



NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE MACON WATER AUTHORITY

MWA Employees Receive Accolades for Service, Excellence

The Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) 2019 Annual Conference and Expo was quite the event for the Macon Water Authority (MWA). Several employees received awards and accolades, while others led technical sessions to share valuable information with fellow water professionals concerning issues and operations



(L to R): Tony Rojas, MWA Executive Director and President, congratulates industry award winners Brian McDade, AWWA Operator's Meritorious Service Award; Gary McCoy, AWWA Silver Water Drop Award and GAWP Honorary Membership; and Mark Wyzalek, AWWA Life Membership. Not pictured: GAWP Life Membership recipients Barry Boss and Thaddeus Clark.

impacting the industry in Georgia.

One of the most popular technical sessions hosted by the MWA was their presentation on the use of drone technology for water/sewer main inspections. In addition, the MWA assisted with a case study on the benefits of a progressive design-build process for rehabilitating both of its water reclamation facilities.

Congratulations are extended to the following individuals for their special recognition:

★ Brian McDade, an operator at the Amerson Water Treatment Plant, received the American Water Works Association's (AWWA) Operator's Meritorious Service Award, which honors him as the best water plant operator in the state, as judged by the Georgia Chapter of AWWA.

★ Gary McCoy, Director of Water Operations, received two awards – the Silver Water Drop Award for 25 years of membership in AWWA and GAWP Honorary Membership as "a person of eminence in one or more fields in the water profession."

★ Mark Wyzalek, MWA Director of Laboratory/Environmental Compliance, received AWWA Life Membership for serving 30 years in the industry association and being at least 65

years of age.

★ Barry Boss and Thaddeus Clark received GAWP Life Membership Awards for maintaining active membership in the professional association for 30 total years.

For photos of the awards and technical sessions from our industry's annual conference, please visit the photo gallery on our website at www.maconwater.org.



Frank Evans (left) and Randy Gillis (right), with assistance from Heather Veal (not pictured), taught a technical session on the use of drone technology during the recent 2019 GAWP Annual Conference.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday Oct. 19, 2019 for the 15th Annual Ocmulgee Alive!

Save the date and join us on Saturday Oct. 19, 2019, for the 15th Annual Ocmulgee Alive! Macon's annual river cleanup is affiliated with the statewide "Rivers Alive" campaign – the volunteer cleanup of Georgia's waterways organized by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Outreach Program.

Volunteers are invited to help in the efforts to protect one of our primary sources of drinking water and outdoor recreation – the Ocmulgee River. Those without a pre-assigned location should meet at the Amerson River Park Saturday morning Oct. 19, at 8:15 a.m.

The cleanup begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes by 11:30 a.m. Those volunteers who register in advance will receive the coveted Ocmulgee Alive! 15th Anniversary t-shirt, while supplies last.

Special thanks are extended to this year's corporate sponsors – YKK USA, Graphic Packaging International, Irving Consumer Products, and Solenis.

For more information, contact Mark Wyzalek, MWA Director of Laboratory-Environmental Compliance, at mwyzalek@maconwater.org.



Students from Mount de Sales Academy are among the volunteers participating in Ocmulgee Alive! Macon's Annual River Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday Oct. 19, 2019.

Congratulations to Kate Kubesheski, Director of Wastewater Operations

The MWA did not have to travel far to find its new Director of Wastewater Operations, hiring from within to fill this leadership position following the passing of its former Director, Jocelyn Hunt.

The Authority promoted Kate Kubesheski, a 17-year veteran of the MWA, to the position in June.

Kate graduated from Mercer University in 2003, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering and specialty in Environmental Engineering. She immediately began working for the MWA as a Wastewater Operator, before being promoted to Assistant Manager of the Lower Poplar Water Reclamation Facility in 2011. She served in this capacity prior to being selected as Director of Wastewater Operations.

Kate is a Class 1 Wastewater Operator,

which is the highest certification attainable in the water profession. She also is a Class III Water Operator and an Engineer in Training (EIT).



Kate Kubesheski, who has worked with the MWA for 17 years, is the new Director of Wastewater Operations.

MWA Offers "How To" YouTube Videos

For customers who benefit from seeing before doing, the MWA has produced the following online "How To" YouTube instructional videos. These videos, with their corresponding website link (URL), are as follows:

- How Does the MWA Manage its Billing Cycles
<https://youtu.be/1cSCf7NpySg>.
- How to Read Your Meter
<https://youtu.be/p3AMj5l4Mjw>.
- How to Prevent Late Fees
https://youtu.be/53DLqcU_t14.
- How to Determine if You Have a Leak
<https://youtu.be/rfQp60PKtDk>.
- How to Read Your Bill
<https://youtu.be/dsbvfmGzPVM>.



For questions or concerns, feel free to contact our Customer Care Department at 478-464-5620.

SECOND FRONT

MWA Halfway Through One of its Largest Capital Projects

Over \$40 Million Being Invested in Rehab of Both Water Reclamation Facilities

Roughly halfway through the timeline to rehabilitate both of its Water Reclamation Facilities, the MWA and the Haskell Company remain on schedule and within budget.

The Authority is investing over \$40 million toward the replacement of many of the assets that have exceeded their life expectancy at the Rocky Creek and Lower Poplar Water Reclamation Facilities.

This capital project, which is one of the largest in MWA history, entails four phases: (1) an update of the Authority's long-term capital improvement plan for its facilities; (2) schematic design and contractor selection; (3) design development; and (4) construction and commissioning.

The construction of the project is estimated to



The MWA is investing over \$40 million to renew and rehabilitate its two water reclamation facilities. The new digester lids (pictured) at the Lower Poplar Plant are among the many facility upgrades.

take approximately two years, having commenced in August of 2018, with plans to continue through the fall of next year. With the design of the rehabilitation

(Phase 3) nearly developed, the project is well into construction (the final Phase 4), meaning the overall project is more than 48% complete.

One of the significant changes to executing the project was the move by the MWA to directly purchase the equipment needed to rehabilitate the two plants, saving significant sales tax dollars since the Authority is a tax-exempt government enterprise.

In addition, the MWA has secured all of the financing necessary for the completion of this capital project, following a Bond Issue this past December that featured the sale of tax exempt, 20-year revenue bonds.

The rehabilitation of the Rocky Creek and Lower Poplar Facilities reflects the MWA's commitment to continually reinvest in the renewal of its assets, ensuring the sustainable delivery of reliable, quality water and sewer services for current and future customers.

MWA Enters into new Agreements with Macon-Bibb over Stormwater Management

The MWA has entered into two new Intergovernmental Agreements with Macon-Bibb County – first, for expanded Stormwater Management services, and second, over funding for Stormwater Capital Projects, utilizing SPLOST and/or other revenues from the Capital Year (CY) budgets of 2021 thru 2027.

The Intergovernmental Agreements are the results of a request by Macon-Bibb County that the MWA not only continue to manage and execute Stormwater Capital Projects to improve this infrastructure, but also pursue the creation of a Stormwater Utility.

Macon-Bibb County completed a thorough study that determined that the MWA is in the best position to operate, maintain, administer and expand a stormwater management

program for the community, due to its experience in the operation and maintenance of linear assets, its current management of SPLOST-funded stormwater capital projects, its existing capabilities in water

quality and watershed management, and more.

With the recent U.S. EPA Consent Order issued to Macon-Bibb County for violations of the Clean Water Act as well as other infractions of non-

compliance related to the County's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, the Authority's primary focus currently is to assist the County with the immediate resolution of the regulatory requirements of the Consent Order.

Compliance with NPDES permitting is an area in which the MWA is experienced. The Authority maintains its own NPDES permits for the operation of its wastewater collection and conveyance system and treatment facilities.

In addition, the MWA's expertise with environmental regulatory compliance includes knowledge of Municipal (MS4) Stormwater Permitting, which is necessary for the management of a stormwater utility.



Upon the request of Macon-Bibb County, the MWA has reached an Intergovernmental Agreement to direct stormwater management services and create a Stormwater Utility, while continuing to complete necessary capital repair projects (pictured) to improve stormwater infrastructure with current and future SPLOST dollars and other means of funding.

Perfluorinated Compounds Not in MWA Drinking Water

There have been numerous news stories from around the country about perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) being found in drinking water. PFCs are a large group of environmentally persistent manufactured chemicals used in industrial applications, certain types of firefighting foams, and some consumer products. PFCs are very stable, slow to break down in the environment, and can lead to potential adverse health effects.

MWA customers can be assured that their drinking water is safe. Testing required by EPA of our drinking water found that these substances were not detected. MWA water sources – the Ocmulgee River and our own Javors Lucas Lake – do not have any industrial or other sources that could cause PFC contamination, such as those that have occurred in other places in the country.

Furthermore, the MWA's water treatment

process removes contaminants through a filtration process that uses granular activated carbon (GAC), which the U.S. EPA has found is effective in removing PFCs and other potential contaminants, even if they were present.

Providing clean, safe drinking water is among the core values of the MWA, and we will continue to do whatever is necessary as your water provider to protect public health.

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