Mission Statement
The Alabama/Mississippi Section of the AWWA serves as the dedicated source of information to promote, support, and improve the provision of sustainable safe water. Through collective leadership, the Section advances innovation in technology, science, education, management, and governmental policies for the betterment of the citizens of Alabama and Mississippi. (Adopted at Strategic Planning Session, June 2005)
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On The Cover
Marina sunset - compliments of Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Alabama.

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Volume 3 – 2005 PIPELINE 1
What a Year!

It will be a long time before anyone associated with the water industry along the Gulf Coast and beyond can say things are back to normal. The devastation wrought by this year’s hurricanes is well documented and a record-setter. If there is any silver lining it is that the disasters brought out the best in Alabama and Mississippi. No where was that more evident than in our business. Utilities, suppliers, regulatory agencies and professional associations are pulling together to overcome the obstacles that still remain.

The importance of all of the preparations for disaster that we have studied, talked about, implemented and in some cases failed to complete were born out by nature’s reminder of who is really in charge. For all of you who have contributed in so many ways to help your fellow man and other utilities, our most humble thanks. You have demonstrated your devotion to your profession and put your beliefs into action in a way that you can only find in Alabama and Mississippi.

There is still much to be done. Please keep in touch with the Section and AWWA to let us know how we can help support your efforts. Take a look inside at Ken McCool, our Section Manager’s article on his hands on experiences in the relief effort and the pictorials in this edition.

Fortunately, the Alabama-Mississippi Section was able to go forward with its annual conference at Pearl River, Mississippi. By any measure the conference was one of the best. Thanks to the superb leadership of our past-chair Chuck Lott and Kathie, Pearl River was an event to remember. The section continues to work toward delivering technical sessions that meet the needs of its membership and provide for meaningful communication between suppliers, consultants, regulators and utilities. And all while having some quality time away from the office!

Among other things this year’s conference allowed the section to support two worthy causes. Over $7,000 was raised for Water For People through the WFP golf tournament. Thanks to Jim Watterson, Jim Ballentine and the “Dancing Rabbit” for making the golf tournament a huge success. In addition over $2,100 was raised for the American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund through the Silent Auction. Special thanks to the Calera Water Board and the many others who donated top notch items for the auction and for those who made bids on the items.

For everyone who worked to make the conference a success and for those who have volunteered for next year, thank you for your patience and hard work. We are starting now to try to match the success of Pearl River. With a little luck we will be back on the Gulf Coast in 2006.

Please Make Use of the Pipeline

Diane Bailey, our Pipeline Editor, has worked very hard to build on the success of Pricilla Lowery and those who have edited the Pipeline in the past. While we have made some...
Wow! What a conference! I keep expecting us to top out but it seems that each year the conferences get better and better. Even, with all the hurricanes, we have great conferences.

As I reflect back on this past conference, there are 4 thoughts that I want to share with you:

1. First, hats off to Chuck and Kathie Lott. They did a superb job. For those of us who know Chuck, we all recognize that he has great organizational skills and that he is quite thorough. He demonstrated these skills a few years ago when he served as secretary-treasurer. Chuck used his skills to lead the planning for the conference. With flair added by Kathie, they were no doubt “the dynamic duo”. Again, thanks Chuck and Kathie!

2. We were fortunate to have AWWA represented by AWWA president Andy Richardson and his wife Barbara. What a great couple! After spending time with Andy, I realize that AWWA is in good hands. He really is dedicated to this organization and is devoted to improving the service provided by AWWA. It was encouraging also to know that while they did contribute to our conference, they also were able to carry home fond memories and a few pennies from the slots. Seems like Barbara hit it big!

3. The Birmingham tapping team is great. They gave a wonderful demonstration on Tuesday afternoon. They have won almost every competition for the past several years. And, since the conference, they won the world title again! Thanks to the Birmingham Water Works Board for their support of this team and this event. We are all so very proud of the team!

4. Finally, the selection of Danny Hutcherson for the George Warren Fuller Award was very heartwarming. I have known Danny for many years and have come to realize that he is truly a southern gentleman – just an outstanding person. He has served our section in many different capacities over many years. He approaches each assignment with a commitment to do his best. When I think of the definition of a “good guy” – I think of Danny.

Well, the section’s leadership has now passed to Jim and Deb Miller of Anniston. Like Chuck, Jim too is very thorough and planful and we are already off to a good start. I believe that 2005-2006 will be a great year for the Alabama-Mississippi Section as we begin to implement many of the strategic plans developed last year.

Blake
…’cause the times, they are-a-changin’…
Bob Dylan’s familiar old ballad does lend some truth to our present-day southern water works industry............

A great deal has occurred since I wrote my last article in Pipeline .....we had a wonderful conference and a couple of not-so-terrific weather events!

The 2005 section meeting was well-attended and enjoyed by all. This was due in part to everyone’s desire for normalcy following our hurricane season and mainly because of Chuck & Kathie’s leadership and determination in putting on a memorable event. Their Planning Committee and the Pearl River Resort’s staff also came through to make it one of the more successful conferences in recent section history in spite of our states’ mutual emergencies.

What have the past two horrific hurricane seasons shown us? The times are changing in the way water utilities should plan and respond to such cataclysmic incidents. No longer can we feel total comfort with our Emergency Response Plans (ERP), usually based on internal safe-

guards and mitigation measures to contain vulnerabilities. Furthermore, our dependence on aid from our own local and state governments in this type of disaster won’t always fill the bill in getting timely, specialized help for our industry. After local entities become overwhelmed by resource demand, some hope can be had in knowing the federal government will throw in their vast resources; however, such help can be slow to materialize. We also have to realize we’d be taxed to the hilt if the Fed were able to instantly respond to any and all need...particularly when mega-disasters hit.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), EPA and the U.S. Public Health Service have and are providing valuable assistance and resources to utilities in Katrina’s aftermath, but another (some say more valuable) resource was knocking on Mississippi’s door just after Katrina hit. Few needing help could open that door, much less find it. What is this mysterious resource? Simple.....water utilities from all over the United States!

Our National AWWA staff did a stellar job of placing the call and listing utilities that made arrangements to mobilize once notified where in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama they were needed. The National Emergency Resource Registry (NERR) for the first time was made available for water & wastewater utilities to register their offerings. This was done, however, well into Katrina’s aftermath and no single entity was assigned to coordinate knowledge gained from the database. Moreover, few could gain access to NERR.

EMAC (Emergency Mutual Assistance Compact) and SMAC (Statewide Mutual Assistance Compact) officials were sending out the word for firefighters, law enforcement, building inspectors, military, medical personnel, linemen and other professional groups because it was correctly presumed they were needed everywhere. A minority of utilities needing assistance could call out for help in the early stages of the emergency. Others who could were not aware of how the various mutual aid response entities worked and were unclear on the benefits of FEMA Public Assistance. Some utility relief crews simply dove in to find where they were needed. As observed by Tommy Ricks
The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m. at the Pearl River Resort in Choctaw, Mississippi, in the Silver Star Convention Center.

Chuck Lott, Section Chair, called the business meeting to order.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the last Section Business Meeting held in October 2004. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chuck Lott, Section Chair, then gave the Chair Report on the activities of the Section from the past year:

- Expressed gratitude to the volunteers and staff of the Section who have been hard at work this year.
- In the spring, Ken McCool and Tom Walters represented the Section for AWWA’s Washington D.C. “Fly-In”, visiting Congressional offices to discuss current issues facing the drinking water industry.
- In May, the Section hosted and participated in the AWWA Regional Officers Meeting in Orange Beach, AL.
Of course, the best thing we build is confidence.
progress we still can improve our publication with your help. Articles related to any of the many facets of our industry make the publication more interesting, readable and add value to our advertiser’s investment.

Along that line, many of the systems represented in our Section have fascinating histories. If you have a written history and/or historical photos of your system, please share them with the readers of the Pipeline. If we can get some response we will feature at least one water system in each edition.

The Pipeline also offers a classified adds section. This can be very useful in selling that used equipment that you have outgrown or finding just the right person to fill a vacancy. And, if you are considering a career move, market your abilities in the Pipeline Classifieds. Pipeline Classifieds for individuals and utilities are free to Section members.

For those of you in regulatory agencies, the Pipeline is a great way to help utilities understand and prepare for new and changing regulations. Your articles are welcomed.

Lastly, don’t forget to thank the vendors and consultants who advertise in the Pipeline and think of them first when you are preparing to make a purchase!

**The Alabama-Mississippi AWWA is YOURS**

The Alabama-Mississippi Section is a volunteer group and anyone who wishes to participate, have a voice or offer suggestions is welcome. If you have an idea we would like to hear it. The Section has some rich traditions that are well worth preserving but we are not opposed to changing to improve what we offer to members. We have, simply, one goal: to meet the needs of the water industry in Alabama and Mississippi. We recognize that there is a diverse array of talented individuals, organizations and companies who can assist in reaching that goal.

In addition, we have the efforts, experience and resources of the American Water Works Association to support us. All we lack is YOU. So if you want to be active in the section, please let us know. Become an active member. We want and need your talents!
On Tuesday, August 15th in Montgomery, Alabama, and Wednesday, August 16th in Raymond, Mississippi, the Alabama-Mississippi Section of AWWA held its first annual Educational Seminar Series. The Section’s Educational Committee with the support of the Section’s Trustees provided two 4-hour training sessions free of charge to Section members. The seminar titled “Impact of Disinfection By-Products on the Water Treatment Industry” focused on the impending regulation to monitor and limit the amount of disinfection by-products present in water distribution systems. Conducted by Dr. Phillip Singer, Dan Okun Distinguished Professor of Environmental Engineering in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering in the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a national expert in the field of disinfection by-products and representatives from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and Mississippi Department of Public Health, the seminar provided valuable information about the history and background of disinfection by-products, removal and treatment techniques and options, and local regulations related to the new rule schedule to be published in early 2006.

A total of 119 registrations were received and 94 attended the seminar in either Montgomery or Raymond. Of the registrations, 103 were existing members, 12 were non-members, and 4 new members. The seminar received high marks from the attendees with many participants commenting about the quality of the seminar content and speakers. The Education Committee would like to thank the individuals who assisted with the seminar and the members who attended. The Section is committed to providing a variety of similar and different education opportunities in the future as we strive to improve the knowledge of the water community and better educate our members throughout the year. Keep a look out for future opportunities in 2006. If you have ideas about future educational topics, please contact the Section at almsawwa@cableone.net.

Photo compliments of Keith Lowery.
Danny Hutcherson Honored
With Fuller Award by AL/MS Section

This year’s George Warren Fuller Award went to Danny Hutcherson, someone who is known as a real professional. In fact, he has brought professionalism to our association through his outstanding leadership. Danny’s diligence has helped establish the goals and vision of AWWA here in Alabama and Mississippi. His dedication to the Alabama/Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association is apparent when you review the list of program chairs for the various committees of past section meetings.

Danny is seen by the people that know him as a man of integrity. And rightfully so, as he learned at a very early age he was a lousy liar!! (We’re certain he can remember the stories he told his mom about what happened to the boot he kicked off into a pond.)

His association with our Section began with his elementary and junior college education in Mississippi and his higher collegiate pursuit in Alabama. While courting his wife-to-be in high school, he was forbidden by his parents to drive further than a nearby town, but Joanie lived on the other side of the county and, in order not to get in trouble, he would disconnect the odometer so the mileage wouldn’t reflect his forbidden journey (his Dad knew all along what he was doing).

After graduating from college, Danny went to work for the Mississippi State Department of Health as an inspector. Two years later he entered our field by taking a position with the State’s Division of Water Supply. There he worked for Jim McDonald who was a profound influence and mentor. At that time he also began working with many individuals associated with this AWWA Section. Soon Danny became your Section’s Chair and, although he has never been elected to the highest office in the United States, some folks still think he bears a remarkable resemblance to ‘Slick Willy’.

He married his high school sweetheart in 1976 and in 1980 the family moved to Columbus, MS, where Danny taught certification for rural water system operators for 5 years at the Golden Triangle Vocational-Technical Center. In 1985, he joined the Hach Company as a salesman. His career progression at Hach has taken him to the position of Director of Sales Training.

Danny is a devoted father and family man. He and wife Joanie have been married for 29 years, having 3 children together: Stephen, 26; Meredith, 17; and Adam, who they lost at the age of 7 ½. They live in the Preston, MS community and are members of the Coy United Methodist Church.
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(Birmingham, AL) – The Birmingham Water Works Board’s (BWWB) Tapping Team won the World Water Cup this October. The BWWB’s Tapping Team and the AL/MS Section of American Water Works Association (AWWA) entered World Water Cup competition, hosted by the Institute of Water Officers (IWO). A feature of the 17th annual IWO World Water Cup of Drilling and Tapping Championship, the World Water Cup was held at the 2005 International Water, Effluent Treatment and Environmental Exhibition (IWEX) in Birmingham, England.

The World Water Cup Tapping competition is based on time trials with each team trying to drill and tap an iron main under pressure, simulating a water connection to a house. The BWWB’s Tapping Team posted a best time of 8:09.22 (American tap 1:23.1, Dutch tap 3:53.61, UK tap 2:52.59). The second place Dutch team posted a best time of 10:35.4 and the third place team from the United Kingdom posted a best time of 16:56.2.

To qualify for the international competition, the BWWB’s Tapping Team won first place this June at the American Water Works Association (AWWA) National Tapping Contest. With a best time of one minute and 20.15 seconds, the BWWB’s Tapping Team dominated 18 other teams from across North America. Champions for the sixth time in ten years, the five-person team made up of Ralph Abbot (coach), Todd Stewart, Johnny Bittles and Jeff Jenkins took top honors over teams from the U.S., England, Canada and The Netherlands. Jeff Standridge has been selected to serve as head Judge for the National Tapping Contest.

They were accompanied on the trip by Kathryn McCain, Past President of AWWA and Rhonda Harris, Chair of the AWWA Operator Involvement Committee that oversees all the operator competitions.

Thanks to the following sponsors who made it all possible: EBAA Iron, Inc., Ford Meter Box Co., Griswold (Cla-Val) (Platinum), Raftelis Financial Consulting, US Pipe & Foundry Co.(Platinum Plus), and USA Bluebook (Platinum).

For more information on water tapping competitions, visit the AWWA Web site at http://www.awwa.org/conferences/contests/tapping/index.cfm

The World Water Cup of Drilling and Tapping (WWCDT) is an international drilling and tapping competition, currently held between three countries, to determine the World Champion. The current participants are the U.S., through the American Water Works Association, the U.K., through the Institution of Water Officers, and the Netherlands, through the KVWN. Each of these organizations hosts a tapping competition to determine their country champion, and that country champion is sent to the WWCDT to compete for the World Champion Title.
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A Few Special Words of Thanks!

The Alabama/Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association wishes to thank all of the companies whose generous support made the 2005 Annual Conference a huge success and memorable experience for all who attended.

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Our Section continues to grow because of your strong support!
of Community Resource Group and Mississippi’s coordinator for the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (CRG/RCAP)…”

“…while there were many (outside) utilities that wanted to assist (and many…. did provide assistance to hard-hit communities), there were some coordination problems especially with self-deployed resources. Matching resources to needs during any disaster recovery operation is always challenging but some utilities sent repair crews and equipment to the Coast without regard to planning, coordination, and in some cases without even notifying the communities that they were coming. While this desire to help was noble and appreciated, self-deployed resources did compound problems. Many of these resources had not made arrangements for billeting or other logistics and as such spent much of their time on the Coast trying to take care of these basic needs rather than focusing on emergency utility repairs. In some cases, these self-deployed resources actually were running over each other (as well as) those repair crews (that) had been deployed through official mutual aid channels (EMAC, SMAC, or mutual other aid agreements)”.

Response from several Florida utilities was beneficial due to agreements between the states’ respective Governors and the Florida Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (FlaWARN). EMAC reported clearances for over 90 Florida personnel divided into around 16 crews with full equipment. This vital resource was put into place with the help of Florida AWWA section chair, John Hagelskamp, Scott Kelly of the Jacksonville (FL) Electric Authority who spearheaded the FlaWARN initiative and Gary Williams, a FSAWWA member and Director of the Florida Rural Water Association. FlaWARN had the potential to become Mississippi’s primary clearinghouse for their assisting utilities, whether we knew it or not. It is also evident that MsRWA may have played a role in establishing a Florida presence.

Thanks to AWWA-Denver’s efforts, I fielded calls and e-mails from nearly every state in the country with offers of assistance. As the Mississippi Emergency Manage-
few jurisdictions were not well-versed in FEMA’s Public Assistance policies. It would be some time before FEMA and MEMA officials could hold meetings to explain those procedures and benefits, setting aside some (but not all) of the liability fear.

Katrina’s scale of widespread horror at and near ground-zero is near Armageddon in the affect it had on communities. Even in preparation for lesser maladies, water & wastewater utilities and their governing bodies need to mitigate not only the physical service-interrupting factors weather can throw our way, but also place in their disaster remediation arsenal a working mechanism that allows both communication and mating of need and assistance. To compliment, a state and federal approved network to coordinate and efficiently place assistance should definitely be in place.

I do feel that if a management system ‘ain’t broke … don’t fix it’ … to that regard and in spite of what the press has said in some cases, FEMA has and continues to do a good job (under the circumstances) as I saw it from the inside. For water works’ needs, USACE was first on the ground with manpower, equipment, generators, pumps, chlorine and other critical resources. A tremendous amount of pride is also felt concerning MEMA operations; this small Mississippi agency truly held the fort under insurmountable odds. Our own water & wastewater supply division engineers with the MS State Dept. of Health (MSDH) and the MS Dept. of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) were part of and actually hit the ‘field’ early on with the ESF3/MMD sector of MEMA. Both agencies began contacting utilities (via cell phone or other means) before Katrina’s wind and water subsided. They had engineers ‘south’ for damage-assessment shortly after the storm. EPA even ‘borrowed’ their database mechanism for placing and tracking aid for Louisiana.

I was indeed impressed with the efforts of every agency and non-profit involved in this relief effort. Their mission though, could benefit from some tweaking when it comes to helping affected water utilities in the future; after all, public health is an utmost goal under these circumstances. I suggest that:

First, an outreach program should be implemented to familiarize all parties with EMAC/SMAC benefits and procedures; their connection to FEMA’s Public Assistance program and associated indemnification/reimbursement issues should also be conveyed;

Next, with water and wastewater utilities already having some degree of capability at networking, we should try & learn from our recent FlaWARN experience. According to AWWA, FlaWARN and California’s CalWARN member utilities have offered to help facilitate the development of similar networks in other states, starting with eight southeastern states, including those of our section ….. could there be a MisWARN or AlaWARN? A simpler, more efficient way to enable both intrastate and interstate cooperation during times of overwhelming emergency might well be in the offering;

Finally, after working with FEMA, MEMA, EMAC, SMAC, the ESF3/MMD and ESF1 – 17), USACE, the USPHS, EPA, CRG/RCAP, DMORT, SERT, MDOT, MDWPF, MPSC, NIMS, ICS, MPS, MSDH, MDEQ, SEARN, FSAWWA, AWWA, FRWA, MsRWA, NERR, USDHS, checking on the DRC’s, POC’s, LNO’s, MRE’s, E-911’s, SWAT’s, PIA’s, FEC’s, USGS, GPS, ERP’s, VA’s, IA’s & BMOC’s, as well as following the rules of the FPS, and the all-knowing X-MEN ………… and driving around in what my superiors called my POV, I will also suggest – no, demand that during all emergency or disaster-related training programs, the participants are given minimum 6-hour courses on governmental ACRONYMS!

Ken
WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE OUR MEMBERS?
hawaii, florida, or some other tropical isle?

a luau mississippi style!
Chair Chuck Lott welcomes members.

Director Blake Jeffcoat introduces AWWA National Representative.

Andrew Richardson, AWWA President

Chief Phillip Martin is the democratically elected Tribal Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, a federally-recognized American Indian tribe of 8,300 enrolled members living on or near 30,000 acres of reservation land in east central Mississippi. Martin has a 40-year record of service to the Tribal government, including 25 years as the Tribe’s principal elected official. Martin is currently serving his sixth consecutive four-year term as Tribal Chief.

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians welcomes Alabama/Mississippi Section of AWWA to Choctaw, Mississippi and the Pearl River Resort.

Andrew Richardson, AWWA President
Thank you

Exhibitors!
GET INVOLVED WITH THE ALABAMA/MISSISSIPPI AWWA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
On Sunday, October 2, 2005, a group of 63 golfers spent a great day on the Dancing Rabbit Golf Course at Choctaw, Mississippi. The winning foursome consisted of Brad Dreier, Bill Howell, Ronnie Shirley, and Mike Vann. The real winner, however, was the “Water For People program. WFP Chair Jim Watterson and Section Chair Chuck Lott present WFP Representative Jim Huber with a check for a little over $7,000. Way to go Golfers and Golf Hole Sponsors!!!
ANDREW RICHARDSON, PRESIDENT
AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS THE
LIFE MEMBER AWARD
TO
KEITH LOWERY (left)
DON SIMS (right)
DAN SOWELL (lower left)
GARY TRACHTMAN (lower right)
Kathie Lott with Grand Prize Winner Christine Griffin of Cleveland, Alabama. Christine's husband, Bobby Griffin is General Manager of the Blount County Water Authority.
In June, the Section’s Strategic Planning Committee held a Strategic Planning session in Choctaw, MS. Gary Sullivan of AWWA facilitated this meeting to update our strategic plan. Jim Miller, the incoming Chair, will be implementing the new Strategic Plan.

In August, The Section conducted continuing education seminars, one in each state, featuring Dr. Phil Singer of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The subject of the seminar was the impact of disinfection by-products on the water treatment industry. The seminar was free to members, attended by 120 persons, and resulted in adding 4 new members to the Section.

The Section has increased young member involvement behind the leadership of Adrianna Dimperio and Andrea Traviglia.

Expressed gratitude to the Planning Committee members for assistance in planning the annual Conference.

The Chair asked for a report from the following chairs:

**Blake Jeffcoat, Director**, stated that he had no new information to offer concerning issues at National AWWA other than those that had been discussed by Andy Richardson, AWWA President-elect, in his address to the Conference earlier in the morning session.

**Hunter Arnold, Secretary-Treasurer**, reported on the financial condition of the Section. The beginning checking account balance as of September 1, 2004 was $63,716.40. Through 12 months ending August 31, 2005 the Section has had receipts of $195,800.96 and disbursements of $227,233.22. The Section transferred $45,000 from a certificate-of-deposit into the section checking account during this 12 month period, for an ending balance of $77,284.14 as of August 31, 2005. In addition to the checking account, the Section has a 7-day renewable certificate-of-deposit that is valued at $151,758.75 as of August 31, 2005. Therefore, the total assets of the Section as of August 31, 2005 were reported as $229,042.89.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Jim Miller, Audit**, reported that the bylaws require an annual audit, and that an external audit was conducted of the Section’s 2004 financials by the CPA firm of Wilson Price Barranco Blankenship & Billingsley P.C. of Montgomery, AL. Jim reported that the audit found all accounts to be in order.

In keeping with the previous year’s audit suggestions, the Trustees have been receiving copies of the monthly bank statements and have reviewed the Section financials at the quarterly Trustee meetings.
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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Jim House, and Mack White, were faithful and dedicated members of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association; and
WHEREAS, they contributed by their loyalty and service to the Association; and
WHEREAS, they were respected and loved by their friends in the Association; and
WHEREAS, the members of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association wish to recognize the loss of valued and trusted friends.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association meeting on this 3rd day of October, 2005, in Choctaw, Mississippi, do hereby express their sorrow and regret over the loss of trusted and devoted friends; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, and that a copy be sent to the families by our Secretary-Treasurer.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the resolution, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mike Vann, Fuller Award, reported that the Fuller Award would be presented at the Banquet on Tuesday night.

Ken McClellan, Safety, read the recipients of this year’s (2004) safety awards:

Awards of Excellence;
Tuscumbia Utilities, Tuscumbia, AL
West Morgan-East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority, AL
Northport Water Works, Northport, AL
Corinth Gas & Water, Corinth, MS

Ken McClellan and Lee Jones, Time and Place, reported that the 2007 Conference will be the 60th Conference for the Alabama-Mississippi Section of AWWA. The Section has a contract with Grand Casino Biloxi, but we have not been able to receive assurances that they will have recovered/rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina by then. They are considering relocating the conference to Tunica Grand Casino for the same dates, October 14 – 16, 2007.

Randy Chafin, Membership/Diversity, reported that the Section’s membership stands static at 1,000, and that the Section gained 47 and lost 47 members. The Section was awarded the Club 7 Award last year for membership, as top in our Region.

Randy Chafin, Nominations, submitted the following nominations as members of the AL/MS Section officers for 2005/2006.

• Jim Miller – Chair
• Lee Jones – Vice-Chair
• Trustee-at-Large (AL) – Tom Walters
• Trustee-at-Large (MS) – Bill Moody
• Secretary-Treasurer (3-year term to expire December 31, 2006) – Hunter Arnold
• Director (3-year term to expire June 2007) – Blake Jeffcoat

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.
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City of Madison, Mississippi
Installs Computerized Water Meters to Save City Money

July 26, 2005
By: Lucy Weber,
Madison County Herald
Madison, Mississippi

MADISON - When it comes to reading water meters in Madison, three men and a truck are being replaced by one guy with a computer.

The city is in the middle of upgrading its meter system that will mean more accurate bills for customers and more time for city employees to spend on other jobs.

Every month, it takes a crew of three, pulled off other tasks, seven days of good weather or up to 10 days if the weather’s bad to compile billing information for all city water customers, said Ricky Zimmerman, water department superintendent. “We won't have three men tied up for 7-10 days now.”

“With the new system, one man can take about three hours to read the entire city,” said Danny Lee, assistant director of public works.

The new system makes it more cost-effective because the city can get more work accomplished on other projects by keeping the two other members of the public works department on the job, Lee said. “They don't have to stop what they're doing to read meters.”

“With that cost alone, over a period of time the system will pay for itself,” Lee said.

The first phase of the project, including the cost of new meters, transmitters, software and the laptop computer, has cost the city $105,230, Zimmerman said.

The total cost of switching over all customers will be about $630,000, public works director Denson Robinson said.

“If we could we'd like to be done today, but we figure with the amount of meters we've got to in it will take about three years,” Lee said.

The new system requires workers to replace the existing box in the ground that holds the meter and to replace the meter, which is attached to a transmitter that sends the radio-control signal for reading, Zimmerman said. Replacing the box, which contains the antenna and its contents, takes about 30-45 minutes at each location, he said.

The water meters being removed will be refurbished with the new radio-controlled devices and be used later, Zimmerman said.

The city has used its extra summer help to make the change-over, Lee said. So far the city has installed 1,100 of the new units out of 3,500 accounts, he said.

“During the year, our guys will be installing some when they have time and working some on weekends,” Lee said. “We want to let people know what we’re doing when they see us digging up their water meters. We're doing a subdivision at a time.
“We’re stressing they put the yard back as neatly as they found it,” Lee said.

Neighborhoods that have received the new units are Geneva Gardens, Victoria Park, Peppermill Colony, Stonegate, Hoy Farms, St. Ives, Brisage, Madison Oaks, Belle Rose, Arcadia Lane, Adderly Gardens, Ashton Park, Bocage, Tremont, Locust Hill, Calumet and Jennifer Court. The work in Traceland North is almost complete, he said.

“We can sit at City Hall and read the meters in Belle Rose or Stonegate” since the system has the capacity to read the radio signals up to about a mile away, Zimmerman said.

New houses that are being added to the city’s water system are getting on the radio-system. “It’s not costing the new homeowner any more than to add on to the old system,” Zimmerman said.

Under the old system, a crew member on site would call out the monthly reading to another crew member who would write it down. Then all the numbers would be keyed into the computer by hand at the water department at City Hall. The chance for a wrong number to be called or keyed in existed before, Lee said.

With the new system, the computer can be turned on to receive the signal, and the crew member drives down street and automatically gathers the information, he said.

“The accounts are loaded into the laptop, which reads it. Nobody has to key in anything,” Zimmerman said. “We don’t have many misreads now, but we’ll get the misreads down to zero. This is 100 percent accurate.”

The expected life of each meter and transmitter is 20 years.

Lee said Bear Creek, which has customers in Madison, has an earlier version of the radio system but workers have to physically touch the top of the box to get the reading.

Ridgeland plans to switch to a radio-read system, public works director Mike McCollum said. “It’s just a better of determining what system is the best fit for us.”

Ridgeland has bid the system three times but each one was rejected by the Board of Aldermen. McCollum said he expects to seek bids on a city system later this fall after conducting tests to decide on which system to use.

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The five-day Basic AWWA Water Utility Management Institute will be presented in Salt Lake City, Utah, January 16 - 20, 2006. All sessions are held at the Comfort Suites Hotel (near the airport) for AWWA members and water department personnel nationwide. This class brings together water company personnel from every region of the county (and Canada as well) in an atmosphere of learning and sharing important leadership principles. This affordable, top-notch training teaches practical, “real world” supervisory and management skills needed to be effective in today’s workplace. The schedule is as follows: **Day 1 – Foundations Of Leadership; Day 2 - The Leader’s Role In Performance Management; Day 3 – Managing Conflict; Day 4 – Employee Selection; Day 5 – The Leadership of Change. The Institute registration fee is $499.00.** An Advanced AWWA Water Utility Management Institute is scheduled at the same location the following week, January 23 – 27, 2006. That schedule is as follows: **Day 1 – Assessment Of Leadership Vision, Values and Strategy; Day 2 – Teambuilding; Day 3 – Employment Law For Managers; Day 4 – Management Of Quality Customer Service; Day 5 – Critical Thinking Skills For Problem Resolution And Innovation. The Advanced Institute registration fee is $499.00.** Optional certification from Utah State University will be available for $50.00 extra to members needing to meet training requirements for professional affiliations. To obtain the Basic Institute and/or Advanced Institute schedule and registration information, call Chuck Christensen at (801) 298-8647, or email him at chuckets@msn.com.
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Any one interested should contact Phillip Burgett of the Anniston Water Works and Sewer Board at (256) 236-5660 or (256) 236-3429. He may also be reached by email at pburgett@awwsb.org.

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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 systems within both states in an effort to keep 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:

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