



NH Water Works Association Newsletter

Issue 108

June 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Winter Memories

by Guy Chabot, NHWWA President

The winter of 2015 is a distant memory and spring is in the air. As I write, the magnolias are blooming and things are turning green again. The past winter was the worst in my 22 years at the Manchester Water Works. Snow – shovel hydrants – snow – water main break – snow – frozen service – snow - shovel hydrants – snow - snow - snow! Enough already!

Water system operators, customer service representatives, emergency personnel and DPW personnel were the heroes this past winter - working day and night to keep the water flowing, to keep the hydrants clear for the fire fighters, and to keep the roads passable.

So hats off to the water utility workers for your dedication and tirelessness. For water is the essence of life, the key to progress and an essential ingredient in coffee, and you kept it flowing while others were at home all warm and cozy on a cold winter's night.



A Manchester Water Works employee repairs a broken water main this past winter.

Construction Day 2015

Mark your calendar for Construction/Field Day 2015 scheduled for Wednesday, August 5. The bus leaves the Concord terminal at 8:45 a.m. for a full day of exciting visits to construction projects.

Construction stops this year will include; Pen-nichuck's Merrimack River transmission main, Manchester Water Work's angle collection well, and distribution work in Manchester, and Concord Water Department's treatment plant chemical room rehabilitation project, and Concord Main Street project-highlighting utility work.

Construction/Field Day includes morning and afternoon refreshments, lunch, bus fare, parking, all tours, and an opportunity to share ideas with fellow travelers, and of course lots of fun – and it's very affordable.

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Member News

Dave Paris, Director of Manchester Water Works (MWW), will be retiring on May 31 after 40 years of working for MWW. Dave progressively held the positions of Plant Manager, Water Supply Administrator, and Assistant Director before being named Director in 2013. In 2005, Dave supervised the rehabilitation and upgrading of the water treatment plant, MWW's most comprehensive project to date. This led to MWW receiving a Phase IV "Excellence in Water Treatment" award from the Partnership for Safe Water.

Dave's connection to and influence on the public drinking water industry and community go far beyond his day to day role as MWW Director. He has volunteered significant time locally, nationally and internationally. He has served as President of NHWWA and NEWWA, and currently serves as Treasurer of NHWWA. Dave has had a long relationship with AWWA's Washington office where he served on the Water Utility Council and notably as AWWA's representative on the Stage II/LT2 Federal Advisory Committee. His resume also includes two terms as a trustee for the Water Research Foundation. Dave has also volunteered his time and expertise to "Water for People" in Hungary and Bulgaria. He is a 1973 graduate of UNH and has offered his time and knowledge to the students and faculty on numerous occasions. Dave is an honorary member of AWWA and recent George Warren Fuller awardee.

Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc. Manchester, is pleased to announce that **Carl L. Quiram, PE** has joined the firm as a municipal business development manager for the New England Region. Carl, a graduate of the University of New Hampshire, has spent 28 years serving communities in New England and sharing his innovative practices with others across the country. His career has centered on implementing practical, cost-saving concepts for the design, construction, operation and management of a wide variety of infrastructure assets.

David White is pleased to announce that **Robert Jacobson** has joined R. H. White Companies of Auburn, MA in the position of Chief Financial Officer. Jacobson will be responsible for planning, developing and implementing the organization's financial strategy and fiscal performance. He has more than 30 years of financial experience in the construction industry and public accounting, and David White indicated that Mr. Jacobson will be a great addition to the R. H. White team.

Water System Projects



The **Town of Exeter's** Groundwater Treatment Plant is currently in construction. The transmission lines from the well buildings (3) to the new plant were installed in the Fall 2014. The treatment plant construction is on schedule. The filter vessel testing, pipe testing, chemical feed lines and pumps, etc. will be tested in June or July of 2015. The filter vessels will be treating for iron, manganese, and arsenic utilizing the Green-sand+ Technology. The plant is scheduled for substantial completion and startup in late August 2015. Once completed, groundwater from all 3 wells will be treated and pumped to the Distribution System.

Concord is nearing completion of a comprehensive chemical room upgrade for its 10 MGD surface water treatment plant. The plant, originally built in 1974, has seen several process changes in chemical treatment. This upgrade includes construction of containment areas for 4 chemicals with chemical day tanks and scales to more accurately measure daily usage. Chemical delivery is being upgraded with peristaltic pumps, and redundancy in each chemical application. Process pump upgrades and a VFD installation in the high lift station will complete the improvements and provide for increased efficiency and more accurate treatment techniques.

Pennichuck Water Works will soon be constructing a 6,100 foot long pipeline branch to flow Merrimack River water to its existing raw water transmission main. The 36 inch diameter connector will allow water from the Merrimack River to flow directly to the Concord Street treatment facility. This addition will establish two separate sources of supply for the 33 MGD treatment facility. Construction is planned for 2015. It is being funded through the State Revolving Fund.

Projects continued on page 5.



2015 Drinking Water Legislative Review

Although there is a month or so remaining in the 2015 Legislative Session, much of

the drinking water legislation has been acted on by both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Below is the status of some of the more important bills.

House Bill 109, *relative to the testing of backflow devices* has passed both the House and the Senate and awaits the signature of the Governor. Qualifications for inspecting, testing, installing, replacing, maintaining and repairing backflow devices were clarified in 2014 legislation (HB 1383 – Chapter 304 and Senate Bill 116 – Chapter 106). In the 2015 Session, HB 109 addresses potential backflow from residential properties. It amends RSA 485:11 in the following way. “A residential property containing a non-testable device shall not be considered a hazard facility and shall not require annual testing. A residential property may be considered a high hazard facility if it has an irrigation system, private well connection, or other feature that may cause a public health risk.”

House Bill 511 (Chapter 0015), *relative to funding of eligible infrastructure projects* has passed both the House and the Senate and was recently signed by the Governor. The legislation establishes a study committee comprised of three members of the House of Representatives and two members of the Senate. The committee is charged with studying the state aid grants programs for drinking water, wastewater, and landfill closures. Specifically, the committee will determine whether current thresholds for state aid are appropriate, how to fund future state aid projects, best financing options, and establish criteria for when and which projects are eligible and how to prioritize projects.

Three additional bills that addressed funding of water, wastewater, or landfill closure projects, or water supply land or watershed protection, were either tabled or retained in committee. These include the following:

House Bill 376, appropriating funds to the Department of Environmental Services for the purpose of

funding eligible and completed drinking water, wastewater, and landfill closure projects under the state aid grant program. This was RETAINED in committee.

Senate Bill 196, and act appropriating funds to the Department of Environmental Services for the purpose of funding eligible water supply land protection costs under the state aid grant program. This bill was TABLED.

Senate Bill 229, appropriating funds to the Department of Environmental Services for the purpose of restoring and protecting waters of the Southeast Watershed in accordance with EPA guidelines. This bill was TABLED.

House Bill 244 which would have lowered the permissible level of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MBTE) in drinking water to “0” was found to be INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

House Bill 342 would have required the consent of the property owner before a smart meter gateway device could be installed. The bill was determined to be INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

A full account of the 2015 drinking water legislation will be provided in the Summer Journal.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program

Pre-applications for the 2015 Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) are currently available from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).

The DWSRF provides low interest loans to public water systems to finance the cost of drinking water infrastructure projects. Public water systems eligible for loans include all community public water systems and non-profit organizations that own a non-transient, non-community water system. For interested water systems, this year the NHDES is promoting the replacement or upgrading of water meters. Accurate metering is crucial in promoting conservation and generating revenue. As an incentive, through the DWSRF program, NHDES is offering 5% principal forgiveness for meter replacement and upgrades for 5 or 10 year loan terms.

Pre-applications for 2015 DWSRF loans must be completed and returned to NHDES no later than 6/26/15. For additional information you may contact Johnna McKenna at the NHDES (603) 271-7017 or e-mail at: johnna.mckenna@des.nh.gov.

2015 Drinking Water Festival

About 300 fourth graders attended the 2015 Drinking Water Week Festival and Science Fair at Wasserman Park in Merrimack on May 5th. Students rotated between presentations and exhibits at which they learned about water testing, pipe tapping, storm water pollution, erosion, surface tension, and much more. One principal reported that the students “returned to school very excited about the field trip and shared some amazing things they learned”.

In conjunction with the festival, the winners of local science fairs competed to be the best in the state. Thank you to all the judges who took their jobs very seriously and congratulations to all the winners.

A special thank you to the staff of Merrimack Village District for their tremendous work in hosting the festival this year.

The NH Drinking Water Coalition, in conjunction with the NH Department of Environmental Services, hosts the event each year. In addition to the companies and organizations listed to the right, the festival was also supported by additional volunteers from: Amoskeag Fishways, Art for Water, Concord Water Works, Dartmouth Toxic Metals Program, Lake Sunapee Protective Assn., NHDOT, NH Rivers Council, HHS Public Health Lab, and U.S. Forest Service.

NHWWA Calendar of Events

Here are some of NHWWA’s summer and fall 2015 events:

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>
Aug. 5	Construction Day	Concord Nashua Manchester
Sept. 10	Technical Meeting	Manchester
Oct. 14	Iron & Manganese	Dover
Oct. 21	Backflow Refresher	Dover
Oct. 28	Trade Show/Expo	Concord
Nov. 5	Annual/Technical Mtg.	Concord

Also view upcoming meetings and events at NHWWA’s website at nhwwa.org.



NHWWA wishes to thank the following sponsors of the 2015 Drinking Water Week Festival

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Thank you for your continued support!

Meritorious Achievement Award



Rene Pelletier, Assistant Director of the Water Division at NHDES was awarded NHWWA's 2014 Meritorious Achievement Award at the Joint NEWWA/NHWWA meeting in Concord on January 15th. The award was presented by Sarah Pillsbury, drinking water program administrator at the NHDES and Steve Del Deo, executive director, NHWWA. Both Sarah and Steve cited Rene's steadfastness and consistency in his interactions with NH's drinking water community, and most importantly the positive results of his professional work—which will be realized for years to come. Rene graciously accepted the award but thanked all the good people involved in the drinking water community in NH whose hard work and diligence help safeguard our water resources and who continually provide the public drinking water community with a safe and reliable product.

Congratulations Rene!

Projects continued from page 2

The **Rochester Surface Water Treatment Facility** upgrades are currently underway. Work to date includes replacement of the original influent, mud, and drain control valves; fluoride room reconstruction with new saturator; alum bulk storage tanks with peristaltic feed pumps; SCADA upgrades including a 55" touchscreen; sand filter demolition; and installation of an online TOC analyzer and raw water stream gages.

Right: Construction Day 2014 included a visit to the City of Nashua's Combined Sewer Overflow Screening and Disinfection Facility. **Don't miss out on this year's Construction Day on August 5th!**

In Memoriam

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of **Leo "Joe" Hebert**, retired superintendent of the Hooksett Village Water Precinct. Joe passed away on February 17, 2015, the day after his 84th birthday.

Joe worked for the Hooksett Village Water Precinct (HVWP) for more than 40 years, and served as superintendent for most of that time. During his tenure, HVWP made great strides and improvements, most noteworthy changing from a small unfiltered surface water supply to a modern groundwater supply system. Joe was a very hard worker and extremely dedicated to HVWP. He was innovative in a way which often "saved the day". He always had the best interests of the HVWP and its customers in mind. Joe was also known for his willingness to share his knowledge and experience with other water system operators.

Joe was a U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean War and a member of the Merrill-Follansbee American Legion Post #37 in Hooksett.

Joe is survived by his wife of 64 years, Winifred (Hemeon) Hebert and his four children, Gene Hebert of Orford, Gary Hebert of Hooksett, Donna Rae Amato of Hooksett, and Diane Hebert of Pinardville, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Joe will surely be missed by all.



Thank you to the following for contributing to this newsletter:

- Matt Berube, Exeter Water Department
- John Boisvert, Pennichuck Water Works
- Guy Chabot, Manchester Water Works
- Marco Philippon, Concord Water Department
- Ian Rohrbacher, Rochester Water & Sewer Department

Welcome New Members

Support Members:

- James H. Vernon, Nobis Engineering, Inc.
- William C. Zeilinski, Dracut Water Supply District

Job Listings on NHWWA Website

As a service to its members, NHWWA posts job openings on the NHWWA website. If you have an opening please send information to Sue Kowalski at nhwwa@worldpath.net or if you are looking for a job, click on the *Job Listings* tab on our website; nhwwa.org

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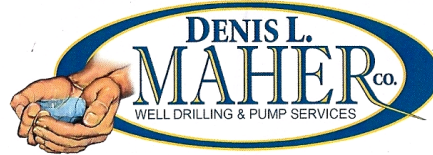
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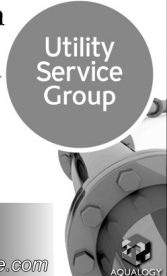
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