

FWEA Manasota Chapter

Vol 6 - May 2011

Message from the Steering Committee

By Kristiana Dragash, Chair of FWEA Manasota Chapter

The Manasota Chapter has received great support from the FWEA Board of Directors and recently was recognized in the Florida Water Resources Journal as the “good news of 2010” by FWEA President, John Giachino. Mr. Giachino also recognized our new chapter at the FWEA Awards Luncheon at the Florida Water Resources Conference, which was held in Orlando during the first week of May. His bad news was that overall FWEA membership had decreased as a result of the current economic times.

I also have good and bad news to report: Mike Sheehan, the past Manasota Chapter treasurer, has relocated. Mike was a dedicated member of our Steering Committee. He will be missed as will his newsletter section, “Safety Corner.” Now for the good news: Lindsay Marten of Stantec is joining the Steering Committee as our Public Relations Chair. With Lindsay’s help, the newsworthy events that FWEA Manasota organizes and participates in will receive the proper press through articles and communication with the local newspapers and journalists.

In other good news, due to the generosity and support of our local sponsors, I am proud to announce that we are now able to subsidize the cost of luncheon attendance for students and employees of local municipalities. Thank you, sponsors, for all of your support!

The last weekend in March was the annual FWEA Leadership Conference. Chapter and Committee Chairs and leaders gathered to learn more about the organization, celebrate the past year, and plan for the new fiscal year. FWEA not only offers the opportunity to get involved on the local chapter level but also has 26 different statewide committees ranging from biosolids and integrated water resources to strategic planning. Chances are there is something that interests each one of us, so I urge you to research the committees and find your niche within this great association.

Lastly, I am proud to report that our March Manasota Luncheon was a success! Thanks go out to Peter Bonk for an excellent presentation, and thanks to everyone who came out to participate.

Peter Bonk III, Manatee County Wastewater Division Manager, gave a presentation at the March luncheon.



FWEA Manasota Chapter Steering Committee Officers

Chair

Kristiana Dragash: 941.378.3579

Vice-Chair

Vacant

Treasurer

Vacant

Secretary

Linda Maudlin: 941.378.3579

Content/Newsletter

Laura Baumberger: 941.371.9832

Public Relations/Webmaster

Lindsay Marten: 941.225.6178

Membership

Rachel Cantor: 813.286.2075

At Large

Seton Katz: 941.861.0879

Jim Lamancusa: 941.378.3579

If you are interested in participating as an officer on the Steering Committee, please contact us. We are currently seeking a Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and additional members at large.

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank our newsletter sponsors who help to make our chapter possible. Newsletter sponsorships help to fund our chapter activities and initiatives. If you would like to advertise in future editions,

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FES Upcoming Event

City of Sarasota Wastewater Treatment Plant Field Trip

When Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Where City of Sarasota Utilities Department (1761 12th Street, Sarasota, Florida)

Cost \$20.00 (make check payable to: FES Myakka Chapter)

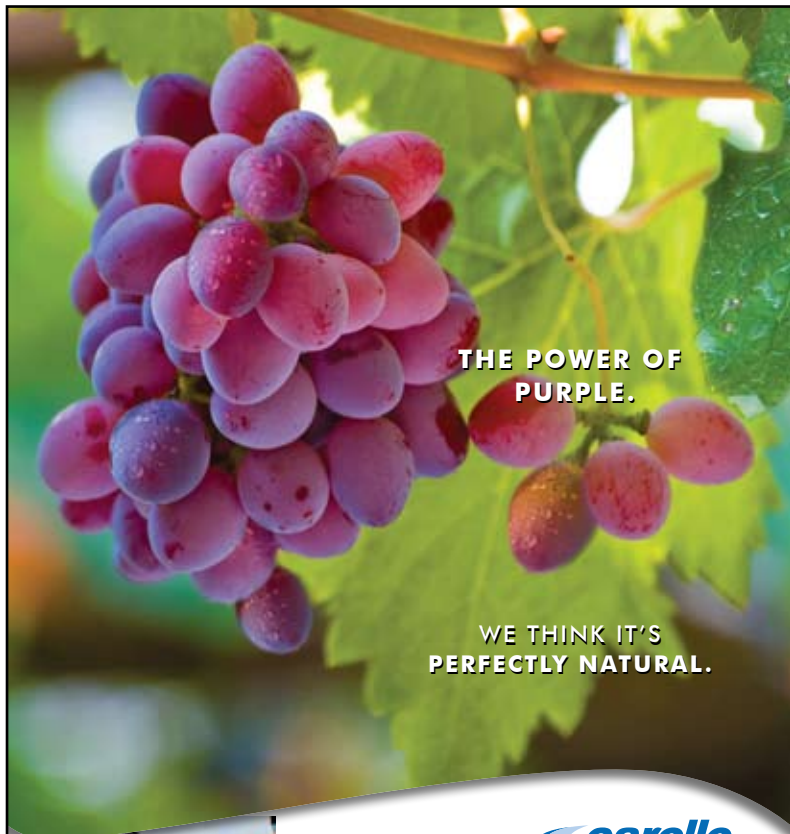
Please RSVP to <http://myakkachapterfes.weebly.com/luncheons.html>

Tour 1: 11:30 Start, Box Lunch @ 12:30

Tour 2: 12:00 Start, Box Lunch @ 12:30

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Anniversary

*Come celebrate the 1-year anniversary of
our Manastoa Chapter at our Summer Social!!*

June 24th, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Polo Grill and Bar

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Regulatory Update: Numeric Nutrient Criteria – Part 2

By Dave Hagan, Greeley and Hansen

Two years ago, many of us could not even spell “NNC” and now you may be getting tired of hearing about it. However, the NNC has such wide-ranging implication to all sorts of discharges that it is important to keep up with what is happening and to provide input to the process, when possible. The NNC is being imposed by the U.S. EPA in the State of Florida, first for fresh waters and later for marine waters. The U.S. EPA NNC will override water quality criteria that were being developed by FDEP. Numeric limits have been established for fresh waters that vary depending on location within the State. The adopted limits fall between 0.67 to 1.87 mg/L total nitrogen and between 0.06 to 0.49 mg/L total phosphorus, depending on the region. Marine water numeric limits are being developed and workshops are being held. It is expected that the proposed rule for marine waters and canals will be available November 11, 2011.

The arena, where this is all being played out, is expanding from regulators now to politicians.

In the State House, Representative Trudi Williams introduced HB-239, which among other things states that FDEP “may not implement or give any effect to the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s nutrient water quality criteria rules...” HB-239 recently passed in the House. A companion bill in the Senate is pending.

On March 10, 2011, US Senator Bill Nelson requested that U.S. EPA have a third-party review of the cost of implementing the NNC. Opponents of the NNC approach have determined that the cost is many billions of dollars, while the U.S. EPA has estimated the cost to be many millions of dollars. It is important that a true cost be developed that all can agree with. On April 6, 2011, Senator Nelson received a letter from the U.S. EPA agreeing to the third-party estimate of costs.

In the U.S. House, Representative Cliff Stearns (Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations) has sent a letter dated April

21, 2011 to the U.S. EPA requesting information on the NNC. Representative Stearns questions why the state of Florida’s estimate of the cost of implementation is “20 to 40 fold higher than EPA’s estimates.”

Back in the realm of the regulators, on April 22, 2011, FDEP filed a formal Petition “requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency withdraw its January 2009 determination that numeric nutrient criteria are necessary in Florida.” The U.S. EPA is expected to respond to FDEP’s Petition within 30 days. FDEP is contending that the State is competent to retain its jurisdiction over water quality issues within the State. FDEP has proposed, within the Petition, an approach that is very similar to the NNC, but with more flexibility and with the allowance of TMDLs as a way to meet nutrient criteria.

Stay tuned. We live in interesting times.



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Calendar of Upcoming Events

MAY

1-4 Florida Water Resources Conference, Orlando, FL

11 City of Sarasota Wastewater Treatment Plant Field Trip, Sarasota, FL

19 FWEA West Coast Chapter Luncheon, Tampa, FL

JUNE

2 FWEA Manasota Chapter Luncheon, Lakewood Ranch, FL

24 FWEA Manasota Chapter Social, Lakewood Ranch, FL

SAVE THE DATES!

Future Manasota Chapter Luncheon Meetings:

September 8, December 1

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Consultant's Corner: Siesta Key Advanced WWTP Upgrades and Future Plans

By Joseph Greeley, Stantec

Beautiful Siesta Key, a barrier island off the central western coast of Florida, is renowned for its pristine beaches. But, out of sight, a crucial piece of the island's infrastructure – a wastewater treatment plant – was not keeping up with the demands of the bustling tourist destination. Today, plans to rectify the situation are well underway.

In 2008, Stantec was retained by Sarasota County Utilities to evaluate the long-term feasibility of the 2.7-mgd Siesta Key Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant and to develop recommendations for upgrading, expanding or decommissioning. The feasibility report recommended short-term improvements to the treatment facility to allow continued reliable operation and ultimately final decommissioning of the facility by 2016. At that point, the plant will be replaced by a new regional master pump station and force main to convey wastewater off of Siesta Key for treatment on the mainland. The elimination of the treatment facility will reduce nutrient loading to the Grand Canal and will improve overall County treatment facility reliability by removing the facility from potential damage by coastal storms and flooding.

The design phase of the treatment plant improvements was completed in late 2010. The project was bid, and the plant improvements are now under construction. The improvements include new aeration diffusers in the two aeration tanks, rehabilitation of the influent screen, new secondary clarifier bridge and drive, and ancillary improvements to allow the facility to reliably operate until decommissioning in approximately five years. The construction phase of the project is due to be complete in September 2011.

The master pumping station and forcemain phase of the project involved the development of a route and alignment plan for the 18,600 linear-foot, 20-inch diameter Siesta Key force main, 13,750 linear-foot, 20-inch diameter Lockwood Ridge Interconnect forcemain, creation of the hydraulic model for the system and a preliminary design report. Stantec is now in the design process for the Siesta Key Master Pumping Station and the Siesta Key force main.

The master pumping station design concepts have been completed and were presented to the surrounding

community on April 14, 2011. Local community response was very positive to the project. The 18,600 linear foot forcemain design includes a 1,600 linear foot crossing of the Intercoastal Waterway between Siesta Key and the mainland. The force main design and Intercoastal Waterway crossing design are expected to be complete by early 2012.



The decommissioning of the Siesta Key AWWTP will remove over 8.5 mg of above ground process tanking located within a residential area. The improvements will reduce the process related footprint from five acres to less than two acres.



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June Luncheon Meeting - June 2, 2011

Venice Beach: Overview of the City's Efforts to Understand Recent Water Quality Concerns

by Len Bramble, P.E., Director of City of Venice Utilities Department

Abstract

The City of Venice has received recent attention for positive Enterococci samples at Venice Beach. Initial speculation by many assumed that the likely causes were from either the wastewater collection (gravity) system or from the wastewater lift station and force main (pressure) system.

In 2004, *Enterococcus spp.* took the place of fecal coliform as the new federal standard for water quality at public beaches, as it is believed to provide a better correlation than fecal coliform for many of the human pathogens that are often found in municipal sewage. However, it should not be assumed the samples are solely due to the presence of sewage, as other conditions can contribute to the presence of Enterococcus. The City has been working with the local Health Department, environmental groups, and the community to identify potential causes of the Enterococcus positive samples.

This presentation will provide a bit of recent history leading up to the 2011 Enterococci issues at Venice Beach and the City's efforts to identify and better understand the potential causes and/or contributors.

Len Bramble, P.E.

Lenox Bramble is the Director of the City of Venice Utilities Department. He has 31 years of experience in the water, wastewater, and public works fields and has worked in both the public and private sectors. Prior to his position as Utilities Director, he also served as the City of Venice Public Works Director for two years. Prior to his tenure at the City of Venice, Mr. Bramble worked as a state regulator in North Carolina and Washington; a County Public Works Director in South Carolina; and as a consultant in South Carolina, Florida, and Washington. Mr. Bramble is originally from Fayetteville, North Carolina and received his BS in Civil Engineering at North Carolina State.

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 - Ahi Tuna Nicoise Salad - Herb-Crusted Seared Tuna Loin served with Marinated Vegetables and Balsamic Glaze.

Choice #2 - Pressed Roast Beef - Flat Bread Filled with Shaved Prime Rib, Havarti Cheese, Horseradish Cream, and Caramelized Onions, served with Kettle Chips.

Dessert - Freshly Baked Smores Cookies

Cost: \$22 for pre-registration online or by mail, phone, fax, or e-mail • \$25 at the door
\$15 for municipality employees or student

No credit card payments day of event - check (made payable to FWEA) or cash only please

Pre-registration deadline: Friday, May 27

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 or register by phone, fax, or e-mail to Linda Maudlin
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