

# FWEA Manasota Chapter

VOL 3 - AUGUST 2010

## Message from the Steering Committee

*By Kristiana Dragash, Chair of FWEA Manasota Chapter  
Laura Baumberger, Communications Chair*

The Manasota Chapter met at the end of May for its second luncheon at the Polo Grill. The program focused on the future of wastewater regulations in Florida. Rod Reardon presented an overview of the status of Florida's proposed numeric nutrient regulations and its potential impacts on municipal utilities. His presentation provided an overview of nationwide nutrient regulation activities, the status of the proposed Florida numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) rule, a summary of the current performance of Florida advanced wastewater treatment plants compared to the proposed regulations, and some ideas of technologies that might be used to meet these criteria. Many thanks to Rod for attending our luncheon and presenting this very informative talk.

This month's luncheon is being co-hosted by the local Manasota Chapter and the FWEA Integrated Water Resources Committee (IWRC). Many thanks for the IWRC's assistance in coordinating the meeting, providing an excellent speaker, and helping the seminar get approved for PDH credits. The Integrated Water Resources Committee (IWRC), formerly the Stormwater Committee, is dedicated to furthering the dialog between water professionals throughout Florida to meet our growing needs in all areas of water resources. The IWRC focuses on providing high-quality information and educational opportunities for the technical community through seminars, luncheons, and newsletters.

On behalf of the entire Steering Committee, we would like to extend sincere thanks to all who have attended the luncheons and supported the chapter by purchasing advertisements in the newsletter, both of which are strengthening our local chapter. We look forward to growing the local membership and participation. Please contact us if you are interested in joining the Steering Committee.



*FWEA Manasota Chapter luncheons are held in the private dining room at the Polo Grill in Lakewood Ranch.*

## FWEA Manasota Chapter Steering Committee Officers

### Chair

Kristiana Dragash: 941.378.3579

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### Secretary

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Matthew Gribbins: 941.342.1306

*If you are interested in participating as an officer  
or on the steering committee, please contact us.*

## THANK YOU!

We would like to sincerely thank our newsletter sponsors who have made this chapter formation possible. You will see their advertisements throughout the newsletter. If you would like to advertise in future editions,

*Please contact  
Laura Baumberger at  
941.371.9832*

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# FWEA Safety Corner

By Mike Sheehan, Regional Safety Advisor, Severn Trent Services

There are two recent safety items of great importance, and both are excerpted below!

## PRESIDENTIAL SAFETY INITIATIVE

A major safety initiative was created by President Obama on July 19, 2010, called the POWER initiative, to help protect federal civilian employees from illnesses and injuries. POWER is an acronym for Protecting Our Workers and Ensuring Re-employment. President Obama stated there were 79,000 claims in fiscal year 2009, which totaled over \$1.6 billion in workers compensation payments, for an average cost slightly over \$20,000 per claim.

Mr. Obama believes that many of these incidents are preventable and that federal agencies can and should do even more to improve workplace safety and health to reduce the financial burden of injury on taxpayers as well as unnecessary suffering of workers and their families. This initiative will be established by OSHA from 2011 through 2014 and is intended to reduce illnesses and injuries and all related costs.

## THE GULF OIL SPILL & WORKER SAFETY

The BP explosion and subsequent oil spill continues to be a major environmental and safety issue in the U.S., so I've included a recent summary from OSHA Assistant Secretary David Michaels, dated June 23, 2010, regarding the safety of employees involved with clean-up activities in the Gulf of Mexico.

Testimony from Mr. Michaels, to the U.S. House of Representatives, states the following:

More than 33,000 people are currently involved in clean-up activities in four states, and OSHA is now monitoring worker exposure with over 146 OSHA professionals in the Gulf Region to address the following:

- ▶ Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- ▶ Heat stress precautions
- ▶ Respiratory protection
- ▶ Industrial hygiene
- ▶ Chemical hazards
- ▶ Decontamination

- ▶ Safety training
- ▶ Noise protection
- ▶ Air monitoring
- ▶ Fall protection
- ▶ Drowning
- ▶ Fatigue

One of the most serious health hazards facing the workers is heat stress (with over 100 incidents so far), and a robust matrix program has been developed to protect workers. The matrix specifies specific work/rest requirements based on heat, humidity, and PPE.

PPE such as gloves, boots, and facemask respirators can greatly exacerbate heat hazards since most skin surfaces are often fully covered, so breathing and perspiration is greatly increased. These conditions can then elevate body temperatures well beyond safe levels, usually causing heat stroke, heat stress, hypothermia, nausea, and dehydration.

Other aspects of the heat stress plan and matrix ensures that all workers are trained on heat stress precautions, work begins early in the day due to cooler temperatures, shaded rest areas are provided at all work areas, workers hydrate themselves by drinking liquids, and monitors are on-site at all times to ensure this regimen is adhered to.

Although offshore oil rigs are regulated solely by the Coast Guard and Minerals Management Service, it looks like OSHA has done a remarkable job of addressing worker safety on-shore and has taken immediate actions to greatly reduce heat-related incidents and illnesses.

## *Not a Member of FWEA?*

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# August Luncheon Meeting - August 26, 2010

## *The Statewide Stormwater Rule... Is It Heading into Deep Water? by Jack Merriam*

### *Abstract*

The presentation will provide an overview of the proposed Statewide Stormwater Rule, the basis for the rule, its objectives, and how it can support green building initiatives and efforts to incorporate low impact development principles into local government land development regulations.

### *Jack Merriam*

Mr. Jack Merriam is an environmental manager at Sarasota County Environmental Services. He graduated from the University of South Florida, receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees from the College of Natural Sciences in the early 70s. He has worked for a wide variety of agencies including the St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Department of

Natural Resources, Florida House of Representatives, Hillsborough County Stormwater Section, and most recently with Sarasota County Environmental Services.

Mr. Merriam's work interests have long involved watershed management, stormwater, and creative ways to protect and restore water quality. While at Hillsborough County, he became interested in low impact development (LID), which is a stormwater management technique that seeks to mimic the natural hydrologic cycle as much as possible. He worked to develop Florida's first LID Manual, which has helped to shape the proposed Statewide Stormwater Rule.

Mr. Merriam is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Statewide Stormwater Rule, representing Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies (FLERA).

## **FWEA MANASOTA CHAPTER LUNCHEON MEETING**

### **FÊTE/POLO GRILL**

10670 Boardwalk Loop, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Registration - 11:30 • Lunch and Program - 12:00

**Choice #1 - Smoked Turkey and Brie Wrap** with Raspberry Spread served with Polo House Salad and Kettle Chips.

**Choice #2 - Grilled Chicken Breast Wrap** with Asparagus, Grapes, Bacon, Candied Pecans, and Romaine Lettuce served with Polo House Salad and Kettle Chips.

**Dessert** - Freshly Baked Chocolate Chunk Cookies.

Cost: \$22 for pre-registration online or by mail, phone, fax, or e-mail • \$25 at the door

*Pre-registration deadline: Friday, August 20. We are able to offer 1 PDH credit for the luncheon.*

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

Registration can be made by mail, phone, fax, or e-mail, with payment mailed in advance or collected at the door.

Name	Company/Affiliation	Phone	Choice of Meal
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You can register online at [www.fwea.org](http://www.fwea.org) or register by phone, fax, or e-mail to Kristiana Dragash  
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