Tools, Models, Knowledge
- Exposure and Sensitivity, Adaptive Capacity and Potential Impacts

Consider:

- Past, Present, Future, Geographical, Economic, Human/Social, Critical Infrastructure, Built and Natural Environment
- Multi-Hazard

Make a plan

Action:

- Prioritize Vulnerabilities
- Identify, Evaluate, and Prioritize Strategies

Consider:

- Scales/Scalable, Risk-Based Planning, Robust, Redundant, Resourceful, Feasible, Compatible, Cost-Effective, Equitable, Objective
- Chronic / Acute Hazards

Source: <https://extension.umaine.edu/climatesolutions/resilience-building-cycle/>

past experiences with natural disaster events, system design specifics, and eyes-on site visits of vertical infrastructure and any visible horizontal infrastructure. Common concerns that have been raised by utility staff thus far have included:

- Inland flooding impacting structures and subgrade systems
- Groundwater supply concerns during drought
- Availability of backup water source options
- Slope stability and landslide concerns for hillside mains
- Stormwater inflow & intrusion
- Emergency power generation
- Extreme heat impacting biological processes for wastewater treatment
- The final reports from the CCVA contract will include information such as:
 - A summary of specific vulnerabilities identified
 - Recommended areas of incorporation to other plans
 - Suggested mitigation methods
 - Vulnerability timelines utilizing future projections
 - Any additional studies or reports recommended
 - Specific standard operating procedure and/or training updates
 - A compatible mapping tool capturing vulnerabilities that were identified

Final CCVA reports will also outline methodologies for incorporating the vulnerabilities and any associated ratings into the existing asset management programs as well as into emergency management or hazard mitigation related plans. The overall goal is for the assessments to supplement the respective municipalities' current or future planning efforts and further inform decision making on prioritizing and funding projects. NHDES will aid and support utility staff with this process through existing NHDES asset management and energy efficiency programs and potential funding opportunities. Also, through the RAP, NHDES will provide assistance with additional resilience & adaptation specific guidance, design strategies, and any other compatible funding resources.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact: Ethan Widrick at ethan.r.widrick@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-6801.

In Memory of Bryan Tanner



Bryan Howard Tanner, 66 of Clarksburg died unexpectedly at his home on Friday, December 16, 2022. He was born in North Adams on September 1, 1956 a son of the late Howard and Marlene (Mirke) Tanner. He graduated from Drury High School in 1974 and obtained a bachelor's degree in business from North Adams State College in 1978. Bryan was employed for over 38 years as a sales representative at Holland Company retiring in 2021.

Bryan was a resident of the town of Clarksburg for all of his 66 years. Bryan took great pride in his hometown. Bryan was an active member of his community. He was a 47 year member of the Clarksburg Volunteer Fire Company, serving as chief for seven of those years. Bryan held the elected position of Town Moderator for 38 years. He enjoyed serving his little town. In 1995 he joined the Board of Directors of the North Adams Ambulance service. 2022 marked Bryan's 27th year of service as a board member. During that time he served as the Chairman of the nominating committee, served on the building committee in 2009 for the NAAS building expansion, and was part of the merger/transition committee in 2018 when Village Ambulance merged with NAAS. Most recently he was elected Vice President in July of 2020.

Sports were a big part of Bryan's life. He loved the Yankees, even when they were in a slump. Watching his children, Aimee and Dan, as they wove their way through youth and high school sports was a great joy (although the refs might not have always appreciated his calls from the stands). He coached girls' softball in North Adams, Aimee's team, in the early 90's. More

recently his smiles and high-fives were for his grandchildren- Braelyn (B), Jack (J-Man) and Mae (Mae-Mae) as they began their adventures in school and sports. He enjoyed traveling with his wife, Mary to all corners of New England, Florida and warm sunny islands. Kayaking, biking, time at Planet Fitness, and long walks on the beach and on the farm were his therapy.

The Tanner family farm was one of his passions. The Big Red Barn, visible from The Hairpin Turn, was a source of pride. In his very early years he worked alongside his parents, Howard and Marlene, grandmother, Mabelle, and sisters, Gayle and Debra, to run and maintain the farm. As an adult he joined his dad in growing and supplying hay to local horse, cattle, goat, and even llama owners. Aimee and Dan were taught how to help at a young age; stacking hay, feeding cows, and other farm skills and responsibilities were honed. Soon Bryan and his dad were joined by his son, Dan, and nephew, Kyle Hurlbut (Lumpy) in the daily workings of the farm. This team was a well-oiled machine. It was a family farm. Sam (Samantha), Kolin, Kaci, Shawn and Amber were a part of the team, each in their own way. Along the way there were many wonderful friends who would step in during times of need to help "get the hay in". He was eternally grateful for these acts of kindness. These special people know who they are and they are treasured. In recent years the daily workings of the farm became a two-man operation with Bryan and Dan doing it all. It was hard work, but it's what they were born to do.

In his final years, Bryan built his own little "slice of paradise" on the farm for family fun. It was his favorite place to spend long warm sunny days with his family. Grandchildren's snuggles, hugs and giggles were his treasures. His family was his world, his true passion and pride. He deeply loves his children, grandchildren and wife. His home was the gathering place for fun and great family times. He is loved and his love cherished by our family.

Survivors include loving wife Mary (Delisle) Tanner whom he married August 4, 1978, daughter Aimee Kelly and her partner Greg Kiernan and son Daniel Bryan Tanner and his

wife Martha (LaValley), grandchildren Braelyn Kelly, Jack Tanner and Mae Tanner. He also leaves his sisters Gayle Smith, Debra Chesbro and her husband Peter and Samantha Tanner and her partner, Joe Macksey; his aunt, Sharron Mirke and nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents, uncles Carlton Tanner and Richard Mirke; aunt, Verna (Mirke) Petri and brother-in-law Raymond Smith.

Funeral services to celebrate the life of Bryan Tanner took place Thursday, December 29, 2022 at the Flynn & Dagnoli Funeral Home, WEST CHAPELS, 521 West Main St., North Adams, MA. In lieu of flowers his family suggests donations to the Clarksburg Fire Company or Northern Berkshire EMS through the funeral home. To add to the Book of Memories, please visit flynndagnolifuneralhomes.com.



Safety Corner

Should You Track Near Misses

By Chris Hipkiss

Here is a re-print of a Safety Corner article first published in The Collector in 2008.

Should you track near misses at your place of employment? That is a good question and if you don't track near misses why not? A near miss is a warning sign that something is wrong and should be investigated with a corrective action taken. So your boss may not like the term near miss, well one large company I read about, Alcoa, uses the term "Injury-free events (IFE)" but no matter what it is called it is an advance warning that an accident is waiting to happen. According to the National Safety Council seventy five percent of all accidents are preceded by one or more near misses or in other words a near miss should be a wake-up call.

Some workers may not want to admit to a near miss for fear that it may reflect in their performance evaluation and this is where a good management environment must be developed to encourage the reporting and tracking of near misses and not in laying blame. It should be the responsibility of everyone in the workplace to recognize and take

action to prevent that “close call” from reoccurring and becoming an accident.

The following is a list of question taken from a publication “Construction Business Owner” that you should ask when a near miss occurs.

How do you handle these incidents in your workplace?

What is your attitude toward a near miss?

Do you feel momentarily relieved that what happened wasn’t any worse?

Do you just return to your routine after a near miss occurs?

Do you simply tell yourself that you should be more careful next time?

Do you have a plan for preventing a repeat performance?

In closing, the danger in ignoring near misses that do not hurt, harm or damage is that they are a sign that something is wrong.

The NHWPCA Safety Committee is still seeking Near Miss ideas in 2023! If you or someone you know have had a Near Miss, please let us know by sending the incident to Patty Chesebrough at pchesebrough@neiwppcc.org. All submissions are confidential. We just want to keep a Near Miss from becoming an accident. Thank you in advance for your submissions.



Pretreatment Tales

Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 15

EPA, Office of Water

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 15 (Plan 15), which describes analyses, studies, and rulemakings related to effluent limitations guidelines and pretreatment standards (ELGs).

What Does this Mean for Our Waters?

The Effluent Guidelines Program Plan is EPA’s vehicle to share with the public our annual review of industry discharges to waterways and is part of the agency’s activities focused on ensuring that the waters are safe for drinking, recreation, and wildlife. The plan, published every two

years, identifies specific categories of industries requiring either additional study or rulemaking to limit pollutant discharges. The results of these studies and rulemakings will better equip EPA to prevent harmful pollutants from being released to rivers, estuaries, bays, and other waterbodies of the United States.

What are Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards?

ELGs are national, technology-based regulations developed to control industrial wastewater discharges to surface waters and into publicly owned treatment works (POTWs). ELGs are intended to represent the greatest pollutant reductions that are economically achievable for an industry. Clean Water Act section 304(m) requires EPA to biennially publish a plan for new and revised ELGs, after public review and comment.

What’s in EPA’s ELG Program Plan 15?

EPA published and requested public comments on Preliminary Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 15 (Preliminary Plan 15) on September 14, 2021. Plan 15 provides a summary of the comments received on Preliminary Plan 15 as well as updates on EPA’s reviews of industrial wastewater discharges and treatment technologies.

Plan 15 presents the findings from the examination of a variety of industries to determine the range of pollutants they discharge as part of EPA’s 2021 annual review of existing ELGs. In addition to the 2021 annual review, EPA is also presenting the results from its preliminary category review of the Plastics Molding and Forming (40 CFR part 463), Leather Tanning (40 CFR part 425), and Paint Formulating (40 CFR part 446) Categories. Plan 15 announces that after collecting and analyzing data (described in the Plan) on PFAS found in landfill leachate, EPA has determined that revisions to the ELGs for the Landfills Category (40 CFR part 445) are warranted. Further, EPA intends to expand the detailed study of the Textile Mills Category (40 CFR part 410) to gather information on the use and treatment of PFAS in this industry and associated PFAS discharges. For this expanded study, EPA intends to use a mandatory questionnaire issued to a nationally representative sample of textile

mills. Importantly, Plan 15 announces EPA's intent to initiate a POTW Influent Study of PFAS, which will focus on collecting nationwide data on industrial discharges of PFAS to POTWs, including categories recently reviewed. EPA intends to undertake this study to verify sources of PFAS wastewater and help POTWs assess the need for control measures at the source. In addition, Plan 15 announces that EPA is not pursuing further action for the Electrical and Electronic Components (E&EC) Category (40 CFR part 469) at this time but will continue monitoring this category for PFAS discharge data through the POTW Influent Study. EPA will also continue to monitor PFAS use and discharges from the Pulp, Paper, and Paperboard Category (40 CFR part 430) and airports.

Plan 15 also announces EPA's intent to undertake a detailed study of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Category (40 CFR part 412), which will focus on collecting information to enable EPA to make an informed, reasoned decision whether to undertake rulemaking to revise the ELGs for CAFOs. Conducting a detailed study is the best, and appropriate course of action to enable EPA to make an informed, reasoned decision on whether to undertake rulemaking to revise the ELGs for CAFOs.

Finally, Plan 15 provides updates related to several actions that are included in EPA's Regulatory Agenda, including the:

- Steam Electric Power Generating Category rulemaking to strengthen certain wastewater pollution discharge limitations for coal-fired power plants that use steam to generate electricity;
- Meat and Poultry Products Category to address nutrient discharges;
- Organic Chemicals, Plastics & Synthetic Fibers Category to address PFAS discharges; and
- Metal Finishing and Electroplating Categories to address PFAS discharges.

The agency intends to undertake the actions outlined in this Plan and summarized above. Commencement and pace of these activities are dependent on EPA's Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations and operating plan.

Where can I find more information?

Contact Doruntinë Rexhepi at (202) 566-2532 or rexhepi.doruntine@epa.gov. To access the ELG Plan 15, Federal Register notice, and supporting documents, visit EPA's Effluent Guidelines Program website at <https://www.epa.gov/eg/effluent-guidelines-plan>.

Thoughts from the Bench

By Stephanie Rochefort, City of Somersworth WWTF



I love this Tardigrade Mum cartoon because that's the kind of mother that I was when my kids were little! My son's nose doesn't match anybody else in the family because when he broke it playing little-kid soccer, I just handed him an ice pack. When my daughter got slammed by a softball, I asked her what she was supposed to be doing with the softball - catching it or hitting it? Crashed your bicycle? Fell off your scooter? Here's an ice pack! When my son was living at UNH, he called me because he thought he had a broken finger. I told him to ice it. Since this is the same son living with the wonky-looking nose, he didn't quite trust my response so he went to the healthcare center...where they gave him an ice-pack. Oh, I could go on, but let's talk about

tardigrades!

If you want to learn some really cool information about tardigrades, go to livescience.com and type “tardigrade” in the search box on the upper right. There’s some amazing photos taken with a scanning microscope and a science-y explanation of why they’re practically indestructible. I first learned them by the name “water bear”, but they’re also called “moss piglets”.

As much as I love and appreciate the technological advances in wastewater treatment, I believe there’s still a big need to learn and understand the old ways of doing things, like microscopic examinations of the mixed liquor.

There are many sets of instructions for how to make the perfect slide. Since this is 2023, you can search Youtube for “how to prepare a microscope slide” and watch a tutorial. It’s important to start with a clean slide and a clean transfer pipet or dropper for your sample. Pro tip – don’t clean with bleach or everything that you see under the microscope may be dead...lol. It’s important to use a fresh sample of mixed liquor. The bugs in the mixed liquor are the ones that you want to see. If you prepare a slide after lunch from the 0700 sample, a lot of what you see under the microscope may be dead. The term “bugs” is wastewater jargon. I’m actually talking about micro-organisms. The micro-organisms are also referred to as “indicator organisms” because they give us clues about what’s going on in the treatment process.

There are also lots of ways to track what you see under the microscope. Some folks like to look at every single section of a slide in a grid-like fashion and keep notes. Some folks will pick ten representative fields-of-view. Some folks like to look at three different slides. I’ve seen tracking sheets that rate each bug as dominant, many or few. If you’re new to wastewater micro-exams I recommend just diving in and looking at slides each day for a couple of weeks to get the feel for it.

And what does it mean and what do you do if/when you see a water bear?! Water bears are at the top of the ladder of larger bugs that you may see under the microscope. Rotifers and nematodes are pretty common and you may see

an occasional bristle worm but WOW it is exciting to see a water bear! The first thing to do is to share your discovery and yell for other people to come take a look at the water bear. Make sure that y’all take your time watching the water bear until the slide starts to dry up and you’ll have to wash it down the drain and make a new slide. Re-start your microscopic exam for the day with your new slide.

Larger bugs like rotifers, nematodes, bristle worms and water bears are indicative of older sludge. Your system could be running at a low F/M and a long sludge age. If you are seeing an increase in turbidity and pin floc carry-over, these large bugs are just another affirmation that you need to increase wasting. If you aren’t seeing a significant quantity of larger bugs in your second slide after enjoying your water bear and you’re not seeing any of these other symptoms of low F/M, it may just be that a random water bear found its way onto your slide. It could have come in with a load of septage or been washed in with some I/I or it could have taken up residence in a corner of a tank with a plugged diffuser head or malfunctioning mixer. You took a droplet sample for your slide out of a liter sample from your tank where millions of gallons of wastewater go through your facility. I’d say you should buy a lottery ticket, but you really have already won the lottery when you found that random water bear...*you think?*



Operator Profile

Samuel Currier is the Superintendent of Water and Sewer for the Town of Hopkinton and Contoocook Village Precinct. He holds a NH wastewater treatment plant operator grade 2 certification, and NH water works operator treatment and distribution grade 2 certifications.

Please tell us about your plant

The Hopkinton wastewater plant has two lagoons in series with aeration diffusers supplied by one of two positive displacement blowers. At our headworks, we have a small bar rack with a tiny grit chamber and the water flows through a grinder before entering Lagoon One for biological

treatment. All flow from Lagoon Two leads to a chlorine contact chamber where we disinfect with sodium hypochlorite, then it is discharged into the Contoocook River. Our collection system is made up of 3.3 miles of sewer line, 81 manholes, and 1.25 miles of force main, all from our one pump station located in the center of town. 95% of all sewers are gravity fed to the pumpstation



What was your first job?

I was taught at a young age that nothing is a gift and that there are consequences to every action. Good or bad, you made the choice, you need to learn from it and move forward after every action. With these quotes repeated over and over growing up, I learned that if I wanted something I needed to work for it. At 12 years old I started working hauling floor tiles, and then at the age of 15 I started working for a concrete foundation company that worked all over New England's seacoast. I worked there full-time after graduating from high school until I was 25.

How long have you been in the clean water/wastewater profession?

When I was 25 I started working as a janitor/laborer for the City of Rochester Wastewater Treatment Facility. This started my career in water and wastewater. My passion to learn about water only increased with my time in Rochester as I got licensed and worked on 30 plus pumpstations for the wastewater facility, and then moved on to Rochester's drinking water treatment facility. In February 2020 I started operating the Town of Hopkinton NH Wastewater plant and the Contoocook Village Precinct.

What is your favorite part about being a wastewater operator?

Out of my seven years actively working in wastewater I've enjoyed the stability in this career for me and my family the most. There are so many benefits to being in a profession that will never go away. I started off as just a kid from a small town that never went to college, and here I am now with the ability to keep learning and growing in a career that I love while providing for my family, and still get to enjoy seeing them almost every night.

What have you learned that you wished you knew when you first started in the industry?

I have only had two supervisors since starting my water career, and they both taught me things that made it possible for me to be where I am today. One thing I wish I found out earlier in my career is that there is such a wide group of people that do this and there is so much you can learn from your peers. The quicker you can start networking with experienced operators, supervisors, and peers, the better. I have the ability now to operate and manage two water systems, but I would never have been able to do that if I didn't have the great support system that I have. From the support of my family to the ability to call people from other cities or engineering firms as a friend to ask if they ever ran into something like what I've got going on.

What advice do you have for new operators?

I truly feel the best advice I could give to all new operators is get involved! Start with going to classes and don't be afraid to talk. Build the relationships early with the people you are going for your Grade 1 license with, they are the same people you will see when you become Grade 2 and so on. Then join a nonprofit group or volunteer to help with something in your community, it doesn't take long for people to get to know you and your commitment. And lastly, the thing I say the most, is you need to fail to learn, ask questions, and make sure your actions have the right consequences.



Retiree Rave

We continue our salute to the wastewater and drinking water operators and administrators that are now enjoying retirement. Our newsletter committee would appreciate hearing from our readers to expand this list so we can recognize our loyal, hardworking associates and friends. Please reach out to any of the newsletter committee members with contact information for retirees and we'll take it from there!

Nancy Lesieur

Nancy Lesieur retired in December 2022 from NHDES. Here's a summary she prepared for the Collector. Among her many talents, Nancy excels at planning and thinking ahead. She says that timing plays a huge role in life. Success comes from remaining flexible and when life gives you lemons, be ready to make lemonade. We all wish you a long and fulfilling retirement. Hope to see you for the summer events!

What inspired you to get involved in the wastewater treatment field?

My 85 year old grandmother (who was living with our family in 1983) brought an advertisement for a Pretreatment Technician at the Concord WTF on Hall St to my attention with her lighted magnifying glass that she used to read the daily newspaper. I had recently graduated from UNH with a degree in Microbiology, which was one of the degrees listed for consideration. "Nancy, is this something that you could do?" she asked. So I applied! Kudos go to Jon Bushold my first boss who got me started.

Please list the facilities/positions held over your career.

Hall St WWTF-1983-85 Pretreatment Tech.; Nashua WWTF 1985-2011 Process Chemist, Pretreatment Supervisor and Lab Supervisor; NHDES Winnepesaukee River Basin Program 2011-2015 Pretreatment Supervisor; NHDES / Water/Wastewater Engineering Bureau 2015-2022 Chief Environmental Inspector

Total # of years of service:

39 years of service & 38 years of NHWPCA

membership

Positions held in NHWPCA:

Safety Committee member, Activities Committee member, Director, Treasurer

What did you like most about your work?

Two things come to mind. First, being involved in a field that was dynamic, using science to find the most efficient ways to keep our surface waters clean and meet the needs of communities. Second, the people. I have been lucky enough to forge friendships with cohorts in New Hampshire via NHWPCA and New England via NEWEA. They are truly the salt of the earth, love them all.

Any parting advice to others?

If you are young or changing careers the industry has so much opportunity right now, get involved in NHWPCA and NEWEA, do some networking and "Oh the Places You'll go..." (Great Dr. Seuss book)

Any interests you wish to pursue in retirement?

I am currently corresponding via a Hotspot on Amelia Island at Ft. Clinch State Park in Florida. This is the second stop in a 3-month RV trip with my husband along the Florida coast in a 32 ft Motorhome towing a mini cooper convertible. It has been a great beach day and we hope to have many more to come. We will be ending the trip in the Florida Keys. Glacier, Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon are on the bucket list for the fall.



From Tracy Wood, Administrator, NHDES Wastewater Engineering Bureau for Nancy Lesieur:

In July 2015 Nancy was hired as the lead NPDES

inspector for the NHDES Wastewater Engineering Bureau. Nancy came to us with over 30 years' experience in the wastewater field, serving as a Laboratory Supervisor for most of those years. Laboratory knowledge is key to her position tasked with compliance inspections at New Hampshire's wastewater treatment facilities regulated by NPDES permits. The NPDES program is a self-regulating program so assurance that proper laboratory procedures are followed is critical to the program's success.

Nancy brought her experience and depth of knowledge to our group of NPDES compliance inspectors as well as her energy and positive attitude. Nancy held a Grade IV Wastewater Operator License and was a Certified Public Manager. Nancy was also involved with various trade organizations such as the NHWPCA so was well known with the regulated community.

We thank Nancy for her time with us and wish Nancy the best as she and her husband enjoy their RV adventures! It was a privilege to work with Nancy, and to call her friend.

Dan "Max" Driscoll

Dan (in his own words):

Getting into the wastewater field was completely haphazard for me. I started working with a construction outfit in Largo, Fl. in 1982, that was largely involved in WWTP and pump stations. I was essentially running heavy equipment and was interested in the wastewater designs and processes we were constructing.



After 6 years working at that capacity, we moved up to New England, only to find winter layoffs occurred here. I applied to work in Durham, NH at any entry position at the WWTP. As time went on, I started attending classes at Franklin, NH to obtain my licenses.

I was fortunate to "cut my teeth" in the WW profession by being taught by the likes of Tom White, George Neil, Wes Ripple, and of course Ken Kessler. Licensing came easy to me, thanks to

a strong mathematical and science background.

I have been in the NHWPCA for 33 years ever since.

The process control aspect of the treatment process is still fascinating to me. I would encourage young people new to the business to participate in the Operators Challenge, which I found to be a "blast" and was a classroom environment itself.

My plans in the future are to go to Montana, where I grew up BTW, and do some hiking and skiing with my brother and friends, visit siblings in San Diego, and Oregon and plan a trip to Iceland!

I have nothing but gratitude to all the friends and professionals that I was able to meet and work with in this important and often misunderstood field.

You all will be missed! Max

From Dan Peterson, Superintendent, Durham WWTF for Max Driscoll:

First, here's a little a background about Daniel "Max" Driscoll:

Growing up as a Navy-brat in San Diego with much admiration of his father's career being a decorated Vietnam flying ace, and then finally settling down in Bozeman MT, Max decided to begin his early career as a Merchant Marine sailing across the world. After doing his duty Max moved to Florida and began work in the construction business laying pipe for water and sewer jobs. Having relatives in the New England area, he left Florida and moved to Dover, NH where Max got a job at Durham, NH and began his 34-year career at the Durham Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Coming to Durham in 2007 as the new Superintendent for Durham wastewater, Max as the Chief Plant Operator taught me everything I needed to know about the Facility and collection system. Whenever I was short or long term deployed in the military, I always knew the facility was in good hands while I was away. Max always had the best stories to tell from when he was a Merchant Marine, or on the Ops Challenge team, both of which he loved doing. Max is a true leader and great friend and was the right side of

my brain. Max always told me what I needed to hear, not what I wanted to hear which I believe made us a great team. He always had my back, as well as I had his. Operators like Max don't come around too often, and I am blessed that I had the chance to work with him over the years. He will be greatly missed by myself as with all the staff.

Max plans on spending his retirement enjoying time with his wife Kelly, traveling, and lots of hiking out west where he grew up and still has family there.

From Ken Kessler, NH DES Retired, for Max Driscoll:

The interaction between members of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services - Operations Section and active operators at wastewater facilities varies a great deal. Periodic visits to facilities can be routine or in response to a call for assistance. Casual associations at first can develop into mutual respect and then into trusted friendships between long-time members of these organizations. Max Driscoll devoted most of his employment career to the Durham Wastewater Treatment Facility and provided continuity among several superintendents, changing operational staff at the plant and changes at NHDES. He understood well how the Durham plant operated, its strengths and limitations. Max had keen intuition and was willing to verbalize his observations without regard to popularity. He was also comfortable contacting the state Operations Section to discuss things for which he did not have an answer. I always felt comfortable visiting the Durham plant to learn from the operations staff and to share anything that I may have learned or was able to observe.

It was always a benefit to have Max in a class at the Franklin Training Center because he would be unafraid to share his many years of experience with the group. He stimulated students in the audience to participate in class discussion. Max speaks his mind but is willing to listen and learn with equal comfort.

We all wish Max good health and good fortune into the future and express thanks for all the years of effort he devoted to the town of Durham.

Ken Levesque

Ken Levesque retired in the fall of 2022 completing a 30-year career at the Henniker WWTF. His career focus began when the High School Guidance Counselor aimed Ken toward learning about the wastewater treatment industry. In the mid-1970s Don Johnson developed a program to attract students to attend the New England Regional Wastewater Institute at Southern Maine Vocational Tech Institute, in conjunction with outreach through the Nashua River Association. Program admission opportunities were offered to students living within a small radius of the Nashua River to attend the year-long course of study tuition-free. That was an offer Ken could not refuse.

Ken completed his training courses in Southern Maine in 1977. He began working at the Town of Merrimack WWTF with starting pay at \$3.25 per hour on the third shift, for 52 hours per week.

In 1980, he moved on to Industrial waste treatment systems and began working for Hadco Corp in Derry, NH. Over the course of the next 12 years, the printed circuit board manufacturing business accelerated the need for industrial waste treatment regulations. Without leaving his position, Ken saw a progression of new owners and company name changes from Sanders Associates to Lockheed, to Interflex Corporation. Then came the shipping of U.S. jobs offshore, where environmental restrictions were few and production costs were low.

In September 1992, he landed a more stable position with the Town of Henniker WWTF and never looked back. In his own words, "It's been an interesting career overall". Over the years, the upgrades to the plant were few and far between. Budgeting for a smaller system always meets competing needs. New equipment and upgrades in 2007 improved the plant's function. New designs are underway for Henniker, as well.

Ken is glad to see the upgrades as an observer, as he is DONE!

His plans for retirement are just getting started! In the meantime, Ken and his wife will be hosting their daughter's wedding this Spring at their home. They are busy making all the repairs and

upgrades to the homestead in preparation for the big event. They also enjoy spending time with their son, his wife and their granddaughter, Pepper.

We wish you the Best and hope to see you at the NHWPCA functions.

Denis Messier

Denis Messier retired in January 2023 after a lifelong career in the wastewater treatment industry. Denis grew up in the Somersworth, NH area. He spent time with his grandparents where they lived along the Salmon Falls River. As a kid, he saw the impacts along the river caused by the local Tannery waste discharges. After he graduated high school, he found out the Somersworth WWTF was hiring. Mark Gauthier contacted him for an interview and that's how his career started.

In 1980, Denis completed his year of wastewater treatment study at the New England Regional Wastewater Institute at Southern Maine Vocational Technical Institute. His career continued at Somersworth WWTF. He embarked on earning his NH WW Operator Certification and continued his studies.

Later, Denis moved on to work at the Epping Lagoons WWTP and spent about a year there. Then he moved on to Newington WWTP as their Chief Operator/ Project Manager under contract operations. He works for the Newington Sewer Commission to assist the commission to keep the WWTP operation to high standards.

He has maintained a commitment to his local area. For the past 17 years, he's served as a Somersworth City Council member. He maintained NHWPCA membership for 20 years. He recalls learning from Bob Livingston, George Neill and founding members of the NH Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission. He is thankful for nearly 40 years of cooperation from the Newington Sewer Commission as they never short-changed the WWTF and are great to work with. He is especially thankful for the years of service provided by his "CrackerJack" Maintenance person at Newington, Jackson Hoyt. He is most appreciative for the network of contacts he has made. In 1986, Sonny Vermette began work as a

summer helper at the Somersworth facility. And his friendship with Denis was forged. They are good friends to this day, despite the fact Denis believes Sonny ruined his 50th Birthday Party.

His plans for retirement include visiting family and grandsons in VA and FL. His Motto is "Golf, Relax, Socialize & Repeat". We wish you all the Best!



Residuals Report

Wade Pelham

The work that wastewater professionals perform and the systems they keep running 24/7/365 are extremely important, and vital to protection of public health and the environment. Unlike some other professional groups like police, firefighters and highway crews, the work of wastewater professionals is often not as visible or well understood. Education and outreach activities are crucial in helping the public understand the importance of the clean water infrastructure and workforce, and what they can do to help with their support. For that reason the NH Department of Environmental Services, NH Water Pollution Control Association (NHWPCA) and NH Association of Septage Haulers (NHASH), among others, will be participating again this year in the NH Fish & Game's Discover Wild NH Day on April 15, 2023, at NH Fish & Game Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive in Concord, NH. This great event is fun for all ages, and a perfect venue to help further the public's understanding and appreciation for all the things which help ensure clean water in NH: properly built and maintained on-site septic systems, proper septage management, well maintained and run collection systems, industrial pretreatment and FOG programs, wastewater treatment plants, and more. Without these, we wouldn't have the swimmable, fishable waterways which we enjoy today. We hope that you consider attending this outstanding event and also supporting great organizations like NHWPCA and NHASH as they get the word out about all the work that goes into protecting New Hampshire's public health and environment.

Wade Pelham
 Water Division - Wastewater Engineering Bureau, NHDES
 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302
 Tel: (603) 271-2818 | Fax: (603) 271-4128

Congratulations to NEWEA/ WEF/EPA Award Recipients!

NEWEA is pleased to announce the 2022 NEWEA/WEF/EPA Award Recipients, who were honored at the Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on January 25, 2023 during the 2023 Annual Conference & Exhibit in Boston, Massachusetts. Congratulations to all!

NEWEA Recognitions

Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Adam Kleshchelski, Greenwich, CT
 Alexander Busko, Bangor, ME
 Akhila Ram, Worcester, MA
 Abhinav Avvaru, Nashua, NH
 Saksham Bhardwaj, South Burlington, VT

Scholarship Recipients 2022-2023

Environmental Major

Alexis Eaton, University of New Hampshire

Graduate Student

Lindsay Guertin, University of New Hampshire

Kate Biedron Memorial Scholarship Recipient 2022-2023

Ella Quinn, University of Massachusetts

NEWEA Awards

Alfred E. Peloquin Award

William Brink, Stamford, CT
 Mark Holt, Livermore Falls, ME
 Aaron Fox, Lowell, MA
 Chris Perkins, Portsmouth, NH
 Peter Hassel, Smithfield, RI
 Steve Perron, Burlington, VT

Founders Award

Paul Dombrowski, Holyoke, MA

Green Steps Award

Joe Faro, Salem, NH

James J. Courchaine Collection Systems Award

Joe Boccadoro, Ashland, MA

Asset Management Award

Megan Moir, Burlington, VT

Biosolids Management Award

Karla Sangrey, Millbury, MA

Clair N. Sawyer Award

Robert Rak, Bristol, MA

Committee Service Award

Alexandra Greenfield, Salem, MA

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Leadership Award

Isabella Cobble, Westwood, MA

E. Sherman Chase Award

Sharon Lawson, Millbury, MA

Elizabeth A. Cutone Executive Leadership Award

Mickey Nowak, Springfield, MA

Energy Management Achievement Award

Sharon Nall, Concord, NH

Energy Management Achievement Award

South Essex Sewerage District, Salem, MA

Operator Award

John Torre, New Haven, CT
 Michael Courtenay, Warren, ME
 Jason Swain, Holyoke, MA
 Mark Corliss, Franklin, NH
 Dylan Chase, New Shoreham, RI
 Richard Chaput, Jr., Vergennes, VT

Operator Safety Award

William Smith, Chatham, MA

Past President's Plaque and Pin

Virgil Lloyd, Manchester, CT

Paul Keough Award

Thomas Shevlin, Newport, RI

Wastewater Utility Management

Newmarket, New Hampshire Environmental Services

Young Professional Award

Tess Laffer, Chelmsford, MA

Youth Educator Award

Philip Tucker, York, ME

Youth Educator Award

Theresa Tucker, York, ME

Annual Conference Exhibitor 25 Years Participation Award

Atlantic Fluid Technology
 Xylem Water Solutions - Flygt Pumps

WEF-MA Awards

Arthur Sidney Bedell Award

Lauren Hertel, Andover, MA

George W. Burke, Jr. Award

Billerica, MA WRRF

Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award

Kim Sandbach, Providence, RI

William D. Hatfield Award

Chelsey Little, Montague, MA

Life Membership

Ray Bahr, Durham, CT
 Michael Bisi, Wethersfield, CT
 Frank Cavaleri, Boston, MA
 Ronald Wade, Huntington Beach, CA
 Clayton M. Richardson, Windham, ME
 John Hart, Buxton, ME

Bobby Williams Competitive Spirit Award*

Eddie Davies, Quonset Point, RI

Operations Challenge Division II 3rd Place - Process Event*

CT Storm Surge

Operations Challenge Division III 2nd Place*

MASS Chaos

Public Officials Award*

Patrick Leahy, Burlington, VT

Quarter Century Operator Award*

Kathy Perez, Lowell, MA
 Raymond Vermette, Dover, NH

WEF Delegate Award

James Barsanti, Boston, MA

WEF Fellow*

Susan Sullivan, Lowell, MA

WEF Operator Scholarship*

William Branton, Scituate, MA

WEF Student Design Competition*

Evan Anderson, Matthew Biega, Daniel Diament, Lauren Howe, Dillon McCormick, Jacob Wasserman— Northeastern University, Boston, MA

**Presented at WEFTEC*

US EPA - Region 1 New England Award

Wastewater Treatment Plant O&M Excellence Award

East Greenwich, Rhode Island—Shawn T. O'Neill, Superintendent

Sunapee, New Hampshire—David Bailey, Superintendent

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator of the Year Excellence Award

Adam Federau, Westerly, Rhode Island

Jamie Kreller, Suffield, Connecticut

David Lovely, Pease WWTP, Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Wastewater Trainer of the Year

Eddie Davies, Quonset Point, Rhode Island

Anthony Drouin, New Hampshire DES

Industrial Pretreatment Program of the Year

City of Manchester, New Hampshire—Christopher Crowley, Pretreatment Supervisor

City of Chicopee, Massachusetts—Laurie Goff, Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator

Little Things

by Mario Leclerc

Most of us
 miss out
 on life's
 big prizes.
 The Pulitzer.
 The Nobel.
 Oscars.
 Tonys.
 Emmys.
 The Stanley Cup.
 But we're
 all eligible
 for life's
 small pleasures.
 A pat
 on the back.
 A kiss
 behind the ear.
 A four
 pound bass.
 A full moon.
 First tracks.
 An empty
 parking space.
 A shooting star.
 A crackling fire.
 A Tito's and Sprite.
 A great meal.
 A glorious sunset.
 Hot soup.
 That smell after
 a rain event.
 A cold beer.
 Don't fret
 about
 copping life's
 grand awards.
 Enjoy its
 tiny delights.
 There are plenty
 for all of us.



Photo Gallery

2023 Winter Events



New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association 2022 Winter Meeting

Thank You to our Sponsors



December 9, 2022

The Oaks Grandview Venue
Somersworth, New Hampshire

2023 NHWPCA Sponsors



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Gene Weeks
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