

FWEA Manasota Chapter

VOL 4 - OCTOBER 2010

Message from the Steering Committee

By Kristiana Dragash, Chair of FWEA Manasota Chapter

The first year of the Manasota Chapter of FWEA has flown by! With immense help from the steering committee, our sponsors, some wonderful speakers, the Polo Grill, and last but certainly not least our members, it has been a very rewarding experience starting this local FWEA chapter. I hope that everyone has enjoyed the presentations and luncheons this year.

Jack Merriam of Sarasota County provided an informative overview of the proposed Statewide Stormwater Rule at the last luncheon, which was co-hosted by the new FWEA Integrated Water Resources Committee. Many thanks to Mr. Merriam and to all of you who attended.

I am really excited for what the next year holds for this young chapter. We will start the year by supporting a great workshop hosted by the Myakka Chapter of FES, "From Funding to Constructing: Understanding the Financial Aspect of Successful Projects," on Thursday, January 27th, 2011 at the Sarasota County BOB Building in their Large Training Room. This 4-hour seminar will provide an overview of the financial aspects of a successful utility project providing financial perspectives from a legislative level to the detailed-cost level to showcase the various financial perspectives. To reserve your spot early, please call or e-mail Diane Cranford of Carollo Engineers at 941-371-9832 or dcranford@carollo.com.

Not only is the last luncheon quickly approaching (November 18th), but many of us Manasota FWEA members will also be helping out with the FSAWWA Model Water Tower Contest on Saturday, October 30th at Haile Middle School. Please contact Chris Rosenboom at 941-365-5500 or chris.rosenboom@stantec.com to volunteer. We need your help to inspire the next generation of water and wastewater professionals!

I look forward to seeing you all at these great upcoming events. Have a safe and happy holiday season.



Attendees network before the August FWEA Manasota Luncheon.

FWEA Manasota Chapter Steering Committee Officers

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*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,

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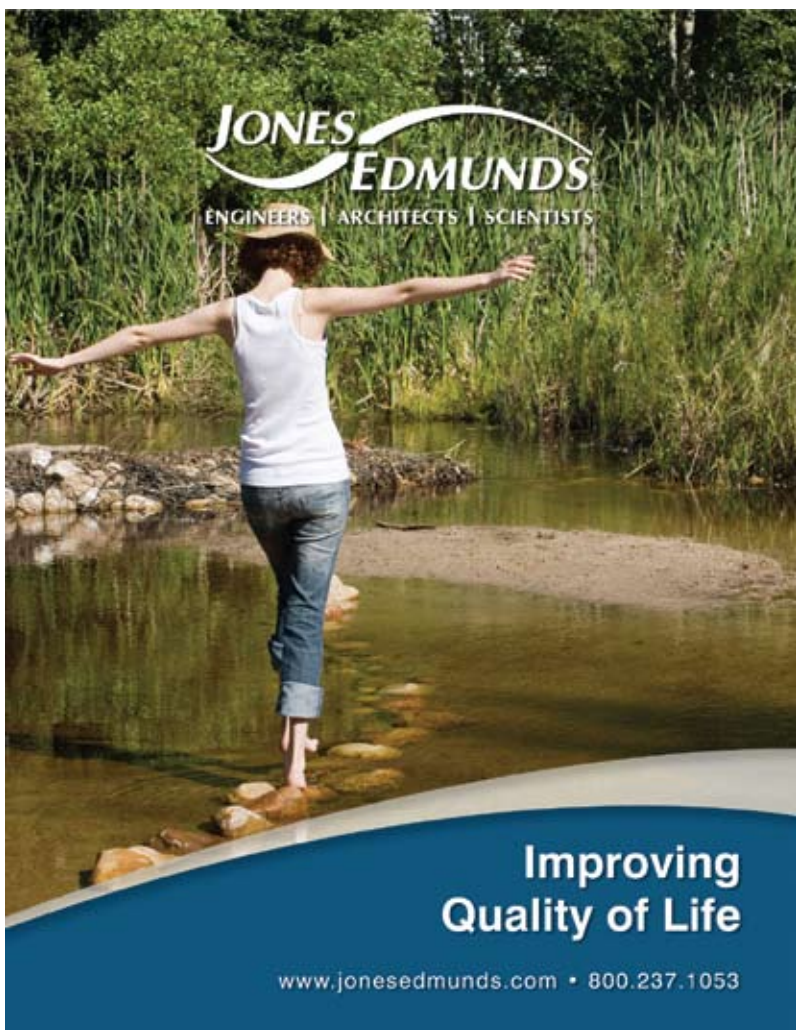
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FWEA Safety Corner

By Mike Sheehan, Regional Safety Advisor, Severn Trent Services

By now, we've all seen other drivers, in front of us or next to us, swerve on the road or perform some other amazing action, which could only be admired by *Cirque de Soleil* performers. When you pull up next to or pass these preoccupied drivers on the road, you look over at them and then feel immediate disgust when you discover that they do not notice you or anyone else and instead are looking straight down into those tiny appealing back-lit letters on their cell phones.

What a joy it must be to send those cryptic instant messages with really important acronyms such as LOL and OMG. The immediate feedback must be so powerful that the seemingly addictive qualities force some drivers to risk their lives and those of innocent bystanders, such as passenger children in nearby vehicles, just for the pleasure of sending or receiving a message, usually about something miniscule and not truly time-sensitive.

As you know, some states currently prohibit simply talking on the phone while on the road, and many states are also considering texting prohibitions for obvious reasons, namely, that these activities greatly increase vehicular incidents, and more specifically, may cause vehicular homicide or negligent manslaughter in some cases.

Prohibiting texting while driving is the subject of an Executive Order signed by President Barack Obama last year for federal employees and is also the subject of rulemaking by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

In a related news release about a month ago (on 9/21/10), the U.S. Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis, announced a partnership with the DOT to help combat the high rate of distracted driving incidents, specifically, texting while driving while on the job. According to Ms. Solis, it is imperative that employers discourage workers from texting while driving and that "it is well recognized that texting while driving dramatically increases the risk of a motor vehicle injury or fatality."

OSHA is also launching a multi-pronged initiative that includes the following:

- ▶ An education campaign for employers, entitled Drive Safely to Work Week.

- ▶ A letter to employees showcasing model employer policies and practices.
- ▶ Alliances with the National Safety Council and other outreach organizations.
- ▶ Special emphasis on younger workers, who often use texting for social networking.

We must all reach out to our loved ones and encourage them to discontinue texting while driving. Tough love is needed, and we must also face the mirror ourselves to do some soul searching before we drive again. While some of us minimize these activities, let's freely admit we may make/take a call or three, but let's remember to walk-the-walk, not talk-the-talk, and never ever type-the-talk, while driving!

It's been a great and safe FWEA "season," and I encourage everyone to stay safe!



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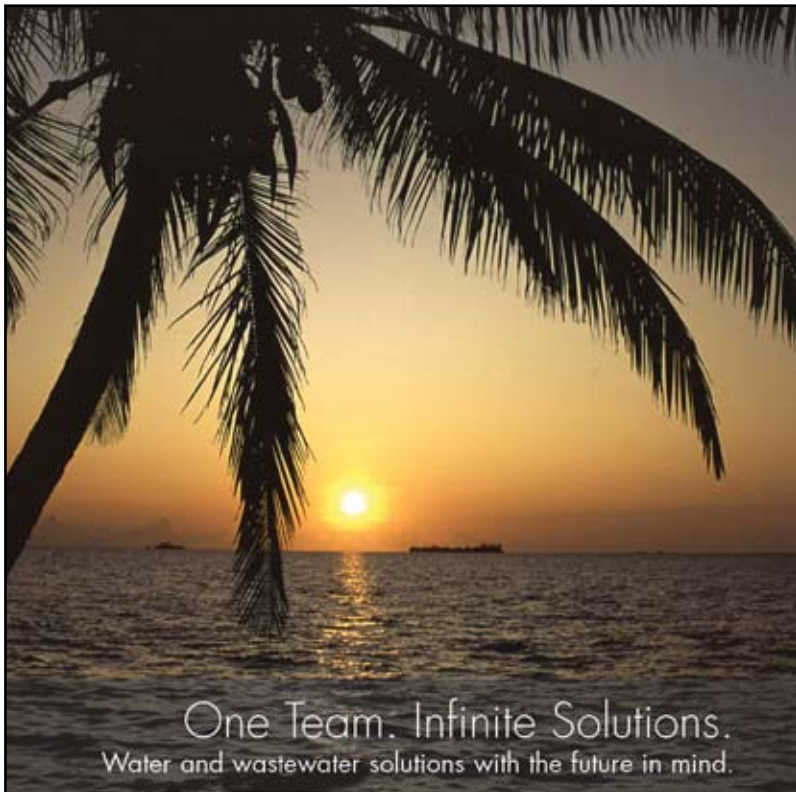
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November Luncheon Meeting - November 18, 2010

Development of an Environmentally Sustainable Regional Surface Water Supply - The Peace River Example by Mike Coates, P.G.

Abstract

The Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (Authority) is an intergovernmental agency charged with developing and supplying drinking water in a four-county region in Southwest Florida. The Authority's customers include Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties, and the City of North Port. Customer demand on Authority facilities currently averages about 25 mgd and is projected to increase to over 32 mgd within five years.

The Authority recently completed a \$180-million water supply facility expansion at its Peace River Facility in DeSoto County. The expansion included doubling the capacity of the Peace River WTP to 48 mgd and construction of a 6-billion gallon (BG) off-stream raw water reservoir. In addition to increasing regional drinking water supplies and system reliability, this project, and the historical operation of the Peace River Facility is an excellent example of environmentally sustainable development and use of surface water resources.

This presentation will review key design aspects and construction of the new facilities and discuss the Authority's environmentally sustainable water supply operations and vision for the future.

Mike Coates

Mike Coates is the Water Resources Director for the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority in Bradenton, FL. He has over 30 years of experience as a geologist, with the last 25 years focused on water resources evaluation and water supply planning and development. Mike's past projects have included development of nearly 200 mgd in groundwater and surface water supply capacity in the Tampa Bay area, as well as regional transmission main installation to support those supplies. More recently Mike co-managed installation of the Authority's new 6 BG reservoir. His current projects include directing expansion of the Authority's regional transmission system, water supply planning, new source development efforts, and coordination of supply operations on a regional scale.

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 - The Polo Club - Garlic aioli, mixed greens, roma tomatoes, oven roasted turkey, cranberry chutney, apple wood smoked bacon, and gruyere on multi-grain served with side salad and kettle chips.

Choice #2 - Old School Reuben - House cooked corned beef, Jarlsbery swiss, lager kraut, marble rye, and thousand island dressing served with side 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, November 12

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

You can register online at www.fwea.org or register by phone, fax, or e-mail to Kristiana Dragash
2601 Cattlemen Road, Suite 100, Sarasota, FL 34232

Ph: 941-378-3579 • Fax: 941-378-9489 • E-mail: kdragash@greeley-hansen.com