

2007-2008 Annual Report

Georgia Water Environment Federation's Wastewater Treatment Committee



**Georgia
Association of
Water
Professionals**

**Georgia Association Of Water Professionals
2121 New Market Parkway, Suite 144
Marietta, Georgia 30067**

August 2008

2007 - 2008 ANNUAL REPORT
GWEF - WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE (WWTC)

Chair: *Greg Goodman*
Vice-Chair: *Stuart Humphries*

To: *Ms. Pam Burnett, President, GAWP*
Mr. Srinivas Jalla, President, GWEF

Cc: *GWEF Executive Committee,*
Jack Dozier, Executive Director, GAWP

Prepared by: *Stuart Humphries & Greg Goodman*

1.0 Introduction:

The Georgia Section of Water Environment Federation (GWEF) initiated a Wastewater Treatment Committee (WWTC) in 2005 to serve the needs of the wastewater professionals working in the municipal sector. WWTC's leadership for the 2007-2008 year included the following individuals:

Chair: *Greg Goodman, Black & Veatch*
Vice-Chair: *Stuart Humphries, Crocker & Associates*
Legislative: *Holly Elmendorf, Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources*
Reuse: *Phil Nungesser, Hayes, James & Associates*
Plant Awards: *John Bailey, Douglasville-Douglas County WSA*
Residuals: *Steve Simpson, Black & Veatch*
Laboratory: *Jim Poff, Clayton County Water Authority*
Publications: *Bijoy Ghosh, Metcalf & Eddy*

The Committee brings together GAWP members interested in municipal wastewater treatment, and includes professionals in plant operations, management, and engineering design. The Committee provides opportunities for professional development in the technical aspects of wastewater treatment. The WWTC will continue to be responsible for the Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year Awards through its Plant Awards Subcommittee.

The following documents are attached at the end of this report to support the information presented:

1. Meeting Summary for September 28, 2007 meeting
2. Meeting Summary for November 7, 2007 meeting
3. Meeting Summary for January 15, 2008 meeting
4. Meeting Summary for March 11, 2008 meeting
5. Meeting Summary for May 8, 2008 meeting
6. Meeting Summary for July 15, 2008 meeting

2.0 Goals for the Year:

Six goals were developed, discussed and addressed in the 2007 - 2008 year. They are as follows:

1. Maintain our #1 original goal to continue development of a template for ongoing GAWP Conference program development. Continue to fully participate in developing wastewater treatment oriented sessions and activities for the GAWP Fall, Spring, and Annual Conferences. Identify desired topic areas and solicit papers and presentations to provide the desired content. Develop interactive activities such as round table discussions and or workshops for the conferences.
2. Since so many of the issues that the committee deals with relates to regulatory issue, one goal is to have more involvement with GA EPD on the WWTC.
3. Look into new testing required by GA EPD for Long-Term BOD (LTBOD) and for phosphorus and the implications for permittees. Approximately 300 letters were sent by GA EPD to major dischargers (greater than 1 MGD) requiring the LTBOD test to be performed once over the respective discharger's permit period. In addition, GA EPD has now added a requirement for monitoring phosphorus on their new permits, for plants without a phosphorus discharge limit.
4. Written guidelines for DMR reporting - The issue is the reporting or averaging of numbers at or below the detection limit, and the vagueness of the guidelines. The committee discussed whether it should be reported as one-half of the detection limit, what other states might be doing, and if there is a GA EPD policy.
5. Look into a possible trend of replacing fecal coliform with E. coli for reporting - Standard Methods now provides a test for E. coli. The MNGWPD is also now collecting data on E. coli in rivers.

6. Support of WEF Membrane Conference (January 27-30, 2008 in Atlanta) - by providing room monitors and assistant moderators. The conference will have tours of the Fowler and James Creek WRFs in Forsyth County as well as F. Wayne Hill WRC in Gwinnett County. The WWTC will be asked to provide tour group leaders.
7. Follow up of the previous year's work toward a recommendation to the Georgia EPD for a revision to the "Major Spill" language in the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control. Currently "The discharge of pollutants into the waters of the State by a POTW that exceeds the weekly average permitted effluent for biochemical oxygen demand (5-day) or total suspended solids by 50% or greater for any one day is classified as a major spill." With the discharge limits getting lower, particularly with CBOD₅ limits as low as 2.9 mg/L (the "Metro Limit"), realistically a facility could have to report a major spill with an effluent cBOD₅ of 6 or 7 mg/L. Major spills trigger a number of requirements including reporting the incident to those with water intakes within 20 miles downstream, notifying the local health department(s), "posting" the stream for 7 days to notify the public of the spill, etc. In 2007, the WWTC developed recommended language and work through the GWEF and GAWP leadership to propose new regulatory language to the Georgia EPD.

3.0 Results:

The committee continued to be one of the most active committees of GAWP, and averaged 16 members per meeting. The results of committee goals are as follows:

1. *GAWP Conference Program Development.* The committee received excellent participation in wastewater treatment oriented sessions and activities for the GAWP Fall, Spring, and Annual Conferences. Many of the conference sessions were geared to wastewater plant operators. Conference sessions included:
 - a. Fall Conference 2007 (Athens) - Wastewater Plant Controls; Influent Ammonia Challenges; Energy Savings at Wastewater Plants; Emerging Technologies for Wastewater Operators.
 - b. Spring Conference 2008 (Columbus) - Septage Receiving; Wastewater Facility Case Studies; Radioactive Sludge; Odor Control.
 - c. Annual Conference 2008 (Atlanta) - Wastewater Process; Wastewater Regulatory Update; Wastewater & Emerging Contaminants; Decentralized Sewer Alternatives; Wastewater Alternative Delivery.
2. *GA EPD Involvement in WWTC.* Dan Abrams of GA EPD is now an active member of the committee and Ernie Earn continues to be involved in the committee. At the May 8,

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2008 committee meeting, Kevin Ferrell attended the meeting to discuss GA EPD policies on LTBOD and phosphorus with the committee.

3. *LTBOD Testing and Phosphorus Testing.* GA EPD participated in the committee meeting of May 8, 2008, where there was an open discussion about these issues. A paper was presented by GA EPD staff at the GAWP Annual Conference on LTBOD testing. GAWP senior staff and Board will be working with GA EPD to get further dialog going on both the LTBOD and phosphorus issues.
4. *Written guidelines for DMR reporting.* The issue of the reporting or averaging of numbers at or below the detection limit, and the vagueness of the guidelines, was discussed at length by the committee. The utility members of the committee stated that while GA EPD did not have an official policy on this, overall they felt that GA EPD worked with each of them toward a fair approach. The committee decided that perhaps no policy is better than encouraging GA EPD to make a "one size fits all" policy, and decided to table this issue.
5. *E. Coli Replacing Fecal Coliform for reporting.* At the March 11, 2008 meeting, Steve Simpson and Susan Lee made a presentation on the history and timeline of fecal coliform and E. coli testing, pros and cons of changing to E. coli testing, and what other states in EPA Region 4 are requiring for testing.
6. *Support of WEF Membrane Conference (January 27-30, 2008 in Atlanta).* The conference was extremely successful and the attendance far exceeded the expectations of WEF. Srinivas Jalla recruited and coordinated a large team of volunteers to serve as room monitors and assistant moderators for the technical sessions, and well as tour guides and tour group leaders for the plant tours.
7. *Revisions to the "Major Spill" language in the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control.* Due to the challenges that GA EPD faced in the past year concerning the drought and the state water plan, GAWP leadership decided not to propose the new regulatory language to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Board during this period. However, GAWP does plan on bringing this issue forward within the next few months.

4.0 Committee Members:

Active committee members for the 2007-2008 year are listed below:

GWEF Wastewater Treatment Committee		
Last Name	First Name	Company Name
Abrams	Dan	Georgia EPD

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Last Name	First Name	Company Name
Adams	Bryan	Topcor Augusta
Adams	Russell	Robins AFB
Atkinson	Keith	Basswood, LLC
Baker	Jon	Crocker & Associates
Bartelmo	John	OMI
Bush	Rob	City of Atlanta
Earn	Ernest	Georgia EPD
Elmendorf	Holly	Gwinnett County Dept. of Water Resources
Geary	Steve	Innovative Water Services
Ghosh	Bijoy	Metcalf & Eddy
Goodman	Greg	Black & Veatch
Hadden	Bobby	Rindt-McDuff Associates, Inc.
Harrison	Karen	Jordan, Jones & Goulding
Hatabian	David	PBS&J
Higgs	Keith	Douglasville-Douglas County WSA
Hoffman	Jill	Jordan, Jones & Goulding
Humphries	Stuart	Crocker & Associates
Jalla	Srinivas	CH2M Hill
Johnson	Susan	Peachtree City WASA
Jones	Darrell	ITT Flygt
Khudenko	Boris	Khudenko Engineering, Inc.
Manga	Alma	Rindt-McDuff Associates, Inc.
Marshall	John	Forsyth County DWS
Matthews	Manuel	Cobb County Water System
Mize	Stanley	City of Gainesville
Nungesser	Phil	Hayes, James & Associates, Inc.
Poff	Jim	Clayton County WA
Rogers	Paula	American Water
Shukla	O.P.	Fulton County DPW
Sharp	Alexander	ARCADIS
Shah	Anup	Brown & Caldwell

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Last Name	First Name	Company Name
Shaw	Tiffany	Brown & Caldwell
Shimmin	John	City of Atlanta
Simpson	Stephen	Black & Veatch
Stewart	William	American Water
Waldrip	Wayne	Principle Environmental
Williams	Dave	Templeton & Associates
Wiseman	Joe	CDM
Wyzalek	Mark	Macon Water Authority
Yanosek	Kristina	CH2M Hill

ATTACHMENTS

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