# High Fall 2014 Vol. 36, No. 4

A publication of Oregon Association of Water Utilities

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OAWU's mission is to provide service, support and solutions for Oregon water & wastewater utilities to meet the challenges of today & tomorrow.

# System Maintenance

### by Jeff Crowther, Wastewater Technician

It has been a while since I have really addressed my own system maintenance, but with prodding from my Board of Directors (which is my wife and children) I scheduled a doctor's appointment for the dreaded physical. I know that it is good to evaluate your current condition as you age to protect yourself from stress and system neglect. We assume everything is good, but there is always room for improvement. To put it simply I was told to cut down on the bad fats, oils and grease or FOG as we in the business refer to it.

If you think about it, the way we treat a sewer collection system is very similar. We tend to ignore the collection system until there are problems. The problem could be collection of fats, oils and grease (FOG) in a wet-well that causes the pumps or pump controls to fail. It may even be more serious and cause a sewer mainline blockage which can result in a backup or even a spill. These situations result in a cost to the agency in added staff time, paperwork, or bad publicity. Our goal should be to reduce the introduction of FOG into our public collection system to ensure these situations don't occur.

The best way to prevent problems with our collection system is at the source. Personally, I have been directed to reduce my intake of donuts and fast food. It should be noted that I will be reducing my FOG intake, not eliminating it. As I age, food is one of the few joys left in life.

For our publicly owned sewer system we should also reduce the FOG as much as possible. The best way to accomplish this is also at the source. Agencies should have the following in place:

• A Sewer Use Ordinance that gives the agency the authority to inspect and

implement BMPs to control FOG discharges. The ordinance should also have the ability to require grease removal devices to be installed if the BMPs do not work and FOG discharge inhibits flows down-stream.

- During new construction work with the local planning department and county/state plumbing officials to ensure that an appropriate grease collection equipment is installed, to protect the agency's sewer system.
- The Ordinance should also provide for cost recovery for damages and cleaning of the sewer caused by a specific discharger. Cost recovery may be difficult if the damages cannot be traced back to a specific source.
- If possible have a business license program implemented. This will help identify potential sources of FOG. Don't forget that it is not only restaurants that may have issues. You should also look at schools, retirement homes, and coffee shops; to mention a few.
- Have a program to assist business owners in monitoring the pumpers when cleaning their traps and interceptors. Make sure that the business owner is getting what he paid for. The units should be cleaned and inspected, noting any repairs that may be required.
- No matter how large or small your agency, the key element in reducing FOG in the sewer system is inspection and education.

It is best to have an ongoing maintenance and inspection program that can identify problem areas so corrective action can be taken prior to a late night sewer overflow. This may include measures such as cleaning a residential line with a belly regularly, until permanent corrective action can be taken.

Whether it is in our own private system or the public system, the reduction of FOG is the beginning of a long and happy life. By reducing the FOG we can add to the longevity of the system with reduced costs and maintenance. •







The weather for this year was fantastic and the activities were great. Monday's pre-conference provided a few extra CEUs to those who attended. The conference was kicked off by an opening session given by OAWU's Executive Director, Jason Green, and a legislative update by Mark Landauer. Tuesday held the evening outdoor barbecue with a meet and greet social, exhibitor prize give-away, followed by a bonfire on the beach. Wednesday continued with a full day of classes; some took the afternoon off to participate in the annual Golf scramble at Gearhart Links. Thursday concluded the conference at noon with final words from OAWU's Program Manager, Scott Berry, and the highly anticipated raffle drawings and cash prizes.

Thank you to this year's Bronze sponsors RH2 Engineering Inc., EJ, BergerABAM, and CoBank.

Thanks also for the bonfire beverages sponsored, again this year, by Ferguson Waterworks. Annual golf scramble at Gearhart Links which hosted 11 teams

Thursday, during closing session, OAWU gave away over \$600 in merchandise, \$300 in gift cards, and \$200 in cash prizes.

This year's OAWU raffle for a 47" flat screen TV was won by Todd Latchaw from Nelson Environmental Inc.

This year's OAWU Water PAC raffle for a Remington 870, 12 gauge shotgun with turkey choke was won by Rory Martin from Oak Lodge Water District.

The Lollipop board prize for a full registration to the OAWU Sunriver Conference in March 2015 was won by Robert Whalen from the City of Heppner.

Mark your calendars for next year's Summer Classic in Seaside, Oregon August 17-20, 2015. See you there! ●







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# **OADO'S ADDEA COLL Separable** Seaside, Oregon – Gearhart Links Golf Course – August 20, 2014

The sun was out the entire day, the greens started off slow then turned fast (just to keep you guessing); it was a perfect day to hit the links for this year's scramble. The staff at the Gearhart Links Golf Course was accommodating, friendly, and professional helping to make the day even more enjoyable.

Eleven teams of four challenged the course this year, making a good solid competition. No one was safe from the errant drive, misjudged chip shot, or the mocking one received when their shot landed two fairways over; we must also admit that there are many great players and were many awesome shots on the course this year. The day was very pleasant and the banter helped build camaraderie throughout the scramble.

Special thanks to this year's sponsors: The Ford Meter Box, Ferguson Waterworks, EJ, HD Fowler, and Lakeside Industries for their support of the attendees and association. The three winning teams were:

Tied for 1st place: Scott Motsinger, Don Miller, Jake Dyer, and Ron Watts

Tied for 1st place: Dave Bobbett, Simon Cartwright, Dan Wilson, and Wayne Bush

3rd place: Bob Ulrich, Rick Fuqua, Stuart Trebelhorn, Jim Pronovost

The winners of the golfing competition games were: Longest Putt #1 – Pat Dunigan Longest Putt #2 – Ron Watts KP #1 – Dave Seifert KP #2 – Mark Moore KP #3 – Ron Watts Longest Drive #1 – Ed Pettett Longest Drive #2 – Dan Wilson

Special thanks go out to Tim Tice (Projects Manager), Hans Schroeder (Circuit Rider), and Mike Collier (Training Specialist), who helped make sure the scramble went off without a hitch. ♠

Mark your calendars for OAWU's next Summer Classic at Seaside August 17–20, 2015. It is a great location to enjoy while you earn CEUs and network with associate members and your peers.



















Oregon Association of Water Utilities

# The Jeff Swanson Memorial Scholarship

### College students encouraged to apply now

Is your child attending college next year? One or more scholarships will be awarded from \$500 to \$1500 for the 2015-2016 academic school year. Employees from OAWU Regular Member systems, in good standing, are encouraged to have their college bound child submit an application by the Friday, December 4, 2014 deadline. Download an application at www.oawu.net and mail it to:

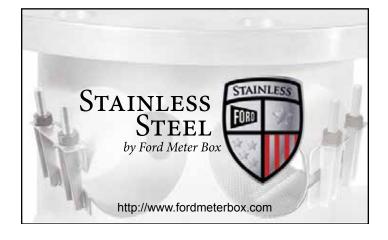
OAWU Scholarship Committee Attn: Scholarship 2015 935 N. Main Street Independence, OR 97351 OAWU will award the scholarship/s at the 37th Annual Management & Technical Conference, March 2015 in Sunriver.

### Jeff's Story

Jeff Swanson passed away on July 4, 2009, from esophageal cancer. Mr. Swanson was an accomplished and passionate Circuit Rider and Programs Manager for ten years at OAWU. He was a great water operator, manager, troubleshooter, treatment plant operator, instructor and a great friend. Jeff had a warm and memorable personality, exceptional integrity,



personal character and work ethic. It is to Jeff Swanson's memory that this scholarship is named, he believed that obtaining education was paramount to a person's success and encouraged its pursuit. As Jeff would often say regarding one's attitude and actions, "Choose to make it a great day!" •









# "Witching" or "Wishing?"

### by Scott Berry, Circuit Rider/Program Manager

When I was very new to the water industry, I was introduced to the phenomenon known as water witching. This practice was purported to show where the underground water pipes are located. It looked interesting and the guy showing me how to do it said he was sure it worked. However, he was not sure enough to show me where the pipe was and then turn me loose on the backhoe, without first doing a lot of slow hand-digging; as is prudent in any underground excavation. I remained skeptical and over the years I kept asking those in the industry about this practice and started doing some research on my own.

Whether you call it Witching, Dowsing, Rhabdomancy, or Divination, it's all the same practice. Some say it has roots in the Bible and that Moses was the first practitioner (Numbers 20 9:11) or that it originated in 1540 in the publication De re Metallica by Georgius Agricola. The questionable nature of the phenomenon has drawn suspicion since the beginning. There has always been a struggle between skeptics and believers, neither group being able to persuade the other by reasoning or experiments. Numerous times, dowsing has been tested scientifically without producing any significant positive results.

Over the centuries, there have been many theories as to how it works. Everything from E-Rays (from the German word Erdestrahlen, meaning earth-rays) that are believed to originate within the earth and penetrate the crust to form an invisible latticework of lines. Local circumstances such as underground streams, minerals, and geographical formations, also are said to cause fields that radiate from the ground. These fields are believed by some to affect health, animal behavior, human "auras", plant growth, and many other things. The believers will emphatically tell you that these fields can be easily detected with the use of a dowsing rod. Skeptics will tell you that there is no scientific basis to support the existence of these fields and that they can only be demonstrated by the use of a dowsing rod. Dowsers fancy a notion that they call 'polarity'. All E-rays and other obscure energy fields have this polarity, either positive or negative. The meaning of polarity differs depending on which dowser is asked; some say it refers to the effects the fields have on humans, others say it refers to electrical polarity.

Man's capacity for self-delusion is infinite. —Dr. Elie A. Shneour, Biosystems Research Institute

In the multitudes of studies that have been done on this topic over the past five centuries, it has been proven that the "positive" results of dowsing are attributable to three key factors:

**The Ideomotoric Effect** Take a paper clip and tie a 12-16 inch thread to it. Rest your elbow on the table, hold the loose end of the thread with your fingers and let the paper clip swing like a pedulem right above the table. Hold still and try not to move your arm at all. Now visualize that the paper clip moves back and forth but do not move your arm. Does the pendulum swing? If not, concentrate harder because it will eventually move. Ideomotoric Effect is a subconscious movement governed indirectly by your expectations rather than conscious muscle activity. In the case of dowsing rods, a very small movement away from equilibrium causes great fluctuations in the rods. Rods do not move by themselves!

### **Instability and External Attribution**

**Bias** As in the case of L- or Y-shaped rods, the instability of the instrument itself enhances the instrument's credibility. An unstable system is very difficult to keep in equilibrium and deviations must be compensated for at all times. This unpredictability causes the dowser to believe that he has no control over the rod's movements, which, so far, is correct. It is when the dowser interprets the cause of the movements to be of exterior origin that an illogical conclusion is drawn. Note that nothing is stated about whether the dowser is actually right or wrong, but an illogical conclusion is no more than a conclusion based on a questionable assumption, which, of course, might be true. What's psychologically interesting is the proneness to think that 'if I am not controlling the moving instrument resting in my hands, then something else must be!' This tendency to attribute a selfcaused effect to external sources, is called external attribution.

### **Expectations and Suggestive**

**Environments** The influence of expectations on the subconscious and random activities of the system can cause, just about, any effect. A suggestive environment, for example, supportive and enthusiastic onlookers, makes the positive outcome all the more probable regardless of contingent physical effects involved. After spending some time in the industry and installing many miles of



pipeline, excavating for leaks and service installations, I began to get "better" at witching. The reason for this is that I subconsciously put myself in the shoes of the original pipeline installer and based on my surroundings (i.e. the location of ditches. property lines, roads, curbs, trees, rights of way, etc.) I subconsciously decided where I would have placed the pipeline and sure enough... that's where the witching sticks said it was. The primary task of the experimenter is, in the case of dowsing, to try to eliminate the test result dependence on the subject's expectations, a principle not commonly practiced among dowsers. Why would they try to falsify their own hypotheses when they're already convinced that dowsing works? The answer to this simple question essentially differentiates science from pseudoscience. I believe

that rigorous testing is happily abstained from for several reasons: ignorance, lack of knowledge, fright of disconfirming results, and the will to believe. These aspects not only make the mind susceptible to belief, they can also unjustly rule out the validity of scientific test results. If a test gives a negative or unexpected result, the test itself is concluded to be erroneous.

I fully expect to be engaged in debate about this article as I'm out in the field visiting with you all. In the spirit of "letting sleeping dogs lie," I'll concede that some have a better than average percentage with dowsing rods, though I still believe that it's only because some have a better than average understanding of how their system is laid out.





# Is it a Croc... or a Gator?

### by Jack Hills, Source Water Specialist

I get as much, or more, enjoyment

reading our H2Oregon articles as anyone. There is much to learn, stories to enjoy, philosophies and personalities to hear about. What happens when we send TEAM OAWU from the Pacific Northwest to someplace east of the Mississippi? Your connection to the National Rural Water Association is through membership with OAWU as the state associate for Oregon. I suppose that the In-Service Conference and the Annual Convention are mostly held toward the east coast to easily accommodate the greater population of rural water and wastewater systems on the other side of the country. This past June the NRWA In-Service was held in Mobile, AL. The Source Water Specialists of Alabama Rural Water arranged for the national group of Source Water Specialists to visit some interesting sites and see some of their local projects to protect drinking water. Since I wrote a brief article three years ago on recycling wastewater,

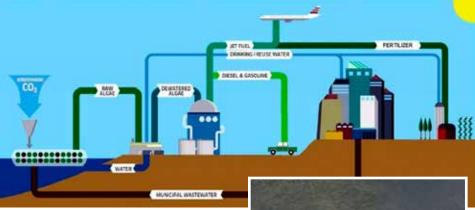
I thought it would be interesting to tell you about the current research project we visited across the bay from Mobile, in Daphne, AL. Daphne Utilities has coordinated with a company that is studying and developing prototypes of wastewater treatment technology that may change how some wastewater plants treat their effluent, given the right conditions and accommodations available to them. Algae Systems (algaesystems.com) has developed methods of using the nitrogen and phosphorus-rich wastewater effluent that can cause aquatic problems of Eutrophication, oxygen depletion, by harvesting the algae grown in it to be converted to fuel, fertilizer, gaseous oxygen and clean freshwater.

Briefly, the wastewater effluent is purified by using algae and sunlight, without chemicals or filters. The algae and wastewater are piped out to floating clear plastic containers (huge baggies) on the coastal body of water (Mobile Bay). This project had about an acre of these containers (Corps of Engineers' approved) anchored in a grid, designed for further expansion. Being mixed by the gentle wave action of the bay, fertilized by the nitrogen and the phosphorus, the algae grows at an accelerated rate, consuming the contaminates and releasing the energy stored in the waste. At the end of the process the algae is rendered into fuel and water that is almost clean enough to drink.

All the procedures were controlled and monitored by high technology equipment, providing data for the inputs and output. However, one process still had to rely on human, "hands on," labor; maintenance of the baggies. Laborers had to wade out along the containers to keep them clean from debris and keep the large, local reptiles from getting on the bags and sunning themselves. Now is when this Pacific Northwesterner stays out of the water and covets his Cascade Mountains! Amazingly, they said the gators really don't bother the folks wading and cleaning off the containers.

This is a brief look at some new ideas being used to process and make use of our waste and further protect our resources. Take a look at the Algae Systems website (www.algaesystems. com) for a more complete review of their work. Maybe it's not too practical for us without a coastal bay, but they are very excited about its potential when they consider the expanding "dead zones" such as experienced in the Gulf of Mexico where the majority of the wastewater effluent from the entire Mississippi watershed is emitted as an effective point source contaminate. Impressive implications!

By the way, you should be aware that the next NRWA Conference is right here in our own backyard in Seattle,



WA. Check out the NWRA website for the October 6–8 Water Pro 2014: www.waterproconference.org. Also, the next NRWA In-Service Convention is in Reno, NV next June.

We get to stay on the west coast for a year. Call us if you need any assistance with your water/wastewater system or for source water protection. •



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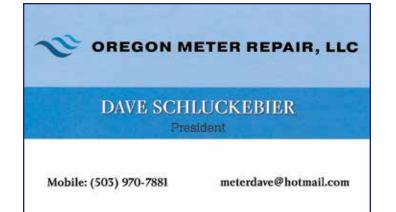
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### by Mike Collier, Training Specialist/Operations

Recently, I have had issues with communication at a water system. The system uses a radio to transmit the tank water depth information to the controller to tell the pumps to either turn on or off. This communication got blocked and confused so the depth readings were not going through and the computer decided that this meant that the pumps should run. As it turns out when you run pumps non-stop, the tank overflows.

What does an overflowing tank look like in our own lives, are there times when our communication has either been blocked or confused? How can we get better at communicating?

There have been many times throughout my life when people have misinterpreted what I was telling them, or when I didn't fully grasp what someone was trying to tell me. Usually this ends poorly; at work this could mean that a task was completed subpar, or that something that did not need to be done was done by accident, wasting time and money. At home this could mean an argument that did not need to happen between spouses or between parents and children.

Some tricks to proper communication include: listen, ask questions, and repeat.

Let us first review what listening is: it involves more than just hearing what the other person is saying. It also involves paying attention to what their body language is telling you. This can be partially deciphered to help you with interpreting what their mouth is saying and what their real meaning is. This is done through eye contact and watching for physical cues, an example of a physical cue is crossed arms. This usually means that the person is not willing to listen to what you have to say as this is a protective or defensive stance. This is an important part of communication.

People can express themselves through different techniques. The worst of these methods to communicate is through writing, such as e-mail. The reader has to look for subtle nuances in the English language to try and get the correct meaning from the e-mail. The second worst is by phone, with a phone you can hear the inflections in a person's voice to help you to interpret what is being said, but you don't have the visual cues. The very best form is in person, when you are with the speaker you have direct access to their body language, can hear their voice and can make sure that you are fully getting the meaning from the conversation; interpreting feelings that might have been hidden to us if we just had the words alone.

Next, let us look at asking questions. This is one way to check on the parts of the conversation that seem confusing, or parts we aren't sure of, or just something we want to confirm as an important part of the conversation. It can be easy to make assumptions about what someone is telling us based on what we think, but it is much better to ask and confirm what is being said, as everyone has different ideas and interpretations. Often people don't want to complete this step. Some people are scared to let others know that they aren't quite sure what someone is telling them. Especially, if it is a boss telling one how to do a task, sometimes it can be difficult to say that we don't understand, but if we do ask we will save ourselves and our company much time and anguish, stopping the task from being done incorrectly. It is much more important to ask the few questions or ask for them to say it in

a different way so that everyone is sure to be on the same page.

The final step is to repeat what we heard and understand from the conversation. This is where we take what we have heard, seen, asked questions about and further interpreted in the conversation to see if our interpretation is agreeable to the person that was talking with to us. If it is, then great, hopefully communication has successfully taken place. If not, then this gives them a time to try to restate what they are trying to convey and the process starts over again until conversation is successful.

The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.

-George Bernard Shaw

I hope we can all practice the steps to proper communication and become better communicators. •





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- Training, loss control, safety consultations, risk management, and claims management services offered
- Research and technical assistance available
- Pre-loss legal services for members enrolled in the Property/Casualty Program
- Liability, property, boiler & machinery, crime, workers' compensation, and many other coverages available





### by Heath Cokeley, Circuit Rider

I realize that the title of this article is not a fun and exciting topic, but I believe it is an important topic to cover none-the-less. How many of you install tracer wire when installing nonmetallic pipe? My hope is all of you. Many of us have seen, firsthand, the downside of not having tracer wire to locate the mainline years after the ditches have disappeared.

I think it is important to note that there are technologies available to locate pipe that does not have a metallic element to it or have one installed with it. These technologies include Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) units, what I refer to as "Thumpers" (a device that puts a small water pressure wave on your pipe so it can be located with a listening device and, most recently, the Subsurface All Materials Locator (AML). All of these devices have their benefits and downfalls which, in my opinion having used all of these, is as follows:

The GPR units look like a lawn mower with a display screen. The benefits include giving you a display of all things in the ground under the machine. The down fall is they can be temperamental in certain classes of soil, especially clay, and it is up to you to decipher between pipes if there are multiple utilities located in an area. For many systems the cost is another drawback as you are looking at \$20,000 plus, depending on how the unit is equipped.

The "Thumper", as I referred to earlier, works well for locating short

distances of pipe, but requires a connection to the mainline within 250 feet. Many of us in the industry are not thrilled with the idea of putting a small water hammer on our old mainlines especially, Asbestos Cement pipes.

The third one I mentioned is the Subsurface AML unit, which resembles a dust pan. I demoed one several months ago and believe this unit has great potential, it appears to locate straight edges in the ground. This may, however, give some false positive readings since it is looking for any straight edge in the ground. At a cost of \$5,500 it is also out of reach for some utilities.

With these devices much of the equipment's usefulness is based on the skill of the operator and, I will be the first to admit that, if I worked with these devices more frequently I believe I would become more accurate with them. That is as nicely as I can say that I was the reason for some inaccurate locates.

With all that said, I think the need to install some metallic method to locate our nonmetallic pipes is necessary, but I think the specifications for this need to be made on a system by system level. The State of Oregon mentions tracer wire briefly in OAR 333-061-0050 (8) (k), which roughly states that all nonmetallic pipe must be installed with at least 18 AWG solid copper wire that comes up in meter boxes of at valves and has an access point at least every thousand feet, as well as, all joints and splices being water proof. Is this enough to cover all the bases? Honestly, I think it would be more appropriate for every system to evaluate their system specific needs and write a specification to cover them for the times when contractors are installing your facilities. For instance, I always required 12 AWG wire and looking back I wish I had gone into more detail. Having specific access points located outside the valve and meter boxes where a locating machine can be attached to prevent damage to the wire. Also, it would have been nice to have this standardized, so when you walked up to a

meter box you know where the tracer wire access points are located. Having special standards for the kind of wire used when boring a pipe as opposed to conventional excavation and where, in proximity to the pipe the wire will be located. All these variables will affect how effectively we can locate the line in the future.

Thankfully some of the Circuit Riders with Missouri Rural Water Association already did some of the leg work for this. What Joe Rubbelke, Jeff Dale, and Frank Stuemke developed is a tracer wire specification that I am hopeful utilities here in Oregon can take and make into their own. They were nice enough to share it with me and allow me to pass it on to any system that would like to use it. If you would like an electronic copy of this tracer wire specification feel free to e-mail me at hcokeley@oawu.net or let me know you are interested the next time I am in your office or at your plant. The Tracer wire spec is about 5 pages long and, of course, you can just use it as a template to add to or delete from to make it work for your utility. With that I hope you found something useful to take away from this article and I'll see you down the road.

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Oregon Association of Water Utilities





### by Hans Schroeder, Circuit Rider

In many areas of our beautiful state fall is upon us. With the onset of fall there are some preventative maintenance issues which are easily over looked. As the weather changes let's take a look at our to-do list for maintenance; here is a checklist of things that may make your spring and summer run smoother.

Vents on the reservoirs may need cleaned. This usually is a great place for birds to nest or bees to build their hives. This can cause problems, such as contaminants getting into the water and improper ventilation for the water to flow freely throughout the distribution lines.

Was the equipment serviced recently? The tires on the backhoe, grader and lawn mowers should be inspected for weather checking and pressure. Has the oil been changed and fluids checked in all the equipment? (Portable pumps should be drained for the winter so they don't freeze up. Are the portable pumps in proper working condition for this year?) If you are in charge of the parks; check the mowers, high wheel trimmers and weed eaters to make sure they are ready to go.

Another area easily over-looked are the catch basins or "bubblers" that may be at either side of an intersection. Through the fall and winter these can gather leaves, sticks and other debris; make sure they are clear and free flowing. Most of the time, if these were plugged, you probably would have received a call from a citizen or noticed that an intersection had turned into a duck pond. I actually have seen these "duck ponds" where someone has placed duck decoys in it as a joke.

This spring you should make sure to check all the streets for damage. The water, sewer, gas company or any other utility may have put lines in last year that will settle through the winter. Come spring these may need dug out, re-compacted and a new asphalt patch applied. There could be some trenches that need top dressed from previous line installations that have settled as well.

Is your shop in order for a busy summer? Your shelves should be stocked with a few dresser couplers, repair bands, corp and curb stops, meter setters and other fittings needed for repair and replacement of pipes.

The Drinking Water Program (DWP) has changed their name to Oregon Health Authority (OHA). You should check with our local OHA or visit their web site and make sure you are up to date on your sampling schedule for the year. There are annual, 3 year, 6 year and 9 year dates that need to be kept in mind that may need to be taken this year. The samples that may be on a 3 year schedule are: Lead/Copper, SOC/VOC, Arsenic and HAA5-TTHM. Some 9 year samples are: Nitrite, RAD Gross Alpha and RAD Radium. Check on these annually at the States sampling schedule for your system. A good reminder is to print off the schedule from the DWP web site for your system, high- light the samples that need to be taken this year and post this information above your desk. Also, samples that need to be taken next year should be considered when approaching budget time. The cost of these samples can get quite expensive and need the attention of the Budget Committee.

I hope that some of these points may help you as we move through this fall and winter and into next spring and summer. Planning out the year and preparing for the projects at hand allows for a smooth, progressive spring and summer. The KEY is to always be prepared! ◆

Oregon Association of Water Utilities

### EFFECTIVE UTILITY MANAGEMENT FOR RURAL AND SMALL SYSTEMS - WORKSHOP

December 8, 2014 Best Western Hood River Inn Hood River, OR

Register at http://www.oawu.net/ CurrentEvents.htm



This interactive workshop will help rural and small water and wastewater systems address a full range of challenges and improve the management of their operations and infrastructure using tools developed by EPA, USDA, and small system managers. Participants will be trained on:

-How to use the <u>Rural and Small Systems Guidebook to Sustainable Utility Management</u> to assess and make improvements at their operations
-How to improve long-term sustainability and increase resiliency of their systems
-How to develop a workplan to implement improvements at their systems; and
-Share information with their peers on common challenges and solutions

Participants will learn how to make improvements in ten key management areas, focusing first on their most pressing challenges. The workshop promotes participant interaction, encouraging systems to share information on common challenges.

#### Ten Key Management Areas

- Product Quality
- Customer Satisfaction
   Employee & Leadership Development
- Operational Optimization
- Financial Viability
- Infrastructure Stability
- Operational Resiliency
- Community Sustainability & Economic Development
- Water Resource Adequacy
- Stakeholder Understanding & Support

### WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

Overview of Key Management Areas Utility 'Self Assessment' Exercise Self Assessment Results Discussion Improving Outcomes Based on Assessment Practices, Tools, and Measures Resources for Improvement Action Plan Discussion and Exercise

oregon

Infrastructure Finance Authority

#### Who should attend?

- Board of Directors
- City Council Members
- Mayors
- City Managers
- Water Operations Managers
- Waste Water Superintendent
- Finance Directors
- Public Works Directors
- Water/Wastewater workers







Quality







# Silly Sudoku

### by Tim Tice, Projects Manager

Never schedule a vacation prior to a deadline. No proofing is required for this article which will expedite the process of getting it into the magazine. Hopefully, some enjoyment can be had by those who like a challenge. My procrastination has a two-fold lesson, never put anything off until tomorrow what can be done today and make the best of any situation.

The best of everything in life!

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**WWW.OaWU.net** for further information on your Association Oregon Association of Water Utilities

### UPCOMING OAWU CONFERENCES

### **Small System Operator's Conference**

Cornelius, November 3–5, 2014



### 16th Annual End of Year Operator's Conference

Hood River, December 8-11, 2014

### 37th Annual Management & Technical Conference

March 2–6, 2015



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**"Rex's WaterPro** program is one of the most comprehensive insurance programs I've ever seen. He was able to provide the **Oregon Association Water Utilities** with a quality program at a **great price**." *Jason Green, Executive Director* 

### Don't Worry, Call Rex at 1-800-452-6826 Today!

# Is Green Asphalt Repair Even Possible,

### by W.R. Bill Bailey, Lakeside Industries

No place in the nation has a higher forest density than the Pacific Northwest. It stands to reason that there are more forest roads here than anyplace in the nation. Maintaining those roads comes with a special responsibility. Certainly, budget is always an issue, but the bar is set even higher when it comes to the environment. Whether local and county agencies or forest and parks departments, reducing the environmental impact of maintaining asphalt roads is a must. And that's happening in the Northwest with the help of Lakeside Industries and EZ Street Bioblends cold asphalt.

With traditional asphalt products there are distinct environmental and safety challenges and they begin with one key ingredient: diesel fuel. Typically patching materials contain up to 30% #2 diesel as a diluent to keep the asphalt mixture from setting up too quickly. In the wet climate and rain, the excess often leeches into the water table when thrown into a pothole. Contractors have also been fined for allowing diesel to be used on truck beds and paving equipment.

Adding diesel keeps the cold patching product workable. Using it to repair a road creates an obvious case of introducing a pollutant into the environment. Manufacturing it creates air pollution and a substantial carbon footprint and is a waste of good fuel material so direly needed today. Moreover, traditional cold asphalt products become hard and unworkable in the cold weather of the Northwest. A work crew repairing an asphalt road will typically use a hot box or a propane torch for heating the material to a workable state. The problem is acute: diesel's flashpoint is typically 148 o F, therefore using an open flame is a liability and the risk of overheating the product is high. Overheating makes traditional cold asphalt hard and brittle, which leads to early failures.

Lakeside Industries has become one of the Northwest's largest asphalt paving contractors, serving Washington, Oregon and Idaho. They do so with a level of community engagement, environmental awareness and commitment to quality that is the hallmark of a legacy brand. They've won hundreds of awards for their performance—including numerous commendations for their commitment to the environment.

Teaming up to produce EZ Street Bioblends asphalt was a "no-brainer" for Lakeside. EZ Street asphalt is recognized as a leading cold product. Quick and efficient, EZ Street's guarantee of permanent pothole repairs and utility cuts make it a favorite among both work crews and the people who sign the checks in the Northwest.



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# or is it Just a Paver's Fantasy?

Bioblends offers the same EZ Street value and benefits in a green product. Bioblends is formulated with an advanced bio-oil substitute (reclaimed vegetable oils) for diesel. Lakeside produces Bioblends in their plants for use across the Northwest. The gains are tremendous including: a smaller carbon footprint, no petroleumderived diluent being introduced into the environment, and the product's workability in cold weather is much better than traditional cold asphalt products. But if a road crew wants to use a hot box or a propane torch, no problem. The flashpoint for the bio-diesel product is 365 o F. The risk of starting a fire is greatly reduced and unlike diesel products, EZ Street Bioblends gives off no VOC fumes.

Bioblends is also thicker, which is better. On a Brookfield viscometer, diesel fuel blends of bitumen often measures around 300 centipoise. The bio-oil blends of bitumen in Bioblends measures between 800 and 900. In the simplest terms, we're talking the viscosity of whole milk vs. the viscosity of honey. Higher viscosity yields better asphalt oil film thickness, and thicker films of the same bitumen wears better. EZ Street Bioblends asphalt lasts longer with nearly a decade of actual use by British Columbia and Alberta and no complaints.

Heated or cold, it can be placed by hand, grader, paving machine or Layton (pull) box. Clackamas, Multnomah, Lane, Deschutes and many other Counties in Oregon blade or machine repair with our material. The product comes in 50 lb. bags, Supersacks, or in bulk; whatever suits your needs. The product is compacted just like hot mix asphalt.

As mentioned, Bioblends can be used warm or cold. However, it can also be put into a hot box or heated with a propane torch. Warming the product helps dry out the hole into which it's placed. Warming also yields easier compaction, which is critical to proper repairs. And if any warmed product is left over, it lets the user do something no other product can: EZ Street Bioblends asphalt can be reheated and used later. Decades of listening to and learning from the "old guys" paid off.

EZ Street Bioblends asphalt and Lakeside Industries working together in the Northwest and now available in California, to keep America moving forward with a "going green" that actually performs better than the old method. A typical pothole costs about \$1.25 and last for years. It is guaranteed or your money back.

For more information, please contact W.R. Bill Bailey at 503-269-6206 or bill. bailey@lakesideindustries.com; www. ezstreetasphalt.com. ♦



Oregon Association of Water Utilities

### System O&M Manuals Required

### Have you completed your state-required Operations & Maintenance Manual?

Oregon Association of Water Utilities has prepared a full day class to assist operators in outlining an operations and maintenance manual per the Oregon Administrative Rule 333-061-0065 which requires each water system to develop an operations and maintenance manual.

This class will assist the water and wastewater system operator in outlining the specific points in developing the draft of the O&M manual. Step by step, each attendee will create their draft as it relates to their utility system during class. The e-file may then be completed back at the system office.

Class cost is \$155, or if you are unable to attend a class you may purchase a thumb drive with e-files for \$155. To sign up for the class, or to have a thumb drive mailed to you, contact your Association for further information. •

### Need to Review Water or Sewer Rates? OAWU Can Help!

### Take advantage of your Association's services!

OAWU has built a solid reputation for providing water and wastewater systems with factual, user-friendly, and defendable Rate Studies. Our rate studies, once implemented, have allowed many systems to obtain Capitol Improvement funding from various private and government lending agencies. An OAWU rate study can also provide a plan for systems to gain the capitol to "pay as you go" by outlining a strategy to maximize and streamline revenue and thereby allow water/wastewater system administrators to forecast projects that may be funded in-house. OAWU will provide you a professionally compiled rate study and supporting documentation that will allow you and your council or board to adopt new rates necessary to meet your system needs. ◆

For bids or estimates, call OAWU: 503-837-1212.



# Small Water District with a Powerful Idea

### by Corbett Water District

The Corbett Water District supplies water to 1,080 customers AND produces 240 kilowatts of electricity each day with their own hydro generator. This energy production is saving the Corbett Water District an average of \$400 per month in electricity costs.

Generally when people think of "hydro power" they imagine a dam, like Bonneville, on the Columbia River and huge turbines that fill an entire building and produce 5 billion kWh of electricity per year. Well, instead imagine a small water district in east Multnomah County, Oregon with an annual budget of \$1,015,000 and five employees. This group includes District Manager, Jim Jans, who thought "why can't a small domestic water system build a small hydro generator and generate some income to help cut the cost of providing water for their customers." This district, like all water districts large and small, must meet all the requirements to provide safe drinking water at the best possible price. Costs to maintain a water system continue to increase from the price of fuel, maintenance and paying for necessary equipment. The idea of harnessing the water to provide a little income back to the District seemed like a win-win for the District and their customers.

Thinking outside the box District Manager, Jim Jans, went to the Water District Board in 2007 and received their approval to pursue the "hydro idea." That was easy compared to the years of paperwork and permitting process, which proved quite challenging. The District received the approval for the project from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 2013. David Jacob of Hydra Engineering handled the design of the generator for the project. This 15 horse power generator is two feet tall, sits on a concrete pad and produces 10 kilowatts an hour. The cost of the hydro project was \$60,000, but with energy tax credits and grants the district only paid about \$18,000. The Water District employees' skills and ingenuity allowed them to complete much of the installation on their own. While Jans had worked on the design, the rest of the crew, Jeff Busto and Hans Rathjean, put their hands to cement work, fabricating, welding, plumbing and whatever was needed to get the generator online.

Now that the hydro generator is up and running it doesn't require much maintenance other than reading the meter. The power generated is sold back to Portland General Electric where it is re-distributed to customers. The Oregon Public Utility Commission reports that the extra kilowatts go into a power pool that PGE provides to families who can't afford to pay their electric bills. The service is called "net metering." The money Corbett Water District saves by eliminating an electric bill goes to offset the district's other costs to maintain the water system.

The Corbett Water District hydro generator in Corbett is small and doesn't have engines that roar like the big turbines at Bonneville, but it is able to harness energy that would have otherwise been wasted and save the District money in electricity costs.

Small micro hydro in other areas of the water system, such as distribution, may be in the future for the water district. The Corbett Water District will continue to look for ways to use the power of water to offset costs in the future.  $\blacklozenge$ 

Corbett Water District PO Box 6, Corbett, OR 97019 Business Phone: 503-695-2284 corbettwaterdistrict.com



### THE CONSERVATION CORNER

# Status of the Municipal WMCP Guidebook Update

### Submitted by OWRD

Since the last status report in The Conservation Corner (April 2014), the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) has made significant progress in its endeavor to update the OAR Chapter 690, Division 86 Municipal Water Management and Conservation Plan guidebook. A draft of the guidebook update is currently out for comment by a review team consisting of staff from the League of Oregon Cities, the Oregon Association of Water Utilities, and the Special Districts Association of Oregon, as well as representatives from the municipal water supplier community, water right consulting firms, and engineers working in the water industry. OWRD plans to finalize the guidebook update by the end of 2014.

### **Registrations of Reclaimed Municipal** Water Use (Recycled Water)

Beginning in the mid-1970s, municipalities were faced with increased pressure to either stop discharging effluent into streams or to treat their effluent to produce a much higher quality for discharge. In response to these pressures, OWRD, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and municipal effluent dischargers joined together in 1991to support passage of legislation [codified in ORS 537.131, 537.132 and 540.610(2)(h)]. These laws allow municipal effluent to be reused (or recycled) for irrigation or for other beneficial uses without a water right, provided that the effluent is treated and discharged under either a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) or Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) permit issued by DEQ. In addition, the treated municipal effluent may be retained in a pond or lagoon without a reservoir permit<sup>1</sup>.

Furthermore, under ORS 537.132, the legislation directs any person using or intending to use the treated municipal effluent to file a Registration of Reclaimed Municipal

1 Depending on the size of the retention structure, OWRD approval of the engineering plans may be required.

Water Use with OWRD. There is no fee associated with registering the use of reclaimed municipal water. The Registration of Reclaimed Municipal Water Use form may be accessed on OWRD's website at: http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/pubs/docs/forms/reclaimform96.pdf.

It is important to note that if the land upon which the treated effluent is to be applied has an appurtenant water right, filing this registration provides documentation to show that the reclaimed water was used in lieu of using water under the existing water right; thereby rebutting a presumption of forfeiture for non-use and protecting the water right<sup>2</sup>.

Since the passage of this legislation in 1991, several municipal water suppliers have developed reuse/recycled water programs to land apply treated municipal effluent. These programs help reduce discharges and improve water quality while providing a source of water and nutrients for various crops.

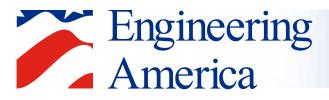
Contacts:

Lisa Jaramillo, (503) 986-0880 or Lisa.J.Jaramillo@wrd.state.or.us

DEQ –Recycled Water Program: (503)229-5472

OWRD – Reclaimed Municipal Water Use Registrations: Mellony Hoskinson, (503) 986-0887 or Mellony.D.Hoskinson@wrd.state.or.us

<sup>2</sup> See ORS 540.610(1) and (2)(h): "... Whenever the owner of a perfected and developed water right ceases or fails to use all or part of the water appropriated for a period of five successive years, the failure to use shall establish a rebuttable presumption of forfeiture for all or part of the water right... Upon a showing of failure to use beneficially for five successive years, the appropriator has the burden of rebutting the presumption of forfeiture by showing...the nonuse occurred during a period of time within which the water right holder was using reclaimed water in lieu of using water under an existing water right."



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### OREGON ASSOCIATION OF WATER UTILITIES 2014 TRAINING & EVENTS SCHEDULE

Date	Class Title	Location	<b>CEU Information</b>	ESAC#	Fee/Free
October 14	Control Valves	Grants Pass	0.7 Water/Wastewater	2286	FREE
October 22-23	Wastewater (WWT/WWC) Certification Review	Salem	1.4 Wastewater/0.6 Water	2295	Fee
November 3-5	Fall 2014 Water Training Short School	Cornelius	2.0 Water/Wastewater	2840	Fee
November 18	Submersible & Chemical Feed Pump O&M	Salem	0.6 Water/Wastewater	2841	Fee
November 19	Math for Operators	Salem	0.6 Water/Wastewater	2736	Fee
November 19	SDWA Update	Bend	0.4 Water	2287	FREE
November 20	Submersible & Chemical Feed Pump O&M	Florence	0.6 Water/Wastewater	2841	Fee
December 8	Effective Utility Management	Hood River	0.6 Water/Wastewater	TBA	FREE
December 8-11	16 <sup>th</sup> Annual End of Year Operator's Conference	Hood River	2.0 Water/Wastewater	2851	Fee

### **2015 TRAINING & EVENTS SCHEDULE**

Date		Class Title	Location	<b>CEU Information</b>	ESAC#	Fee/Free
March 2 March 2-6 March 24-25 May 5-6	2015 2015 2015 2015 2015	Effective Utility Management 37 <sup>th</sup> Annual Management & Technical Conference Wastewater (WWT/WWC) Certification Review Water (WT/WD) Certification Review	Sunriver Sunriver Salem Salem	0.6 Water/Wastewater 2.3 Water/Wastewater 1.4 Wastewater/0.6 Water 1.8 Water/1.1 Wastewater	TBA TBA 2295 2737	FREE Fee Fee Fee

#### Levels 1-4 Water Operator Exams

Trained and certified operators are necessary to ensure that systems are managed in a manner that fully protects public health and the environment. The OARs for certification stipulate that the qualifying experience for applicants for certification as a water treatment plant operator must attain at least half the required operating experience at a public water purification plant that uses complex filtration technology and is not more than one classification lower than the level of certification they are seeking. In other words, if you have only worked for a Class 2 treatment plant, we allow you to apply for a Level 3 certification but not a Level 4 certification. If you move on to a Class 3 plant, then you must have ½ the qualifying experience (at the Level 3 plant) before applying for a Level 4 certification. Reciprocity from state to state ensures that the operator has the operating experience for which they are certified.

For additional information, please visit http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/OperatorCertification/Levels1-4/Pages/exams.aspx

More Resources Drinking Water Data Online Center for Health Protection

Drinking Water Services

https://yourwater.oregon.gov http://public.health.oregon.gov/PHD/Directory/Pages/Program.aspx?pid=4 http://public.health.oregon.gov/PHD/Directory/Pages/Program.aspx?pid=58

#### State Wastewater Exam Dates

All categories: http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/opcert/stpoperexamsqry.asp (2015 dates have not been announced) Year-round, open schedule for exams For additional wastewater exam information, visit http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/opcert/opcert.htm Oregon ESAC/CEU accreditation Phone/Fax: 503-698-8494 info@oesac.org www.oesac.com For more information on any class by OAWU, please contact the office at 503-837-1212, office@oawu.net or visit www.oawu.net.

Training class dates, class topic and/or locations may be subject to change as needed.

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# Hiyo, Silver! Throwing My Loop by Michael Johnson

"A fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust and a hearty Hi Yo Silver! The Lone Ranger! With his faithful Indian companion Tonto, the daring and resourceful masked rider of the plains led the fight for law and order in the early western United States! Nowhere in the pages of history can one find a greater champion of justice! Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear! From out of the past come the thundering hoof beats of the great horse Silver! The Lone Ranger rides again!"

And then we would hear...

"Come on, Silver! Let's go, big fellow! Hi Yo, Silver! Away!"

(Isn't that just about the best thing you ever heard in your life?)

According to Wikipedia, The Lone Ranger came into the world in 1933 from a WXYZ Detroit station script writer named Fran Striker. For 2,956 episodes, The Lone Ranger and Tonto rode right through the radio into living rooms all across America. Though the series was aimed at children, adults made up at least half the audience. The television show aired from 1949 until 1957 starring Clayton Moore as the Lone Ranger, and Jay Silverheels (Harry Smith) - a Mohawk lacrosse player from Canada - as Tonto. Both Moore and Silverheels took their responsibility as role models for young people seriously all their lives. Here are a few examples from the "Lone Ranger's Creed."

"To have a friend, a man must be one."

- "All men are created equal and all have to power to make this a better world."
- "God put the firewood here, but every man must gather and light it himself."
- "We must be prepared to fight physically, mentally, and morally for what is right."
- "That sooner or later, somewhere, somehow we must settle with the world and make payment for what we have taken."
- "That all things change but truth, and that truth alone, lives on forever."
- "I believe in my Creator, my country, and my fellow man."

(Think there's any way we might bring that back?)

Why the mask? Because when six Texas Rangers are ambushed by outlaws at the beginning of the series, an Indian named Tonto comes along to find one Ranger remains alive. Tonto saves the life of the young man named John Reid. Tonto digs six graves to trick the outlaws into believing all the Rangers are dead. The Lone Ranger dons his mask to honor his fallen comrades so the outlaws will never know which one brought them to justice.

My favorite episode tells the story of how Silver came to be with the Lone Ranger. In the early days, the Lone Ranger rode a chestnut mare called Dusty. The Lone Ranger and Tonto happen on a white stallion fighting an enraged buffalo. The horse is severely injured, but Tonto applies a poultice made from tree sap, and the two men spend the night by firelight ministering to the fallen animal. As you might expect, the horse is alive at dawn. Tonto and the Lone Ranger watch him rise and begin to trot away. "Him make good horse for you, Kemo Sabe," says Tonto.

"No, Tonto," says the Lone Ranger. "It must be his decision."

Silver stops and turns to look at the two men...then comes trotting back to the Lone Ranger.

The rest is history.

The Lone Ranger always spoke precisely and used perfect grammar. Neither he nor Tonto ever drank or smoked, and when forced to use their guns, only maimed their opponents as painlessly as possible. And that's why he used silver bullets - to remind himself that life was precious and should not be wasted or thrown away. And no matter how hard we might try, you and I simply cannot imagine the Lone Ranger or Tonto ever being in a saloon at two in the morning... and shooting themselves in the leg with their own gun... now, can you?

Clayton Moore was born in Chicago, Illinois. He began his career as a circus acrobat at age eight, later becoming a trapeze artist. Silverheels suffered a stroke in 1976. For years prior, the Lone Ranger and Tonto had ridden in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena; the Lone Ranger on Silver and Tonto on the paint called "Scout." In 1977, Clayton Moore rode alone, and that was the

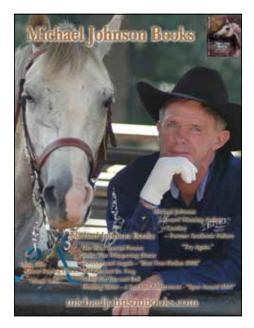


only day the Lone Ranger ever rode a horse other than Dusty or Silver. On that day to honor his friend...the Lone Ranger rode a paint.

Clayton Moore died in California at age 85 in 1999 from a heart attack. Throughout his career, he expressed love and respect for Jay Silverheels. Silverheels - who also lived in California - died in 1980 due to complications from the stroke he suffered earlier. He was 67 years old.

On their arrival in heaven, I'm sure the Lord himself must have helped Saint Peter check them in...and heaven is all the better for it.

> -Michael Johnson Junior Lone Ranger



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