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66TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

INSIDE

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• Can parasitic worms get into drinking water tanks?
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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 Section. In an effort to keep all community water system officials informed, the AWWA trustees voted to provide a complimentary copy to all community water systems within both states. This will help keep water systems current on events affecting the water supply industry and aware of products and services through the AWWA. Current circulation is over 2,800. Articles and photographs are encouraged and appreciated. All submissions, comments, or other matters concerning this publication should be directed to:

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A story to tell

My 11th grade history teacher Mr. Threadgill once shared a quote, likely attributed to someone else, but I’ll give him credit, “Those who do not learn from history are destined to repeat it.” Mr. Threadgill used this quote as a learning moment about prior conflicts, which often ended in failures, war, or at the very least strife. However, in the context of my reflection on our 2012-13 Section year cumulating with our Annual Conference in Tunica in October, I have no choice but to view this quote differently as I hope to learn from history and repeat it. Our now Past Chair Hugh Smith set a high bar with our 2013 Annual Conference (only to be topped by our Past Spouse Chair Ms. Cheryl Reed). However, the bar he set for the conference is the least of our challenges in my attempt to repeat history. Our greatest challenge is to repeat or better yet, build on what our Board of Trustees and Planning Committee started under Hugh’s leadership outside of the Annual Conference. You see, we have a story to tell.

A story of reinvesting in our membership by creating an on-line training program targeted to operators, but also of value to our general membership. We heard our membership, especially our utility members, voice concern about the rising cost of training. We even had an educational seminar in two years ago titled, “Do More with Less” so we decided to look at how we could allow our membership to “do more with less.” Our On-Line Operator Training program provides all members, including all staff working for our utility members, 15 1-hr training courses on-line, sitting at your desk, on your on-time, FOR FREE. When you factor in the cost and likely inconvenience of sending someone to an on-site training for 2-days, the flexibility and free cost look mighty attractive.

A story of working with our previous Memorial Scholarship Fund to merge resources with our Section to allow us to pool our resources to support members/utility sponsored individuals interested in the water/wastewater profession to cope with the rising cost of college or obtain training to fill a growing need for licensed plant operators. The Section’s new Scholarship Committee has worked very hard to lay the groundwork and procedures for awarding scholarships which support our members’ needs. I encourage you to visit the website and look within this issue of the Pipeline to learn more about our new program.

A story of engaging our local, state and federal leaders to tell about the good work our members are doing by partnering with the Alabama Water and Wastewater Institute to serve as our Water Utility Council; providing political insight and advocacy for our members. For our Mississippi brethren, the Board of Trustees is leaning on the strong and passionate shoulders of Mark Snow, City of Canton Utilities, as he works to set-up a Water Utility Council in Mississippi to provide similar support. To use a saying from Frank Eskridge, our equally passionate Governmental Affairs Chair for Alabama, the AL-MS Section of AWWA will no longer wait until the concrete hardens to try to effect change. We must be involved in the design, molding and placement of the concrete because we have a story to tell and we are going to tell it to help protect the interest of our members, member utilities and most importantly utility customers throughout our two states.

So, how do we capitalize on this momentum? We surround ourselves with strong Planning Committee leaders and committee members who are committed to helping us tell our story in the 2013/14 Section year. We continue to listen to our members as we strive to enhance what we have started. As a play on the old BASF slogan, We may not create a lot of new things this year to serve our members, but we endeavor to make a lot of the current services better.

I look forward to a successful year as we build momentum towards our closing celebration at the 2014 Annual Conference in Marriott’s Grand Hotel October 12 – 14 in my hometown of Fairhope, Alabama along picturesque Mobile Bay. Come join the ride and help us tell our story.
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Continuing to educate the public

I would like to congratulate Hugh Smith, Cheryl Reed and the entire planning committee for their outstanding job planning and implementing this year’s Annual Conference. All of the programs, competitions and other activities were outstanding and well attended. I also want to thank AWWA Vice President John Donahue and his wife Debbie for attending our meeting. In addition to the conference, Hugh should be commended for all of the other new programs the Section has implemented this year related to Operator Training and the retooling of our Scholarship Program. Great job Hugh!

Speaking of Hugh, I had the pleasure of presenting the City of Meridian the award for the Best Tasting Drinking Water for our Section at a recent City of Meridian City Council meeting. Meridian’s water was judged the best out of twenty entries in the contest by a three judge panel. Stanley Roberts, an operator in Meridian was honored this year by AWWA for winning the Operator of the Year award.

As I was observing the normal actions of the City’s Board, and thinking about what to say to them regarding drinking water, I thought of the vision statement contained in AWWA’s new Strategic Plan. Part of the plan states “A better world through better water.” While I was waiting, one of the Aldermen made a statement during the meeting that the City needed to find financing to improve the infrastructure in the city. While infrastructure improvements are usually great, sometimes politicians want to pave streets and fund other tangible above ground improvements, pushing water infrastructure to the back burner because waterlines are out of sight and out of mind. While everyone wants better water, it seems most people don’t realize all that it takes to produce better water. In dealings with politicians and other decision makers over the years, I have found that many perceive that everyone should be furnished sparkling crystal clear water for a minimal cost, if not free of charge. Sometimes these same people will not grasp the costs that are involved in providing sparkling crystal clear water to their constituents. As water professionals, we must continue to educate decision makers and the general public so they appreciate and value all water, especially drinking water.

I will be representing our Section at the AWWA Winter Meeting, which will be held in Austin, Texas in January. As always, please let me know if you have any thoughts or concerns related to AWWA.
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Your Section is on the move! Not to be content with the fact AL/MS AWWA has been for decades an organization in which members are already proud to belong, your association’s Boards of Trustees over the past several years decided to directly target the needs of its primary membership groups. These include Individuals (including consultants & young professionals) and Utilities. Having witnessed the metamorphosis from a once a year Conference, to the beginnings of value-added benefits for its members, I am continually amazed at the possibilities of where the Section can go. We certainly cannot downplay our annual conference’s benefits to all member groups, including Service-Providers/MAC; however, not too many years ago, it was felt the conference was an all-or-nothing localized offering to those who belong to and support the AWWA.

With two to three annual educational programs in each state already in place in the form of combined seminars and webinars, your Section is adding online training programs to the mix … all at no-cost to our members in order to expand knowledge, match-make training with operator certification & professional licensing requirements, and to ‘give back’ its membership. For utilities, economies of past years gave us an OJT attitude for employees coming up through the ranks of our systems. Nowadays, it is becoming painfully clear that more & more workers hired today may be on their own or out of luck if they wish to learn more about how to operate, maintain and run their employers’ utilities. As top management continues to be pressed to ‘do more with less’ fewer utilities have neither the time nor the funding to continue, much less begin in-house training programs. That means fewer of their employees are available to enter into operator and/or operations management careers at their own utility. The general belief in my circle is that our water work’s front line of employee is becoming a declining asset due to unavailability of in-house or other environmental sciences curricula and operator training programs. A similar logic can apply to college youth who wish to enter our industry.

In a bold move toward correction of this workforce deficit, the Section is also expanding its scholarship program; this should lead to more Universities from which applications may originate and more importantly, inclusion of the Associate Degree programs directed toward the drinking water industry and its operations needs. We hope to see more Junior & Community Colleges undertaking these programs.

Unfortunately, leaders within more than a few utilities may not be conveying the benefits of AWWA membership to their administrations & governance. Each of the past few years, long-standing members within the utility category have been failing to renew their memberships. In the not-too-distant past, this category was the norm and mainstay of our membership numbers. This may be caused by the retirements of named reps or any number of reasons, including the possibility a retiree’s successor has never been involved with AWWA.

It is true that most utilities have gained their viability within both the financial and compliance arenas due to their history of partnership with AWWA. Utilities also have a sounding board within the presence and actions of our government affairs committees. Our customer service satisfaction and other administrative functions have also benefitted. Across North America, AWWA is beginning to assist in keeping pace with our workforce dilemma. Moreover, the innovative components, equipment & tools provided by our service-providing members listed in Sourcebook continue to amaze us.

Many of us have maintained our individual memberships as I did, even though we may have also been the named representative within a utility. We keep those up because we’re not only proud of being an AWWA member, we realize that in a lot of ways, we owe a lot of what we mean to our utility and customers by being a member. Many utility administrations and governance still feel the same way. Then again, some may have forgotten and others may have no idea about AWWA. Remember, if you’re still years from retirement and you haven’t already begun to involve the rest of your operation with this Section, you just might not have the best interests of your utility at heart. Think about it.

With so many problems facing our businesses and our nation today, we should all try to make our way into the Mayor’s or CEO’s office one morning and tell them about something good for a change – It’s simple, inform them with detail, “we have an invaluable & beneficial partnership with The American Water Works Association.”
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Howard Smith
Rip Mitchell
Scott Carpenter

**Closest to the Pin (Hole #16)**
David Stejskal

**Longest Drive (Hole #13)**
Rusty Jessup
CITY OF MERIDIAN WINS BEST TASTING DRINKING WATER
MONDAY OCTOBER 14, 2013, EXHIBITION HALL

On October 15, 2013 during the 66th Annual Conference of the Alabama/Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association (AL/MS Section of AWWA) in Robinsonville, Mississippi, the City of Meridian was awarded the title of “Best Tasting Drinking Water” from the Section. Meridian competed against 19 other public water supply systems from the two states of Alabama and Mississippi.

During the acceptance of the award, 2013 AWWA Section Chair Hugh Smith, Jr. was humbled and dedicated the award to the many operator’s that operate the treatment facilities for the City of Meridian’s drinking water.

The competition was sponsored by the Section’s Young Professionals Committee and took place the prior day during the Strolling Lunch. Water samples were scored on a scale of 1 to 10 by a panel of three judges in four categories (Taste, Odor, Color, and Clarity). The judges for the competition were National AWWA President Elect John Donahue, Alabama Department of Environmental Management Representative George Cox, and Past AL/MS Section Chairman Hunter Arnold (2011 Chair).

The City of Meridian’s water is eligible to advance to the “Best of the Best” Taste Test at the 2014 AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE’14) in Boston, Massachusetts in June. There, Meridian will compete against water providers from the 43 other Sections of AWWA from across the Country.

1. Judges picture from left to right George Cox, Hunter Arnold, and John Donahue
2. Public Works Director Hugh Smith, Jr. accepts the award from Young Professionals Co-Chair Matthew Horton
3. City of Meridian Plant Operator Jimmy Eckman
LEE ANDERSON JONES, JR., PE, PLS, receives **FULLER AWARD** and Silver Water Drop from the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association

Lee Anderson Jones, Jr., PE, PLS, is the recipient of the 2014 George Warren Fuller Award from the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association. The award is given annually to a member for distinguished service to the water supply field in commemoration of sound engineering skill, talent and leadership.

Lee is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a Bachelor’s of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master’s in Environmental Engineering. He began his career in construction as a project engineer and was later offered a job with the state of Mississippi’s water utility regulatory authority at the Mississippi State Department of Health. After 25 years of working with the regulatory authority, Lee retired as a Director of Engineering in charge of inspecting, reviewing and approving public water supply projects in addition to offering technical assistance and training to both water operators and managers. He spent the next 12 years in private practice beginning with managing his own engineering firm and is currently employed as an engineer with Engineering Service in Richland, Mississippi.

In addition to his professional service, Lee has been a scout master and has received many merit awards from the Boy Scouts of America and the National Eagle Scout Association for leading many young men to the rank of Eagle Scout. Lee is also an active deacon in his church and has taught Bible Study to all age groups in addition to singing in the choir.

In addition to this award, Lee also was presented with the Silver Water Drop which is awarded to AWWA Members with 30 years of active membership. During his 30 years, he was extremely active in the Section serving on many different chairs and eventually working his way up to serving as Section Chair in 2007.

The recognition was announced by AWWA President Elect (2013-2014) John Donahue during the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association Annual Conference on the evening of October 15th at the Mid-South Convention Center in Robinsonville, Mississippi (the very same location that Lee served as Section Chair in 2007).

During Lee’s acceptance remarks, he not only thanked his wife Debbie, but he also thanked fellow Fuller Award member Bobby Redding for being instrumental in many of his professional accomplishments in both the industry and within the Section. Lee will be recognized nationally at the American Water Works Association 2014 Conference in Boston, Massachusetts in June and will become a member of the George Warren Fuller Award Society of the American Water Works Association.
WATER OPERATORS OF THE YEAR

The Water Operators of the Year Award were presented during the 66th Annual Conference of the Alabama/Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association to the individuals deemed the top operators in their respective states. All award nominee applications were submitted by peers and the recipients were chosen by the Sections Awards Committee through a review process and a majority vote.

The 2013 Water Operator of the Year for the State of Alabama was awarded to Jonathan Harris of the Birmingham Water Works Board. Jonathan oversees all aspects of daily operations of the second largest filter plant in the state. He is a two time Employee of the Month and a three time National Top-Ops Champion. In addition to AWWA, he is also a member of the Beta Honor Society, the National Business Association, and the National Alpha Phi Alpha Greek Fraternity.

The 2013 Water Operator of the Year for the State of Mississippi was awarded to Stanley Reeves of the City of Meridian. Stanley oversees the operation and maintenance of two 10 mgd water plants. He has previously been awarded Employee of the Year for the City of Meridian Public Works and volunteers on several small organizations that benefit individuals in need.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

The 2013 Young Professional of the Year Award was presented during the 66th Annual Conference of the Alabama/Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association. All award nominee applications were submitted by peers and the recipient was chosen by the Sections Awards Committee through a review process and majority vote. Eligible nominees are either under 35 years of age or less than 10 years of experience in the field.

Nicholas (Nick) D. Freeman, P.E. of CH2M Hill in Montgomery, Alabama was the selected recipient of the award. Nick is a project engineer who has worked on a variety of design and construction projects in the water and wastewater field. His combination of technical expertise, commitment and dedication to his job, and tireless work ethic has earned him the respect of his co-workers, clients and others whom he comes in contact with within the industry. Nick has been recognized for numerous accolades by both CH2M Hill and his clients speak volumes to Nick’s contributions as a young professional.

Nick has served a variety of roles within the AL-MS Section since first getting involved 3 years ago. He served two years as the Young Professional Committee Chair and provided leadership by organizing socials throughout Alabama and helping in Mississippi. Nick’s efforts provided many opportunities for networking for many of the young professionals in our industry. Nick is now serving as the Registration Chair for the next Annual Conference in Point Clear, Alabama.

Nick is active in his local church and participates in local services projects organized by CH2M Hill. He is a very committed young man who has a very bright future in our industry.
This year’s YP Program was huge success and received a great response from all of the Young Professionals in our Section. We would like to thank all YPs who participated or contributed to this year’s program. We hope next years will be even bigger and better!

We would like to give special thanks to all those companies who helped sponsor the 2013 YP Program! This year’s group of sponsors included Gibson Engineering, ETEC, Fluid Process and Pumps, Morrow Water Technologies, Control Instruments Inc., McWane Pipe, CDM Smith, and Badger Meter, Inc. The Program could not have been such a success without these companies’ generous donations!

YP Lounge Area/Hospitality Suite and Laser Shot Virtual Shooting Gallery – The lounge area was the designated area where the YP’s were able to come and relax, and take a few minutes break from the other conference events.

In the lounge, we held the Laser Shot Virtual Shooting Gallery competition. Each participant paid $5.00 per play and all proceeds went to the Water for People Charity. The game fostered some intense competition throughout the Monday of the conference. The top five shooters returned for a shoot-off held during the YP social. Phillip Gibson of Gibson Engineering, Inc. was the competition winner and received a $100 gift certificate donated by CDM Smith. By the end of Monday, $1,000 had been raised for Water For People. The competition was made possible by the generous sponsorship of Gibson Engineering, ETEC, and Fluid Process and Pumps.

YP Sponsored Sporting Clay Competition – This year’s sporting clays competition included 15 participants. The shooters moved between 7 shooting stations and scores were recorded throughout the competition. After the final scores were tallied, Jason Barrett was the top shooter. The sporting clays event raised approximately $450.00 for the Water for People charity.

Water Taste Test – The City of Meridian was awarded this year’s title of Best Tasting Drinking Water. The competition, sponsored by the YPs, took place on Monday October 14, 2013. Meridian competed against nineteen other water systems from Alabama and Mississippi.

Water samples were scored on a scale of 1 to 10 by a panel of three judges in four categories, which were taste, odor, color, and clarity. The judges for the competition included a National AWWA official, a representative for the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, and a past AL/MS Section Chairman.

This victory advances the City of Meridian to the “Best of the Best” Taste Test at the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition in Boston, Massachusetts in June. There, Meridian will compete against water providers from the 43 other Sections of AWWA from across the Country. Congratulations City of Meridian!

YP Scavenger Hunt was held throughout the day on Monday of the conference. This year’s participation in the YP Scavenger hunt was extremely high. The scavenger hunt encourages YPs to actively stroll through the exhibitor area by offering potential prizes for correctly completing the scavenger hunt sheet. This year’s grand prize of an iPad Mini was donated by Control Instruments Inc. Additional scavenger hunt prizes were donated by McWane Pipe and Badger Meter, Inc.

The YP Program culminated on Monday evening with the YP Social.
66TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SUNDAY RECEPTION AND DINNER
The Section would like to give all 60 Exhibitors a very grateful thank you. We definitely know the conference would not be a success without the Exhibitors. Not only do the Exhibitors rent booths but many are also conference sponsors. There were a total of 96 conference attendees affiliated with the Exhibitors.

The numbers of exhibitors per state are as follows: 22 from Alabama, 1 from Arkansas, 1 from California, 5 from Florida, 6 from Georgia, 1 from Illinois, 1 from Kentucky, 2 from Louisiana, 13 from Mississippi, 1 from North Carolina, 1 from Ohio, 1 from Pennsylvania, 1 from South Carolina, 4 from Tennessee, and 1 from Texas.

Everyone please take the opportunity to review the below Exhibitor list and if you are meeting with or happen to bump into someone from any of these organizations, please thank them for exhibiting because as mentioned above, the conference would not have been a success without them.

- AL/MS 811
- American Cast Iron Pipe
- Aqua Products, Inc.
- Aqua Smart, Inc.
- Badger Meter
- Birmingham Water Works
- Burnett Lime Company
- Carter & VerPlank
- Central Service Association
- Consolidated Pipe & Supply
- Control Instruments Inc.
- Control Systems
- Denali Water Solutions
- Eco-Tech
- Engineers of the South
- Environmental Technical Sales (ETEC)
- Faulkner Pipe
- Garver
- Gulf Coast Underground
- Hach Company
- Hanson Pressure Pipe
- Hydra Service
- Hydra Stop/ADS
- Jackson Thornton Utilities Consultants
- Jim House & Associates
- Johnson Controls
- Krebs Engineering
• Layne Christensen Co.
• Luckett Pump & Well Service
• M&H Valve
• Master Meter, Inc.
• McWane Cast Iron Pipe
• Merrick Industries
• Mid South Water
• Morrow Water Technologies
• Mueller Systems
• National Ground Water Association
• Pall
• Permox CTF
• Pittsburg Tank & Tower Co.
• Precon Tanks
• Premier Silica
• Pump & Process Equipment
• ReFlow Services, LLC
• Roberts Filter Group
• Sensus
• Smith Seckman Reid
• Southeastern Tank
• Southern Pipe & Supply
• Swan Analytical USA
• Tank Pro
• The Crom Corporation
• The Eshelman Company
• Thermo Scientific
• Thorton, Musso & Bellemin
• Tnemec
• United Systems
• Utility Service Co.
• Water Company of America
• Water Environment Association
66TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS
66th Annual Conference
Exhibitors
See you in 2014 in Fairhope, AL at the 67th Annual Conference!
Real Solutions for Real Problems
Providing Superior Products and Customer Service Since 1957

Home Office
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Ironton, AL 35210
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205-951-0291 FAX

Gulf Coast Office
24312 Highway 98
Fairhope, AL 36532
251-928-7867 / 800-919-7867
251-928-7804 FAX

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The AL/MS Section of the American Water Works Association is now accepting abstracts for presentations and posters for the 2014 Annual Conference technical program. Presentations will be limited to 20-30 minutes with the opportunity for questions to be submitted from the audience afterward. Abstracts should include the title, a detailed description of the topic, approximate length (time) of presentation, authors’ names, and short bio for the primary contact. Abstracts should be limited to 500 words or less. The Section plans to place a special emphasis on Operator training and Student involvement so presenters from each of those groups are encouraged to participate. General categories for the technical program include:

- Operations/Management
- Regulatory Compliance
- Finance and Administration
- Billing and Customer Service
- Water Resources
- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Distribution System Management
- Water System Security and
- Disaster Recovery
- Research from Universities
- Emerging/New Technologies
- Asset and Data Management Systems

Selection Criteria
- Originality
- Content
- Relevance to industry
- Audience range
- Innovation
- Case Studies

Submission Timeline:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>April 30, 2014</th>
<th>June 13, 2014</th>
<th>September 12, 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract Deadline</td>
<td>Presenter Notification</td>
<td>Submit Materials Digitally</td>
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Please submit abstracts and questions to Matt McDougald [matthew.mcdougald@ch2m.com; (205) 209-3010] or Phillip Gibson [gibsonpw@gibsonengineeringms.com; (601) 594-1545]. Materials may also be mailed to CH2M Hill, The Plaza Building, 2112 11th Ave. South, Suite 320, Birmingham, Alabama 35205 ATTN: Matt McDougald.
Hugh Smith, Jr., Section Chair, Call to order.
The Chair asked for reports from the following committee chairs:

Chris Griffin, Secretary-Treasurer, reported on the previous meeting’s minutes and financial condition of the Section. A motion was made by Jimmy Nelson and seconded by Mark Snow to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the last Section Business Meeting held in October 2012, and to approve said minutes. There being a motion and second to approve the minutes, all voting stated ‘Aye’. Chris informed the members last year’s minutes were also published in the PIPELINE and that Ken McCool will send copies of the minutes to any who request them.

Regarding finances, as of October 11, 2013, the Section had a balance of $173,283.77 in its checking account; the account balance at 2012 Conference Business meeting was $201,916.77, a net difference of -$28,633, due primarily to advanced deposits to Caesar’s Entertainment. As of the September 30, 2013 closing, the Section had a balance of $88,522.20 in its Money Market Account, a difference of -$9.84 from the same period last year. As of October 11, 2013 Region’s Bank Certificates of Deposits valued at $157,013.76, a net difference of -$80.38 from the same period last year. As of September 27, 2013 the closing value of the Sections other investments was $106,702.62 which represented a growth of 2% over previous 12 months or an increase of $2,239.88.

The combined value of all Section finances as of 10/11 2013 was $525,522.35. This amount reflects a net assets decline of $25,302.72; this artificial deficit is created by the week or receipt arrived after the posting dates.

Chair Hugh Smith, Jr. then requested comments or questions from the floor. A motion was made by John Miller and seconded by Brian Shelton to accept the financial report and the motion was unanimously approved by the membership.

Jimmy Nelson, Director’s Report: Jimmy thanked the Section for allowing him to serve as Director for the next three years. He looks forward to representing the Alabama Mississippi Section through 2016 on the national level as its representative on the AWWA Board of Directors. Jimmy also commended Tom Walters for an exemplary job as Director the past three years and also for his assistance in the transition between the two. In the process of becoming acclimated with being the director, he attended the Board of Directors meeting as a guest for both the January meeting in Nashville and also the Board of Directors meeting held during ACE13 in Denver. During the Denver meeting, the Board of Directors adopted a new strategic plan for AWWA. More information regarding the plan will be forthcoming, but the plan continues AWWA’s vision of “A better world through better water.” Jimmy told the attendees that our national guest at this Section’s annual conference in October is John Donohue, who is the President Elect of AWWA. John is the General Manager of the North Park Illinois Public Water District and his wife Debbie is also at our meeting. Jimmy asked everyone to please extend a warm welcome to John and Debbie. Those who have any questions or comments related to AWWA were welcomed to contact Jimmy.

David Stejskal, Audit Report, reported that he and all Trustees review all banking transactions through the actual statements and reminded all present that the bylaws require an annual audit, and that an external audit was conducted of the Section’s 2012 financials by the CPA firm of Wilson, Price, Barranco, Blankenship & Billingsley P.C. of Montgomery, AL. David reported that the audit found all accounts to be in order. Our auditors found our records to be true and accurate. They did however make some procedural recommendations. Recommendations on policies and procedures recommended by the auditors last year have also been adopted.

A motion was made by Mark Snow to accept the Audit Committee report, seconded by Tom Walters. All votes were to accept the Audit report.

Danny Hutcherson, Memorial Scholarships, stated that the Scholarship Committee consisted of Danny Hutcherson, Chair, Andy Whelton, David Bass, Eddie James and Jason Barrett, all of whom were appointed by the Section board of Trustees. Each member meets a specific category of career as defined by our policies-in-progress. The scholarship committee met June 26th, 2013 with all members present. Section Chair Hugh Smith joined us in person and Alabama Trustee Brian Shelton joined us via conference call. The committee discussed the objectives the board of trustees wants to accomplish. The committee identified 3 major tasks to begin work at hand.

1. Define a preliminary procedure to begin processing scholarship applicants (Andy Whelton)
2. Develop a form to be used by applicants to apply for scholarships (Eddie James)
3. Establish a plan to communicate the availability of scholarships (Jason Barrett)

Members of the committee agreed to accomplish these tasks as follow up items to deliver after the meeting. Their efforts were successful and the products of those tasks are now under consideration of the Section Board of Trustees. The committee expects to make announcement of the availability of scholarship funds now open to more Universities and to Junior/Community Colleges that offer curriculum to students wishing to enter the water utility profession.
Gene Hanson, Fuller Award, reported that the Fuller Committee had reviewed several well-qualified nominees and had selected this year’s recipient of the George Warren Fuller Award. The annual award is conferred upon a member of the Alabama/Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association for distinguished service to the water supply field. The award will be presented to this member of our section at the Annual Awards Banquet on Tuesday evening.

Drusilla Hudson, Program, reported on presenters this year and attendee options on obtaining educational credits (CEU’s/PDH’s). This year’s program will as usual include three concurrent sessions and attendees should be pleased with the availability of continuing educational units and/or professional development hours. As always, door prizes are to be utilized during each session. Drusilla thanked her committee and the array of speakers.

Earl Voss, MAC, read by Shannon Bailey-Paltrow, The Section had 28 sponsors, for a total of $30,000.00 contributing to this year’s conference. We had 5 Platinum, 7 Gold, 6 Silver and 10 Bronze. With the YP group soliciting their own sponsors this year, we saw new sponsors donating for that part of the conference, which helps to the overall success of the event. One of the items we will recommend to the planning committee is to perhaps bump up the cost for the Platinum Sponsors in return for being listed as overall sponsor including the YP events. Shannon asked those present to take time to thank this year’s sponsors and encourage their participation again next year.

Jimmy Eckman, Competitions, reported on this week’s planned competitions with three competitions. The Committee feels this facility is ideal, and Shea Schubert with Caesar’s is a pleasure to work with. Competitions will be TOP-OPS, METER-MADNESS and the PIPE-TAPPING demo by our World Champion Birmingham Water Works Team.

In conclusion, Jimmy is working on a potential inventory list and a cost estimate for the needed competition equipment for the section. He will forward [to the Trustees] for discussion when completed. Very special thanks go to Tina, Jeff, and Bill from Birmingham Water Works for all their help as well as to the vendors providing material & supplies.

Hunter Arnold, Membership, reported on membership statistics in Mississippi, saying our member numbers continue to remain at or near the 1,000 mark. As in recent years, utilities, however, seem to be declining. It will be up to this committee as well as individual member-employees of utilities to discover the root-cause of the problem and attempt to turn it around. Many membership recruitment & retention challenges (contests) are currently in the works by National AWWA to assist my committee and our general membership in building and maintaining our member force.

Becky Parker, Registration, presented by Nick Freeman, Great Conference! – Registration is going smoothly for the most part. Shea Shubert and her staff at the conference center are very accommodating and address all requests in a timely and efficient manner. Members and spouses registered so far like the tailgate blankets and rabbits. The supplier was easy to work with in the selection of a gift for the members and had the boxes labeled as requested and dropped shipped in a timely fashion so all dropped shipped supplies were on hand when we arrived at the site. Conference Center staff had all our drop shipments stored for ease of access and a store room so things could be secured.

A few minor bumps in the road: -Verification of Life Members -Verification of AWWA member numbers -Entering multiple registrations under one email address. Ken McCool was a big help with these verifications and all other inquiries I had.

A big thanks goes out to Sensus Metering Systems for furnishing the tote bags for the registration packets. Although we chose not to do paper mail outs and only sent out multiple email pushes we will have a great turnout as the final numbers will show. We anticipate in excess of 400. Final numbers & a summary will be available toward the end of the conference.

Phillip Gibson, Exhibits, Phillip stated that through October 13, 2013, there were 60 exhibitors out of a maximum of 63 and 36 additional exhibitor’s registrations for a total of 96 registrants.

The numbers of exhibitors per state are as follows: 22 from Alabama, 1 from Arkansas, 1 from California, 5 from Florida, 6 from Georgia, 1 from Illinois, 1 from Kentucky, 2 from Louisiana, 12 from Mississippi, 1 from North Carolina, 1 from Ohio, 1 from Pennsylvania, 1 from South Carolina, 4 from Tennessee, and 1 from Texas. A list of Exhibitors and Exhibitor booth locations is posted in the exhibit hall and on the website.

Harry Gong, Section Communications/Media, reported, Accomplishments to date:
1. In year two of a three year agreement with Kelman & Associates to partner with the production, development, and distribution of the Section Newsletter, the PIPELINE. To date two of three issues have been produced and distributed for 2013. Cost per issue to Kelman per the executed agreement is $750 per issue for 2013 and the Section receives an ad revenue share in 10% of the excess in ad sales over $10,000. Ad sales exceeded $10,000 in sales for the past two issues of the Pipeline in 2013. The total amount in ad sales for issue 1 was $12,400.53 and for issue 2 was $14,784.00.
2. Executed an Agreement with Ingenuity to Update and Change the look of the Section website. The new website went live on September 3, 2013. New features that have been added to the new site are as follows:
   1. News Section
American Water Works Association wish to recognize their valued and trusted friends.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the membership of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association, meeting on this the fourteenth day of October, 2013, in Tunica, Mississippi, do hereby express their sorrow and regret over the loss of these 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 of the members listed herein by our Secretary-Treasurer.

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

* Actual forms sent to the families by the Secretary-Treasurer will be individually printed for each lost member.

Laquoya McDaniel (AL)/Matthew Horton (MS), Young Professionals (YP): This year’s YP Program was huge success and received a great response from all of the Young Professionals in our Section. We would like to thank all YPs who participated or contributed to this year’s program. We hope next years will be even bigger and better!

The Committee gives special thanks to all those companies who helped sponsor the 2013 YP Program! This year’s group of sponsors included Gibson Engineering, ETEC, Fluid Process and Pumps, Morrow Water, Control Instruments Inc., McWane Pipe, CDM Smith, and Badger Meter, Inc. The Program could not be a success without the generous donations of these companies!

1. YP Lounge Area/Hospitality Suite and Laser Shot Virtual Shooting Gallery – The lounge area is the designated area where the YP’s are able to come and relax, and take a few minutes break from the other conference events. In the lounge, we will hold the Laser Shot Virtual Shooting Gallery competition. Each participant will pay $5.00 per play and all proceeds will go to the Water for People Charity. The competition is made possible by the generous sponsorship of Gibson Engineering, ETEC, and Fluid Process and Pumps.

2. YP Sponsored Sporting Clay Competition – This year’s sporting clays competition includes so far about 15 participants. The shooters move between 7 shooting stations and scores are recorded throughout the competition. After the final scores are tallied, a top shooter will be announced. The sporting clays event’s purpose (other than fun) is to raise additional funds to go to the Water For People charity.

3. Water Taste Test – This competition, sponsored by the YPs, is to take place today, Monday October 14, 2013. Nineteen water systems from Alabama and Mississippi will compete.

Water samples are to be scored on a scale of 1 to 10 by a panel of three judges in four categories, which are taste, odor, color, and clarity. The judges for the competition include a National AWWA official, a representative from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, and a past AL/MS Section Chairman.

A water taste test victory will advance the winner to the “Best of the Best” Taste Test at the AWWA Annual Conference
3. Nominees were unanimously elected.

4. YP Scavenger Hunt is to be held throughout the day (today) of the conference. This year’s participation in the YP Scavenger hunt promises to be extremely high. The scavenger hunt encourages YPs to actively stroll through the exhibit area by offering potential prizes for correctly completing the scavenger hunt sheet. This year’s grand prize of an IPad Mini will be donated by Control Instruments Inc. Additional scavenger hunt prizes will be donated by McWane Pipe and Badger Meter, Inc.

5. YP Social this YP Program will take place on Monday evening. The social, which is sponsored by Morrow Water, will include refreshments and light hors d’oeuvres and will allow YPs the opportunity to fellowship amongst themselves. Incorporated into this year’s social is the virtual shooting range “shoot off” as well as the presentation of prizes for the YP Scavenger Hunt winners.

6. Other YP Socials this year (Birmingham & Jackson) were also hosted by Laquoya & Matthew.

Hunter Arnold, Nominations, submitted the following nominations as AL/MS Section officers for 2013.

- Chair – David Stejskal
- Past Chair – Hugh Smith, Jr.
- Vice Chair – Sam Agnew
- Director - Jimmy Nelson (3-year term expiring June 30th, 2016)
- Trustee-at-Large (AL) – Brian Shelton
- Trustee-at-Large (MS) – Amy McLeod
- Secretary-Treasurer (3-year term expiring December 31, 2015) – Chris Griffin

Chair Hugh Smith then asked if there were any nominations from the floor; there being none, and after a motion from the floor to close the nominations and accept the slate of officers recommended by the committee; upon a motion by Ken McCool and second by Chris Griffin to accept the slate, Chair Hugh Smith called for a voice vote. All proposed nominees were unanimously elected.

Frank Eskridge (AL), Government Affairs, Frank Eskridge of the Government Affairs Committee (Alabama Sub-Committee) reported the following activities in 2013:

1. Participation in the AWWA/WEF Annual U.S. Congressional Fly-In that occurred April 17-18, 2013. A recap of this event was included in the Summer/Fall 2013 edition of Pipeline.

2. Presented views and information on behalf of the ALMS Section to the AWWA Water Utility Council meetings in Washington, D.C. on April 18-19, 2013, and during the WUC Fall meeting in Denver, Colorado, September 24-26, 2013.

3. Obtained approval from the Alabama Water and Wastewater Institute (AWWI) for the ALMS Section to join the AWWI as a “large utility” member in 2014. This gives the ALMS Section a functioning Water Utility Council structure in Alabama beginning in 2014. Anticipated cost is $11,000.00 annually. Benefits to the ALMS Section include a lobbyist/legal counsel, and legislative tracking with monthly updates on behalf of the Alabama AWWA members as it relates to statutory and regulatory issues in Alabama. Subsequent approval of this course of action by the ALMS Section leadership occurred at the ALMS Executive Committee meeting in Tunica, Ms., in June, 2013.

4. Participated in (and continue to participate in) the development of Alabama Water Policy on behalf of the ALMS Section.

5. Participate in other as yet undetermined ongoing regulatory and statutory processes in Alabama on behalf of the ALMS Section.

Mark Snow (MS), Government Affairs, reported that Sam Agnew and he traveled to Washington D.C. to attend the annual AWWA Water Matters Fly-In. He stated were able to meet with representatives of the entire Mississippi delegation and met directly with Senator Roger Wicker as well as Congressman Alan Nunnelee. It is interesting to note that Senator Wicker had his own file on WIFIA and we were able to answer some very specific questions in that regard. Support for this legislation was fairly obvious across the board.

Mark said they met at length with representatives from Congressman Harper’s office. Harper’s office was instrumental in getting the CCR rules change last year allowing on-line posting as opposed to mailing. Congressman Harper continues to be a strong advocate for water utilities in Mississippi.

They also discussed, when the opportunity arose, the continued need to monitor unfunded mandates from Congress and EPA. These comments were well received and they were encouraged to notify each office as the need or concerns evolved.

They stayed an additional day and sat in on a portion of AWWA national Water Utility Council, meeting with Frank Eskridge.

Mark continues to work on establishing a Water Utility Council for the State of Mississippi. He says he has received very positive support from those he has discussed the ideas with and looks forward to continued efforts this coming year. If anyone from Mississippi has an interest in this endeavor, please let Mark know.

Carson Smith (AL)/Mauricka McKenzie (MS), Education: Carson and Mauricka reported on educational offerings in Alabama & Mississippi.

**Event #1 in AL (On-site and Webinar)**

- **Topics:** ADEM Regulatory Updates such as: New Low-lead regulations that begin Jan. 4, 2014,
  EPA agrees to allow electronic CCR’s, Electronic submittal of documents to ADEM, Total Coliform Rule (TCR) revisions
- **Location:** Huntsville Utilities
- **Date:** May 30, 2013
- **Time:** 9:30am – 12:30pm (45 min per class)
- **Speaker:** Laura Taylor – ADEM, George Cox – ADEM
Notes: Free 30 day trial version of Go To Webinar was used for this event, Huntsville Utilities sponsored lunch for the onsite attendees at this event.

Credits available: 4 hours (2 regs.), approved through MSDH
Total onsite registrations 22 Total onsite attendees 15
Total webinar registrations 16 Total webinar attendees 14

Event #2 in AL (On-site only)
- **Topics**: 5 hr Basic Math for Water Operators class
- **Location**: Anniston Water Works
- **Date**: June 20, 2013
- **Time**: 9:00am – 3:00pm
- **Speaker**: Michael Switzer

Notes: Some of Michael’s classes are supported with videos, so a webinar was not a good option for this event.

Credits available: 5 hours, approved through MSDH
Total registrations: 13 Total attendees: 13 (1 non-member $25 paid)

Event #3 in AL (On-site and Webinar)
- **Topics**: I’ve Got A Great Financial Plan…Now What? The Vital Next Steps To Take
- **Location**: Montgomery Water Works
- **Date**: July 18, 2013
- **Time**: 11:00am-12:30pm
- **Speaker**: Rob McElroy, P.E. – Daphne Utilities General Manager

Notes: Lunch was provided to onsite attendees

Credits available: 1.5 hours, approved through MSDH
Total registrations: 22 Total attendees: 15

Event #1 in MS (On-site and Webinar)
- **Topics**: Groundwater Rule and Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCMR3) Field Sampling and Laboratory Analysis
- **Location**: Mississippi State Extension Service Center, Starkville, MS
- **Date**: February 26, 2013
- **Time**: 8:30am – 12:00 noon (45 min per class)
- **Speakers**: William Moody, Mississippi State Department of Health; Susie Lindblom, Mobile Area Water and Sewer System

Credits available: 3 hours (2 regs.), approved through MSDH
Total onsite registrations 16 Total onsite attendees 16
Total webinar registrations 24 Total webinar attendees 24

Event #2 in MS (On-site and Webinar)
- **Topics**: Water System Safety, General Job Site Safety and Hazard Mitigation Planning, OSHA Trench Excavation Safety, Chlorine Gas Safety, Sodium Hypochlorite and Ammonia Chemical Safety
- **Location**: Neel-Schaffer, Inc. Training Room, Jackson, MS
- **Date**: May 7, 2013
- **Time**: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Notes: Free 30 day trial version of Go To Webinar was used for this event, Huntsville Utilities sponsored lunch for the onsite attendees at this event.

Credits available: 6 hours (1 reg), approved through MSDH
Total onsite registrations 15 Total onsite attendees 16
Total webinar registrations 23 Total webinar attendees 23

Event #3 in MS (On-site and Webinar)
- **Location**: Mississippi State Extension Service Center, Starkville, MS
- **Date**: August 27, 2013
- **Time**: 9:00am-2:00pm
- **Speakers**: Harry Gong, MSDH; Sam McElroy, Civil Services, LLC; Jason Cumberland, HACH; Glenn Goldman, Central Water Association.

Notes: Lunch was provided to on-site attendees

Credits available: 6 hours (2 regs.), approved through MSDH
Total onsite registrations 14 Total onsite attendees 15
Total webinar registrations 23 Total webinar attendees 23

2014 Planned Event #1 in AL & MS – Speaker: Dr. Vernon Snoeyink
- **Topics to include**: Corrosion, energy savings, lead & copper rule, water quality in distribution

The Department of Ag and Industries Auditorium
Richard Bard Building
1445 Federal Drive, Montgomery, Alabama 36107
Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
The Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center
1320 Seven Springs Road, Raymond, MS 39154
Thursday, January 30, 2014
(Webinar available to AL/MS)
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Sam McElroy, Entertainment, read by Hercy Golson,
Hercy went over the various entertainment venues offered to attendees this year. Of course, Chris Gill’s band The SOLE SHAKERS’ performance last night at BLUESVILLE was a treat to all following the buffet dinner. Of course, earlier this morning, we were charged up by motivational speaker and former Crimson Tide, Denver Broncos and Miami Dolphins running back & receiver, Bobby Humphrey. Attendees at Tuesday night’s Awards Banquet will be delighted with the inspiring talk by former Pittsburg Steeler, 4-time Super Bowl champ and Vietnam Veteran, Rocky Bleier.

Hunter Arnold, Time and Place, reported that he and committee members had evaluated several locations for the 2015
Minutes for the ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OCTOBER 14th, 2013

Conference (the 68th Conference for the Alabama-Mississippi Section of AWWA). Hunter informed those present that the committee had chosen Biloxi, MS as that location and the Beau Rivage as the destination hotel & conference center. This venue was also reported at last year’s business meeting.

Ken McCool, Section Manager, reported that each year, the membership is becoming more aware that the Section’s Manager is available to answer questions, provide information and be their contact with the Section. During the conference, Ken asked that those needing help with any problems or suggestions please find or call him. If he can’t provide an answer, he’ll direct attendees to those who can. Ken also urged those who wish to become more active in the association to come get with him during or after the conference.

Ken also asked individual members present to test their knowledge on whether or not their utility or company is a member. In recent years, many utility and service provider memberships have lapsed due to retirements of named representatives and in some cases, those lapses have resulted in members who are within a utility or company to unknowingly become a non-member. The problem is growing each year - keep on top of your membership status as well as your employer’s!

Hugh Smith, Jr., Section Chair then made comments about the meeting, thanking all committee chairpersons for their work & diligence in planning this meeting throughout the past year. Hugh reminded those in attendance that it takes quite a few members working in concert and as a true team to organize a successful meeting. This conference, he added, promises to be one to remember for both members and spouses.

Adjourn; There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Hugh Smith, Jr.

EDUCATION SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT
Alabama/Mississippi Section of AWWA Education Sessions will be held on January 29, 2014 in Montgomery, AL and on January 30, 2014 in Raymond, MS. The topics of the session are on optimizing corrosion control and saving on energy costs. Both sessions are scheduled to run from 10:00am - 12:00pm on both days. Further details on the sessions are available on the website (www.almsawwa.org). To register for these sessions, please email Carson Smith in Alabama (Carson.Smith@hsvutil.org) or Mauricka McKenzie in Mississippi (mauricka.mckenzie@neel-schaffer.com). The training has been approved by MSDH for 2 CEUs (1 Reg). The Raymond, MS session will be available to register via webinar. Please provide your name, phone number, email address, mailing address, AWWA membership number, which session you are attending, and whether you are registering for on-site or webinar.

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Locations - Alabama: Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham, and Foley - Mississippi: Jackson

www.volkert.com
On August 26, 2013 a small Oklahoma town was advised not to use the tap water for cooking or drinking, because red worms had been found in the town’s drinking water supply. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) conducted an investigation and determined that midge flies entered the system through sand filters at the water treatment plant. The flies laid their eggs in the filters and when the eggs hatched the red worms simply swam into the water supply. Fortunately, these worms were not parasitic, but several parasitic worms could get into drinking water systems: Roundworms, flukes, and tapeworms.

These parasitic worms are transmitted by direct contact with their eggs, consuming a host that has the parasitic eggs, or consuming the feces of hosts that contain their parasitic eggs. Once consumed, the parasitic eggs hatch and attach themselves to the intestines. Some stay in the intestines, but others travel to various organs and parts of the body to cause damage, while they continue to grow and multiply!

Host and their environments
- Hosts can include: aquatic life, insects, birds, rodents and other animals. They can gain access to drinking water through openings on tanks. Aquatic hosts can travel through the inlet or outlet pipes depending on the tanks source of water. Aquatic life is often found in tanks that receive their water from lakes, streams, rivers or other waterways. A few years ago, more than 50,000 gallons of mud and aquatic life were removed from a two-million gallon tank in New York, and in Georgia, a fish swam past the camera during an inspection. These are all potential parasitic worm hosts!
- Other hosts can gain access by holes in the roof, shell, or floor. Gaps between the roof and shell, vents or overflows with torn or missing screens can allow insects, birds, and other small animals into the tank. If birds and insects are in the tank, then their feces and the possibility of parasitic eggs are also in the tank. Human beings that consume the contaminated water become the next host, where the parasitic worm continues to grow in them for years. Another disturbing fact is that these openings often go unnoticed until an inspection is performed, that means this potential risk could go unnoticed for years!
- Stagnant water also contributes to contaminated water. The stagnant water creates a list of microscopic organisms and bacteria that lures potential hosts into the tanks. Stagnation occurs when water is separated into layers arranged by density; the least dense and warmer water sitting above the denser cooler layers of water coming in. The layers are caused by differences in temperature, pressure, and pH. These unmixed layers cause water
Meet the parasites

Roundworms: Water fleas are possible hosts to the Dracunculus larva, a type of roundworm that causes a horrific disease known as guinea worm disease (GWD). Once the infected water fleas are ingested, stomach acid dissolves the water flea, but not the Dracunculus larva that hatches and travels to connective tissues. Often, no symptoms are noticed until approximately one year later, when the disease and worm presents itself with a painful, burning sensation, as a blister on the skin forms. About a week later, the blister ruptures exposing one end of the worm. Often, the infected person immerses the affected area in water to relieve the pain, but then hundreds of thousands of larvae contaminate the water, allowing the cycle to repeat again. To extract the worm, a person must wrap the live worm around a piece of gauze or stick. The process can take hours to months and great pain accompanies it.

Other parasitic roundworms include: pinworms, hookworms, Ascaris, Baylisascaris, and Strongyloides Stercoralis. Pinworms are said to be the number one parasite in North America and the eggs can become airborne, living for days without a host. Hookworm eggs can live without a host for weeks, and Strongyloides Stercoralis can live with or without a host. Baylisascaris and Dracunculus Insignis are found in dogs, raccoons, minks, foxes, otters, skunks and other small animals of North America. Just last year, a decomposing raccoon was found in a Virginia ground storage tank, and a dead squirrel was pulled from a Missouri ground storage tank. Ascaris worms are roundworms that cause respiratory problems, and live worms may be observed in the stool or exiting through the nose or mouth! According to Human Diseases and Conditions, “It has been estimated that 4 million people in the United States carry ascaris, most of them in rural southeastern areas.”

May 24, 2013, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported in their Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report that, “During April 2010–March 2013 the Maine Department of Health and Human Services investigated multiple cases of ascariasis that have been reported by health-care providers, veterinarians, and patients. After investigation, 14 persons on seven farms in Maine were identified with Ascaris infection.”

Flatworms: The Tapeworms: The Cestodes (tapeworms) include: Taenia Solium (pork tapeworm), Taenia Saginata (beef tapeworm), Diphyllobothrium Latum (fish tapeworm), Hymenolpis Diminuta (rat tapeworm), and Hymenolepis Nana (dwarf tapeworm). The pork tapeworm can cause Neurocysticercosis (NCC), an infection of the brain or spinal cord. According to the American Academy of Neurology, “Neurocysticercosis is typically considered a disease of the developing world. Nonetheless, NCC is also diagnosed in the developed world. The disease now is on the rise in developed countries such as the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.”

January 15, 2013, a NewRX editor of Life Science Weekly reported that, “Baylor University College of Medicine stated, “The rise in the number of cases of NCC in developed countries, especially in the Unites States of America, has largely been driven by influx of immigrants from endemic to non-endemic regions and the widespread access to neuroimaging. Cases of local transmission have also been documented particularly in the setting of a tapeworm carrier present in the household, with highlights the relevance of NCC as a public health problem in the USA. We estimate that between 1320 and 5050 new cases of NCC occur every year in the USA.”

The beef tapeworm eggs can survive for months in the environment, and the fish tapeworm eggs mature in the water within three weeks. Tapeworms of wild animals can cause Alveolar Echinococcosis disease that mimics liver cancer and cirrhosis of the liver. Rat tapeworms and dwarf tapeworms are found in the feces of rats. Beetles and fleas eat the feces and become the new host. Several years ago, twenty-four dead rats were pulled from a Maryland water tank, and everyday insects and beetles are found in tanks!

Prevention

1. Prevent the potential hosts from entering the tank by getting it inspected for openings that could lead to unauthorized access. Screens, free from rips or tears, should cover all pipe openings. Holes and gaps should be sealed or welded. Roof manways and hatches should seal tightly and a lock should be placed on them. Ladders should have appropriate ladder guards and locks.
to prevent people from entering the tank or placing potential hosts into the tank.

2. Clean and disinfect water tanks regularly. America Water Works Association (AWWA) states that, “Tanks should be washed out and inspected at least once every three years, and where water supplies have sediment problems, annual washouts are recommended.” (AWWA M42-92) [9] After reading this article, biannual inspections and cleanouts are probably more desirable. Water tanks can be taken out-of-service and a trained professional can physically enter the tanks to inspect and clean them, or a robotic inspection and cleanout can be performed. A robotic inspection does not require draining the tank and there is no downtime, liability, or water loss. Lockout/tag out procedures and confined space permits are not needed, because no one enters the tank. The robot is equipped with lights and a color camera, and live viewing of the inspection takes place through a ground monitor. A DVD of the inspection is provided and both forms of inspections come with a written report that includes a detailed evaluation, photographs (hopefully, none with potential parasitic hosts), recommendations of needed repairs, code updates, and a cost estimate for each item.

3. After an inspection has been performed and the condition of the tank has been determined, please address the issues. If the tank needs to be cleaned, then please clean it. If the water temperature during the inspection indicated possible stratification, then please take necessary steps to eliminate it. A mixing system may need to be installed to prevent the stratified water, and the water may need to be tested and treated more often.

Everyone deserves clean and healthy drinking water free from parasitic worms. Please take all necessary precaution to prevent potential hosts from getting into drinking water tanks and spreading these horrific diseases that result from the infections. Keep in mind – this article only discussed parasitic worms. Please take all necessary precaution to prevent people from entering the tank or placing potential hosts into the tank.

References


Erika N. Henderson has a bachelor’s degree in International Relations from University of Southern Indiana. She has been published in numerous water publications, and may be contacted at 270-826-9000 ext. 228 or sales@watertank.com to answer any questions related to tanks.

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Newsmakers

BWWB BRINGS HOME ANOTHER VICTORY

Denver, CO – The Birmingham Water Works Board (BWWB) Top Ops Team brought home another victory for the Alabama/Mississippi Section by winning the ACE 2013 Top Ops Championship. The event was held on June 10-11, during the annual conference in Denver, Colorado. The Top Ops challenge features three preliminary rounds of questions concerning various water industry topics used to narrow the field to the four best teams. After this the semi-final and final matches take place and the questions ramp up in difficulty.

Team Birmingham placed first in each of their preliminary rounds and secured the top seed for the final four. After defeating the New York section in the semi-final match, Team Birmingham won a hard fought finale against the second seeded California/Nevada section in a match that saw the lead change four times. This was the third title for Team Birmingham in the last four years, and their first ever back to back victory.

The members of Team Birmingham (as pictured) are Wendell Cox, Bill Shikle, Jonathan Harris and Coach Trey Finch.

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Doug Wilder – Northport, AL
Andrew Burroughs – City of Tuscaloosa Water and Sewer Department
Jared Jones – U.S. Pipe & Foundry Company
Greg Key – U S Pipe and Foundry Co
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Ken Barlow – Fluid Process & Pumps, LLC
Russ Roberts – Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood
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Herron Irwin – Town of Summerdale
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