Welcome to the 2003 Section Officers and Trustees

Left to Right: Jim Miller, Denson Robinson, Ken McClellan, Keith Lowery, Chuck Lott, Tom Walters, and Randy Chaffin
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PIPELINE is a publication of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association.

PIPELINE is mailed to all members of the Alabama-Mississippi Section. In addition to the members, the trustees voted to provide a complimentary copy to all community water system officials informed on current events affecting the water supply industry and aware of products and services available to them. Current circulation is over 2700.

Articles and photographs are encouraged and appreciated. All submissions, comments or other matters concerning this publication should be directed to:

ATTN: Diane Bailey  Phone (256) 238-1241
c/o Anniston Water Works  Fax (256) 236-1532
P. O. Box 2268  E-mail: dbailey@awwsb.org
Anniston, AL 36202

Volume 4 – 2002 PIPELINE 1
Hello to all. I hope all who attended the conference in Orange Beach received as much as I in the way of excellent training and fellowship with the water industry leaders. It truly was great to have Terry Rolan and his wife with us from national. A special thanks to Keith and Peggy Lowery for their hard work and dedication to the section.

Last year work was done in the way of an informal survey in which the future needs of Alabama were researched and some interesting factors came from this. As a result we plan to take training into new areas of involvement in the state. You will hear more from us soon concerning this.

Randy Chafin, “Vice-Chair”, has approached several private management companies and we plan to meet with them before the end of the year to discuss our needs and what we can invest towards this effort. Our section is going to continue to change as the times call for it. We plan to have a company in place as soon as we find the solution that fits our concerns.

I’m excited about the coming year and upcoming conference in October 2003, in Biloxi, Mississippi. Make you plans to be a part of the big one at the Beau Rivage. No better place on the coast for us and we plan to have a large exhibit area with a program that is being worked on by volunteers from both states.

Please see the call for papers this issue. Bill Moody and Jason Carter have already set up several programs by the time you read this article. Phillip Gibson is compiling the forms necessary for registration; Rick Shepard is currently working on the arrangements for the golf tournament. My wife Shirley has almost all the details ironed out for a terrific ladies program that spouses don’t want to miss.

If it sounds like I am excited that is because I am. A fever pitch is on the rise and we meet for the first planning meeting in January 2003.

Folks we could chat all day but we must get to work for our local obligations as well as the sections. If you have comments, requests, or suggestions please feel free to submit them to me. Until next time.

Ken McClellan
Our 55th annual conference has come and gone and what a tremendous success it was thanks to the efforts of Keith and Peggy Lowery and their hard working team. The program was fantastic with lots of fun things to enjoy. Mary Etta and I even learned to swing dance.

If you were unable to attend make plans to join Ken and Shirley McClellan next year in Biloxi so that you can be a part of the AWWA experience.

We are very grateful to Mr. Terry Rolan, National Vice President, and his wife, Linda, for visiting with us and sharing their ideas and thoughts from the North Carolina section and also from a national perspective. Terry and Linda are both waterworks professionals.

Want to keep up with the latest happenings at AWWA?

Each week on the web site the latest issue of Waterweek is published and hits highlights from around the U.S. The address for Waterweek is: http://www.awwa.org/communications/waterweek/subscribers/currentissue/.

Also, be sure to check out AWWA’s new online discussion group at: http://www.awwa.org/CorePage.cfm?CI=2.

I will soon be on the road again going to the mid-winter meeting in San Antonio and in the next issue of Pipeline I will report on any updates from national.

Denson Robinson
Attendees:
Randy Chafin, Denson Robinson, Chuck Lott, Terry Rolan, Ken McClellan, Keith Lowery, Jimmy Nelson, Tom Walters
9:15 a.m. – meeting called to order.

Paid Staff
Randy Chafin reported on the status of the search for paid staff. A promising candidate has been identified in Jackson, MS. Randy, Ken McClellan, and Chuck Lott plan to interview this candidate in the next 60 days. Goal is to have paid staff for the Section under contract by the end of 2002.

Efficient Utilities
Terry Rolan, National AWWA Representative, gave an update on the status of Efficient Utilities (EU). AWWA has contractual obligations with EU and intends to honor those obligations. No further investment by AWWA is anticipated at this time. Success or failure of EU is dependent on the benefit that utilities see from their using the service. Currently, EU is not doing as well as they had hoped. It will likely take another year to determine the success of the EU service.
No action taken or necessary by the Section Trustees. EU will be discussed at the Winter Board of Directors Meeting. Denson Robinson will report back on the meeting discussion. The AWWA Board will be revisiting the EU issue in April 2003.

Ratification of Time and Place for 2004 Annual Conference
Trustees discussed the process for ratification of the site for the 2004 Annual Conference. It was concluded that this needed to be ratified by the general membership at the business meeting on Monday, October 7, 2002. There was a discussion of the timing between signing a contract with a conference hotel before getting ratification from the general membership, which takes place generally about 3 months later. It was concluded that the Section should try to negotiate with the potential hotel to have a stipulation in the contract that the agreement is contingent upon approval of the general membership. If within the 3 months from contract signing and acceptance by the general membership the hotel has another offer, they should give the Section notification.

Memorial Scholarship Board
Four new members of the AL/MS AWWA Section Memorial Scholarship Board were nominated:
Bob Pitt – representing the University of Alabama
Bob Giglio – manufacturer’s representative from Alabama
Danny Hutcherson – manufacturer’s representative from Mississippi
Blake Jeffcoat – consulting engineering representative from Alabama

continued on page 6
Photo Highlights of the 2002 Section Meeting in Perdido

Water for People Golf Tournament

Section Appreciates Vendors Support

Luncheon Honors Vendors

continued on page 11
Upon a motion by Randy Chafin and second by Ken McClellan, the nominees were unanimously selected by the Section Trustees to serve on the Memorial Scholarship Board. Keith Lowery will notify the new members and Dr. Joe Morgan of their selection.

National Drinking Water Advisory Council Nominee

Upon a motion by Ken McClellan and second by Jimmy Nelson, the Section Trustees unanimously endorsed Danny Hutcherson as a nominee for the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC). Terry Rolan and Denson Robinson will forward information to the appropriate people recommending Danny for this position.

Strategic Plan Survey and External Customer Feedback

Denson Robinson encouraged the Trustees to respond to the survey on the AWWA strategic plan. Denson needs responses by October 14, 2002. In addition, Denson reminded the Trustees to send in the responses to him on the AWWA External Customer survey.

Fees for Non-Member Exhibitors

The Trustees discussed having a non-member fee for exhibitors in the future. Upon motion by Denson Robinson and second by Ken McClellan, the Section Trustees unanimously agreed that the Section should allow non-member exhibitors; however, member exhibitors will be given priority up to a certain timeframe before the conference. The deadline for prioritization will need to be established at the next conference planning committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.—Continued from page 4
of the 2001 business meeting minutes were available for viewing.  

Jim Miller, Program Chair, reminded the attendees about the signup sheets at the technical sessions to get the CEU credits for the Mississippi attendees. Also, Jim thanked the presenters for their participation at our conference.  

Ken McCool, Entertainment, encouraged everyone to take advantage of the entertainment opportunities that will be provided at the banquet on Tuesday night.  

Wynn Echols, Exhibits, Wynn was not available for the meeting. Keith Lowery reported that we had a total of 37 exhibitors participating in our conference this year.  

Jason Carter, Registration, reported that currently we have approximately 490 to 500 registrants with additional onsite registrants still expected. Total conference registration expected to be around 530.  

Les Brown, Teleconference Coordinator, was not available at the meeting. Keith Lowery recognized Sharon Harwell for her work in coordinating the teleconferences for our Section. Keith also mentioned that there was another teleconference coming up in November and encouraged the members to take advantage of this opportunity and to participate in the teleconferences.  

Tom Deloach and Lee Jones, Co-Chairs, Program/Education. No report from Tom. Lee reminded the Mississippi members of the teleconference opportunities and encouraged their participation. Keith Lowery reported that the Section is trying to organize some special educational sessions and bringing in outside speakers. The  

Diane Bailey, PIPELINE Editor, reported that the current issue of PIPELINE was recently sent out and the members should be receiving that shortly. Diane also reported that she will be using some new production software to reduce the costs of the PIPELINE production, so we’re optimistic that with our advertisement proceeds, the PIPELINE revenues will equal or exceed our costs in 2002. Diane also encouraged the members to provide articles for publication in the PIPELINE.  

Keith Lowery, Chair, reported that the tapping team from Birmingham Water Works, as representatives of our Section and AWWA,
recently won the International Competition. This is the first U.S. team to win the International competition. Keith encouraged the members to come see the tapping demonstration by our international champions later today.

Bob Giglio, Time and Place, placed a motion on the floor for ratifying execution of the contract between the AL/MS Section and the Sandestin Resort in Destin, Florida for the site of our annual conference on October 17 – 19, 2004. The motioned was seconded by Bobby West. The motioned was unanimously passed by the membership.

Mark Parnell, Government Affairs, reported on the local and national activity on legislation impacting the water works industry. Keith Lowery encouraged that the members who have e-mail addresses to keep AWWA up-to-date on their current address because the Section uses this to send out the summaries provided by Mark on the topics of interest to the Section.

Ken McClellan, Audit, reported that a financial review of the Section was conducted on September 18, 2001 in Meridian, Mississippi. The audit committee members in attendance were Ken McClellan, Randy Chafin, and Chuck Lott. The audit committee's findings were that the Section's financial records were in order and all disbursements were accounted for. A copy of the audit report is attached to the minutes.

Young Professionals. No report.

Don Busic, Water For People, thanked those that participated in this year's event and also thanked those that made contributions to the tournament. There were 46 participants in this year’s tournament and it is expected that we will exceed last year's donation to Water For People by over $1,000. Don encouraged everyone to support this worthwhile organization.

Tony Owens, Memorial Scholarship, reported that the scholarship Board of Directors met on December 4, 2001 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Scholarship applications from the University of Alabama, Mississippi State University, and Auburn University were reviewed. After review and discussion, the Board unanimously approved the following scholarship recipients:

- Lauren Mobley – Auburn University undergraduate recipient
- Michael Garrigan – Mississippi State University undergraduate recipient

continued on page 12
Section recognizes

Dan Sowell
with the 2002
George Warren Fuller Award

The Fuller Award for 2002 was awarded to Dan Sowell who has truly demonstrated the traits of constructive leadership, willingness to assist others, and dedication to the water industry that made Mr. Fuller such an outstanding member of AWWA. He has been an active member of the section for over 25 years and has served in several leadership positions including Program Chairman, Time and Place committee, Section Vice-Chair and as section Chairman in 1988.

In addition to supporting this organization, he has worked diligently and served in the following organizations:

- AWPCA, the water operator’s organization, where he served as Chairman and District Director and was presented their highest honor, the Charles White Award.
- Alabama Operator Certification Board, where he served as a member for several years.

His education and accomplishments include the following:

- Graduated Abbeville High School, attended Troy State University and obtained a degree in Civil Technology from Southern Technical Institute.
- City of Ozark, after working in the construction industry, worked as City Engineer from 1965 to approximately 1973 when he was appointed as the city’s Utility Board Manager, a position he held until his retirement in December of 2001.
- During his 35 year career, the Ozark water system’s production and storage capacity doubled, its service area expanded to serve several thousand customers and, as neighboring towns were experiencing water shortages from droughts, the Ozark system continued to provide necessary service. Both water and wastewater systems received numerous “Best Operated Plant Awards”.
- Registered land surveyor and member of the Alabama Society of Professional Land Surveyors.

Community service includes the following:

- Past member of the Board of Stewards for the First Methodist Church.
- Member of the Jaycees, Ozark Rotary Club, Board of Adjustment and serves on the Planning Commission.

Dan married his high school sweetheart, Susan, has two married children, Dana and Nancy, and 2 grandchildren.

Retirement has not slowed him down with his hobbies of fishing and deer hunting having to take a back seat to his work as a client relation’s consultant with Polyengineering, Inc., and his latest activity of building a new house.
PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

ALABAMA/MISSISSIPPI SECTION
AMERICAN WATERWORKS ASSOCIATION
56TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The AL/MS Section of the American Waterworks Association is in the process of preparing next year’s program and would like your suggestions and/or technical papers for the 56th Annual Conference to be held at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi, October 5-8, 2003. Any topic of interest relevant to the drinking water industry is appropriate. Possible related topics for the conference next year include membrane technology, disinfection by-products control, water system security, vulnerability assessments, rules and regulations, and funding sources.

Please send suggestions and/or presentation topics with abstracts to:
Bill Moody
570 East Woodrow Wilson
Jackson, MS 39215
601-576-7518
wmoody@msdh.state.ms.us

Presentation slots are 45 minutes in length (PowerPoint format) on the submitted subject.

For questions and/or additional information you can contact: Bill Moody at 601-576-7518 / wmoody@msdh.state.ms.us
Photo Highlights (continued)

Jimmy Buffett where are you?

Have you seen this woman?

Learning “The Swing”

Resting? Just Watching?
• Misty Hutchens – University of Alabama undergraduate recipient
• Ashley Owens (Auburn University) – graduate student recipient

All recipients received $1,500. Next meeting of the scholarship Board was tentatively scheduled for November 5, 2002. Jimmy Nelson reported that the Section awarded four $1,500 scholarships in 2001.

Keith Lowery reported that the Board of Trustees, at their meeting on October 6, 2002, appointed three new Section members of the scholarship Board. The new members of this Board are Danny Hutcherson, Blake Jeffcoat, and Bob Giglio. Keith also reported that Dr. Pitt, professor at the University of Alabama, will be taking the place of Dr. Jim Walters, who is retiring from the scholarship Board.

Drennan Walker, Safety, confirmed that this year's Safety award recipients were recognized in the most current issue of PIPELINE. So, in the interest of time, the list of recipients was not read. Drennan encouraged the members to submit the information to AWWA to be considered for a safety award.

Jimmy Nelson, Nominations, submitted the following nominations as members of the AL/MS Section officers for 2002/2003.
• Ken McClellan – Chair
• Randy Chafin – Vice-Chair
• Chuck Lott - Trustee-at-Large (MS)
• Jim Miller - Trustee-at-Large (AL)

After a motion from the floor was made to close the nominations, a second was made. Thereafter, upon a voice vote, all proposed nominees were unanimously elected.

Sam McElroy, Membership, reported that our total membership remains around 1,000. We saw a little drop at the first of 2002, but after a mailout on February 26, we saw the numbers rise back up to previous levels.

Tom Deloach, Resolutions, read a resolution recognizing the passing of Roland Ezell in the past year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.—Photo Highlights (continued)
Tapping Demonstration by Birmingham Water Works’ Tapping Team

Left to right: Todd Stewart, Jeff Standridge, Jeff Jenkins & Johnny Bittles

First Place International Championship Trophy

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Volume 4 – 2002 Pipeline 13
The clock is tickling toward the deadline for completion of your Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required and to be approved Vulnerability Assessment. If your serve 100,000 persons or more the deadline is March 31, 2002, 50,000 to 100,000 the deadline is December 31, 2003 and 3,300 to 50,000 is June 30, 2004.

The adversary might not wait that long. There is nothing that says that you cannot move on it now. The faster you find out what problems you may or may not have, the faster you can fix them and the better prepared you will be.

The first thing that must be done before an accurate assessment can be made is to know what the mission of the system’s management is and who or what you want to protect against. Water system management must first answer these two questions before one can proceed with a Vulnerability Assessment. By the mission I mean, after someone strikes your system, what level of service do you want to be able to immediately continue to supply? What must continue uninterrupted until you can make necessary repairs to what has been damaged or destroyed?

One must also determine how long they can or want to operate in a degraded mode while making repairs. Naturally the shorter time the better.

You must also determine how long it is going to take to replace or repair what someone has destroyed or damaged, and how long it will take to get your system back to full capacity.

I think you should take the worst case and use that situation as a basis for all subsequent actions, i.e. plans, policy, procedure, equipment etc.

Where do you start, to whom do you turn for help? How do you do a vulnerability assessment? Are there any guidelines? You turn to the EPA guidelines, the engineers, you turn inward to knowledgeable employees and you turn to the security professional.

An engineer, a thoroughly knowledgeable water system employee and a security professional with knowledge of EPA requirements needs to examine you system and determine what elements of your system are needed to accomplish the “emergency” mission. How vulnerable and how much at risk are those critical elements? You need to play the “what if” game with your system. This is one situation where playing “what if” is not a futile exercise.
I think everyone should assume that his or her system is vulnerable, to almost any type of attack. The question that arises is: how vulnerable and what is the risk to the system?

Vulnerable is defined by Webster as “open to attack or damage.” Risk is defined as the “possibility or degree of probability of loss or injury (attack or damage).”

After the elements have been identified, methods and means need to be developed, deployed and implemented that will protect, to the extent possible, those elements needed to accomplish the emergency mission from attack, thus allowing you to accomplish your emergency mission.

Keep in mind that the broader your emergency mission the more expensive it will be to protect those assets that have been determined to be necessary to successfully accomplish your mission. It would be possible and probably practical for a small system to declare that its emergency mission is the same as is normal business mission. It would not be cost prohibitive to protect all elements of a small system. The larger the system the more restrictive I believe you should make your emergency mission.

When having a vulnerability assessment done, keep in mind that the Environmental Protective Agency has a set number of standards that have to be met for your assessment to qualify as a valid assessment. The method by which you arrive at the answers will also be addressed by the EPA to determine if valid methodology was used.

Once you have determined what you want to protect and whom you want to protect against, you must then of course determine how much protection you need and what kind of protection would be most effective for your application. This is where the security expertise comes in. How much is enough, where do you stop, does funding determine what level of security you are to have? What if you do not have the funds to meet the minimum requirements necessary to secure your system? Who determines these things? Who is going to take the responsibility for saying we can’t afford this or that, I don’t think we need this or that?

Keep in mind, if something does happen to your system, a prudent and professional manager should be in a position to demonstrate that everything that was prudent and reasonable was done to protect the system and that those decisions were based on U.S. Government guidelines and professional security advice. In the event of an attack on your system, someone will have to answer to the local elected officials, other state and local officials, the public, the business community, the EPA and the news media.

When determining whom you want to protect against, consider all possible threats to your system. Such threats could be: loss of public confidence in the water supply, casual vandals, determined vandals, disgruntled current or former employees, others with current or prior legitimate knowledge of and access to your system, or an action by a terrorist or group of terrorist.
Where do you go to find out how much and what kind of protection you need? What will it cost? How to install or implement the new security features? Where are devices best placed? The people that sell such equipment are usually not the best qualified to design your security system. Their expertise is most likely limited to sales, installation and maintenance. You should rely on someone that has no stake in the amount of equipment purchased and someone that has knowledge of the best use of electronic security devices.

Just as important as security hardware, is security policy, plans, procedures and education. You need to have a firm security policy, which has been professionally developed and approved by your governing body. This policy needs to be written in the form of a “security plan and procedures manual” stating what is necessary to implement and carry out the formal security plan. The employees need to be educated about the new policy, on how you expect it to be carried out, and what their role is in maintaining a safe water supply for your service area. Security consciousness and awareness need to become a part of the everyday actions and routines of all employees.

Also on the very critical on the list of things that need to be scrutinized from a security point of view are your hazardous chemicals. How are they delivered and stored? How are they to be secured? Your hiring policy, do you do background checks? Your computer system, how secure is it?

Every aspect of your operation from taking raw water out of the supply to the water meter at the ratepayer’s house or business and everything in between needs to be evaluated.

If there had never been a terrorist attack on the United States, and even if the EPA had never told you that you needed to do it, every water system as a matter of good business practice should have a security policy and plan and endeavor to be as safe and secure against attack as it reasonably can be.
Thank You.

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