WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

ARTHUR SIDNEY BEDELL AWARD

...recognizing an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the water environment profession and to the Federation and its Member Associations.

John K. Bennett

John Bennett has been employed by the Trinity River Authority (TRA) since the day after he graduated from high school. Originally hired as a seasonal grounds care employee for TRA's Central Regional Wastewater System (CRWS) on June 1, 1986, he was promoted to Maintenance Mechanic I on June 21 and then was promoted to the position of Chief Maintenance Mechanic just three years later. His skill, intelligence, and perseverance in this position have led to his reputation for being the person to get the job done. During his career, he has accrued a total of 1208 hours of TCEQ approved training time and earned a Class "A" Wastewater Certification in August of 2000. He graduated Phi Theta Kappa from Tarrant County College in Management in December of 2001.

Mr. Bennett's leadership abilities resulted in him serving at a supervisory level in every maintenance related division within the TRA Central System's 162 MGD facility. He played a key role in the development of a very successful maintenance department and was instrumental in developing the plant's overhaul and machine shop. With his extensive knowledge of the plant's operational processes and with a close working relationship with the operational staff, he provided numerous innovative ideas for changes to operational equipment design resulting in optimization of the treatment processes. After being selected in 2000 to develop and expand the personnel training program at the TRA Central plant, he worked closely with managers of the Operations, Maintenance, and Technical Services Departments to create training programs specific to the technical requirements of each, and those training programs have received TCEQ "Approved Provider" status. With his encouragement and support, two other CRWS personnel completed the training and became approved instructors as well. In 2003, Mr. Bennett was promoted to the position of Manager at the TRA Denton Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (DCRWS). DCWRS is located in one of the most rapidly growing areas in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The DCRWS plant's biggest challenge occurs three times a year while treating 100% of the flow from the Texas Motor Speedway. Under his leadership, the DCRWS staff has not had a TCEQ permit infraction during any NASCAR-sanctioned event and in 2009 the DCRWS facility was recognized with its first NACWA Platinum Award for five years with no TCEQ permit excursion.

Mr. Bennett uses his 1208 hours of TCEQ approved training for the benefit of others in the water and wastewater industry. His knowledge of maintenance procedures and process control allows him to serve as a technical advisor not only to operators at TRA but also to operators state-wide. He served as a co-instructor at the Texas Water Utilities Association Short School for the Pump and Motor Maintenance Course from 1990 through 1992. He became an approved instructor in 2000 for TCEQ accredited courses and in 2001 for First Aid/CPR with the National Safety Council. He has served as a volunteer instructor for the Utilities Safety Course at the Texas Water Utilities Association North Central Texas Regional School since 2000, and he organized a joint training and testing program that paired a 40-hour Wastewater Technologies Course with an on-site TCEQ testing day immediately following the training. The success of this program is apparent with 23 of the 32 attendees from North Texas earning Class "A" Certification. The pass rate for the training/testing days has been 72%, as opposed to the state average of 18% for the same time frame. According to TCEQ, this is the highest pass rate of any program statewide. In 2003, he volunteered as a subject matter expert for the TCEQ, analyzing job tasks of wastewater and collections systems operations. Additionally he teaches TCEQ and National Safety Council approved wastewater, safety, and instructor development courses statewide as a contract instructor for Eagle Training Resources. To date, he has trained over 225 people in First Aid CPR and 640 people in Confined Space Certification.

John Bennett joined WEAT in 1994. In 1995, he became the Trinity River Authority Operations Challenge team Captain. In 1999 John helped start WEAT's safety committee. In 2003, after retiring from the Operations Challenge Team, John became the state Professional Wastewater Operator (PWO) Chair. In his role, he was responsible for organizing and leading the Texas Operations Challenge Competition, held in conjunction with Texas Water every year. John served as Special Assistant to the WEF Competition Committee in 2004 and 2005 and was selected Chair of the local Competition Committee for WEFTEC 2006 in Dallas. He has presented in over 14 WEAT technical sessions and has served as a technical resource for wastewater plants nationwide. In 2007, Mr. Bennett became active in the WEAT North Texas Section, serving as Vice President, President and currently as the Past President. In 2010, John became the WEAT Board Vice-President.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

PILLARS OF THE PROFESSION AWARD

...recognizing a longtime member of WEAT or WEF who has demonstrated meaningful and substantial contributions toward the improvement of the water environment via a distinguished career in the wastewater treatment or water quality industry.

WARREN N. BREWER

Warren N. Brewer recently retired as the Regional Manager for the Northern Region for the Trinity River Authority. Mr. Brewer attended East Texas State University and the University of Texas at Arlington majoring in engineering and business. He joined the Trinity River Authority in September 1977 as Operations Chief of the Central Regional Wastewater System, and was then reassigned to the Northern Region as Manager of Administrative and Technical Services. He was promoted to Assistant Regional Manager, Northern Region, before assuming his current responsibilities in 1979. Before joining the Trinity River Authority, Mr. Brewer was employed for eight years with Forrest and Cotton, Inc., a consulting engineering firm, where he was principally involved in planning, design, and operational assistance for TRA projects. In addition, he previously served as City Engineer and City Planner for the City of Farmers Branch, Texas, and as City Engineer and Director of Public Works for the City of Sulphur Springs, Texas. Mr. Brewer is a former Jaycee and Kiwanian, and a past President of the Cotton Belt Water and Sewer Association. He has been active in the National Association of Clean Water Agencies; is a past Chairman of the Texas Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies, a former board member of the Texas Water Research Foundation, and until recently served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Water Conservation Association, and as Chairman of the North Central Texas Council of Governments' Water Resources Council.

Warren has successfully managed the development and operations of water and wastewater systems that serve more than 1.8 million people in 40 cities in the north central Texas area. During his 33 years with TRA he has been responsible for the creation of regional systems as well as the expansion and improvements of existing systems. The improvements in the treatment provided by the regional systems have had major beneficial impacts on the quality of the water in the Trinity River. During Warren's career the quality of the river has improved to the degree that it has become a major water supply source (reuse water) that helps meet the water needs of the growing population of the north central Texas region.

Over the years Warren has gained the respect and trust of the numerous customer cities that has been critical to the success of the Regional Systems. He has achieved that because he has provided a high quality and dependable service in a manner that represents the best interest of the customers working together as partners.

Warren has also been a strong supporter of the professional and technical development of his staff, including the operators of the various systems. This support has resulted in the growth of the personnel and in their commitment to performing high quality work. As a result, the regional systems have received numerous awards for excellence in their operations.

Under Warren's leadership and management, the Authority is a major supporter of WEAT. Representatives of the Authority have served in numerous officer roles and have been active participants on various WEAT committees. Mr. Brewer has been supportive of the Authority's Operations Challenge Team, which has won the national competition for four of the last five years and has certainly not only profited the Authority but also Texas’s wastewater industry across the country.

WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
OUTGOING WEAT PRESIDENT 2010-2011

...recognizing an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the water environment profession and to the Federation and its Member Associations.

Dow J. "Jody" Zabolio, P.E.

Jody Zabolio is currently serving as the President of the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT). Born in Houston, Texas, Jody received his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas.

Upon graduation, Jody began his career with CH2M Hill, where he worked on a variety of water and wastewater designs and studies. In 1996, he went to work for the City of Fort Worth Water Department as the assistant to the Program Manager for over $200 million in capital improvements to upgrade the City's sanitary sewer collection system. He moved into operations in 1999 at Fort Worth's Village Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant as Manager of Technical Services. While there, he earned his Class A Wastewater Operator's license. In 2004, Jody went to work for the Upper Trinity Regional Water District, where he currently serves as the Assistant Director for Operations. In this capacity, he is responsible for managing the operations of three water reclamation plants and two drinking water plants, which serve customer cities and utilities throughout a large portion of Denton County. During Jody's tenure, two of the plants, the Lakeview Regional Water Reclamation Plant and the Peninsula Water Reclamation Plant have been awarded WEAT's Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Year Awards; and Ron Lucero, then Superintendent of the Lakeview Plant was awarded WEAT's Outstanding Municipal Operator of the Year Award. Both of these plants have also been the recipient of multiple Platinum Peak Performance Awards for excellence in operations from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. The Riverbend Plant has received multiple Gold Awards.

For the North Texas Section of WEAT, Jody served as Secretary, Vice-President, President-Elect and President. He considers a highlight of his Presidency the creation of the Daryl Hall Memorial Scholarship, which offers opportunities for career advancement for operators and maintenance personnel within the industry. Additionally, Jody has chaired the planning committee for the annual February Seminar and served on the local arrangements committee for the first- and second-ever on-site national competition for the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP). He also served numerous times as a judge for the local and state level competitions for the award.

Jody has served WEAT as a member of the Long-Range Planning Committee, on numerous local host committees for Texas Water and on other ad-hoc committees. He has served for many years on the Program Committee for Texas Water, chairing the committee from 2006-2007. Jody has also chaired the Strategic Planning and Student Chapters Committees, is a recipient of the President's Service Award and is a member of the Texas Chapter of the Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers.

For WEF, Jody has served on the Utility Management Committee, the Public Communication and Outreach Committee, and the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Committee. He was chair of the SJWP sub-committee during the 2003-2004 transition period to full committee status. Jody has also participated in the WEF Leadership Training and WEFMAX meetings.

WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION

WILLIAM D. HATFIELD AWARD

...recognizing an operator of wastewater treatment plants for outstanding performance and professionalism.

Frederick R. Moore

Mr. Frederick (Rick) R. Moore has been employed with San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA), Woodlands Division since October 1997. His excellent job performance and professionalism in the domain of wastewater system operations have resulted in continued promotions during his tenure. Rick's initial employment as an Operator at one of San Jacinto River Authority's three wastewater treatment plants was soon upgraded to the role of Lead Operator. Rick was later promoted to Chief Operator with supervisory duties related to all wastewater treatment plants. In 2009 Rick was promoted to his current role of Wastewater Superintendent. As Wastewater Superintendent, Rick manages regulatory compliance and field operations related to all wastewater treatment plants and conveyance systems. He also provides significant input related to the overall management of the wastewater system and its employees. Rick leads by example and has created exceptional operations teams with a shared vision of excellence and camaraderie. Together, with his operations team, Rick has worked diligently, with attention to detail, to optimize operations, and to ensure that SJRA wastewater facilities continually produce effluent of the highest quality. Rick also ensures that all work is performed in accordance with established safe operating practices and procedures. Rick was the first chair person of the SJRA Safety Committee and continued in that capacity for 1½ years.

Rick started his career in wastewater in 1991 as an operator trainee at a small utility in southern Florida. Over the next six years, he operated nine municipal WWTPs and five package plants, encompassing a wide range of treatment processes including conventional, contact stabilization, complete mix, and extended aeration activated sludge. He gained valuable experience with many sludge disposal practices such as on-site and off-site land application, landfill and composting. Rick also continuously expanded his knowledge and understanding of State and Federal Regulations. During this time, Rick developed and embraced the belief that our most precious resource (water) should not be treated as a commodity, but as a public trust.

Rick is an active member of the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT), and the Texas Water Utilities Association (TWUA). He keeps abreast of current and new wastewater treatment practices and technologies via trade publications, the Internet, his relationship with equipment manufacturer’s representatives and engineering firms, and of course by attendance of WEF/WEAT, TWUA and TEEX seminars, events and classes.

Rick is happily married to his bride of 22 years and has two children, one in college and the other in high school. He appreciates living in The Woodlands, Texas area and enjoys barbecuing, writing, and riding his motorcycle during his free time.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC OFFICIAL AWARD

...recognizing an elected official or regulator who has actively promoted sound science in policy and regulations affecting water environment issues within the State of Texas through documented, significant contributions in the areas of legislation, public policy, government service, and/or other area of public prominence.

J. KEVIN WARD

Mr. Ward currently serves as General Manager of the Trinity River Authority of Texas, which is governed by a 25-member board of directors appointed by the governor. His role as Chief Executive Officer of TRA tasks him with oversight of the largest river authority in Texas and the largest wholesale provider of wastewater treatment services in the state. With the support of seven staff groups and more than 400 employees, Mr. Ward drives the implementation of board policy for the operation and development of five water treatment facilities, five wastewater treatment facilities and one recreation project, plus water sales from four reservoirs – all serving 63 wholesale customers including cities, municipalities or districts throughout the Trinity River basin. Mr. Ward is also charged with managing the Authority's assets of more than $1.7 billion and a current operating budget of more than $199 million.

Mr. Ward served as executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) from May 2002 to February 2011. As the past executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), Mr. Ward served as the chief executive officer of a state agency employing over 300 scientists, engineers, lawyers, GIS professionals, finance officers, and related support staff. Under the direction of a six-member board appointed by the governor, the TWDB is responsible for planning the statewide development of water resources, financing water-related infrastructure, and maintaining and disseminating natural resource data for Texas, which includes water-bearing formations and watersheds.

Mr. Ward is the immediate past president of the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities and was an active participant on the State/Environmental Protection Agency State Revolving Fund workgroup several years ago for implementing the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs. He also served on the Visiting Committee for the Bureau of Economic Geology. He was the presiding officer on the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force, created through Senate Bill 1094, 78th Texas Legislature, which produced the Report to the 79th Legislature and the Best Management Practices Guide to encourage increased use of conservation throughout the state. In addition, Mr. Ward served on the advisory committee of the Caroline and William N. Lehrer Distinguished Chair in Water Engineering, established by the Agriculture Program and the Agricultural Engineering Department of Texas A&M University, which selected the first Water Resources Engineering professor in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

During his 23-year tenure with the TWDB, he served in several capacities, including financial analyst, finance section chief, and development fund manager. He served in various management positions in the agency, specializing in the development and implementation of the financial aspects of the TWDB's State Revolving Fund loan programs. From March 1996 to April 2002, Mr. Ward served as the TWDB's deputy executive administrator for the Office of Project Finance and Construction Assistance. Immediately prior to joining the TWDB, Mr. Ward was an officer and controller for two management consulting firms in Austin, both serving a client base of water and wastewater municipal utility districts and water supply corporations.

Mr. Ward received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin in 1982.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OF THE YEAR
Category 1 (<1 MGD)

...presented to a municipal wastewater treatment plant in Texas that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.

Buda Wastewater Treatment Plant
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

The Buda Wastewater Treatment Facility is owned by the City of Buda, Texas and is located near Interstate 35 south of Austin. The Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA) has operated and maintained the plant since 2001. The plant currently has a permitted capacity of 0.95 MGD. Effluent is pumped to the headwaters of Plum Creek, a major tributary of the San Marcos and Guadalupe Rivers. The plant has strict discharge limits including 7 mg/I carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD), 12 mg/l TSS, 2 mg/l ammonia nitrogen and 1.2 mg/l total phosphorus. Recognizing the need for growth, the City has recently awarded contracts to expand the plant's capacity to 1.5 MGD. The permit for the expanded plant will be even lower including 5 mg/l carbonaceous BOD and 0.8 mg/l total phosphorus.

The Buda plant operates as a "complete mix" activated sludge process. The plant also maintains a Type I reuse authorization. The plant process consists of rotary fine screen with integral screenings washer and drying auger, influent lift station, an emergency holding pond, aeration basins with fine bubble diffusers, a MLSS splitter box where alum is introduced for phosphorus removal, secondary clarifiers, disinfection with gaseous chlorine, and filtration. Waste activated sludge is thickened, aerobically digested, and dewatered by belt filter press. Effluent will provide the City of Buda with irrigation water to several parks and water features in the near future.

The operators of the Buda Wastewater Treatment Plant are also responsible for operating three additional wastewater treatment systems including the Wimberley Plant, Shadow Creek Collection System and Plant, and the Sunfield Plant. Chief Operator Ed Boettner supervises all aspects of the various facilities. Dennis Walker, Allan Smith, and Fred Hernandez operate and maintain the plants and perform process control monitoring. Ed holds a "B" Wastewater license and a Class II Collections Systems license, Dennis holds an "A" Wastewater license, Allan holds a "C" Wastewater license, and Fred holds a "D" Wastewater license.

GBRA's health and safety programs are outstanding and have been recognized by Texas Water Utilities Association and the Texas Water Conservation Association Risk Management Fund. Health and Safety is managed with strict adherence to the GBRA Safety Manual and the GBRA Health and Safety Policy Manual. The objective of every GBRA employee is "Zero Lost Time" and has been achieved at the plant for the past 9 years. Safety meetings are conducted monthly and the Team is represented by membership on the GBRA Safety and Health Committee.

In order for a plant to consistently meet its permit requirements, operators have to incorporate facilities maintenance into daily operations. GBRA utilizes an aggressive preventive and predictive maintenance program to ensure the equipment operates at peak performance. GBRA uses a computerized maintenance management system (CMMS). The system tracks preventive maintenance activities, generates work orders, and logs scheduled and non-scheduled tasks as they are completed. All major and critical equipment and related components are included in the CMMS. Predictive maintenance practices utilize advanced technology for anticipating and diagnosing equipment problems. This predictive maintenance consists of vibration analysis, motor circuit evaluation, infrared thermography, and oil analysis.

By blending technical expertise, a safe working environment, and facilities maintenance, the Buda Team has been able to operate a facility that consistently produces high quality effluent necessary to protect the sensitive waters of the Guadalupe River basin.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OF THE YEAR
Category 2 (<1 MGD)

...presented to a municipal wastewater treatment plant in Texas that has consistently exhibited outstanding performance of daily activities beyond the normal call of duty.

Woodlands Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 1
San Jacinto River Authority

The San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) owns, operates, and maintains Wastewater Treatment Plant No. 1 located in The Woodlands, Texas. WWTP No. 1 is a regional plant that serves the wastewater treatment needs of several Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs) in the immediate area. Each MUD has entered into an agreement with SJRA for financing, construction, and operation of the water supply and wastewater treatment systems. SJRA provides wholesale services to the MUDs, and the MUDs provide retail services to their customers. The treatment plant has a design capacity of 7.8 million gallons per day (MGD) with a permitted 2-hour peak flow of 18.0 MGD. The plant receives influent from primarily residential dwellings and commercial businesses with several industrial users. The average daily flow is approximately 3.5 MGD.

WWTP No. 1 has an excellent record of permit compliance. The plant has two possible discharge points with slightly different limits. Outfall 001 has permit limits of CBOD 10 mg/L, TSS 15 mg/L, and ammonia nitrogen 3.0 mg/L. Outfall 002 is a reuse stream with more stringent limits of CBOD 7 mg/L, TSS 15 mg/L, and ammonia nitrogen 2.0 mg/L. In the past two years the plant has had only one compliance violation. The violation was due to a manhole that failed during a rain event of 8.68" in an 18 hour period. The excessive rain caused the nearby creek to rise and flow into the failed manhole. The plant's lift station pumps could not keep up with the flow and overflowed the channel. The plant regularly produces effluent CBOD and TS5 results that are a third of the permitted requirement with ammonia nitrogen averaging a mere 0.20 mg/L.

SJRA has a combined total of 21 wastewater operators with nine having direct responsibilities with WWTP No. 1. In addition to the 21 wastewater operators, eight maintenance personnel have Class D wastewater licenses. The maintenance staff does not operate any of SJRA's treatment plants but have acquired their licenses to allow them a better understanding of how the treatment processes work and how their duties may impact the system. The other 12 operators work at SJRA's other treatment plants but are cross-trained at WWTP No. 1 to allow flexibility in case they are needed.
SJRA also utilizes 24 hour shift operations within their entire water and wastewater system. With this schedule it allows for immediate response to any issue that may arise and it allows for a licensed operator to keep constant tracking of plant operations.

SJRA meets the criteria of having a safety program that is well documented and active. It has a functioning safety committee that performs annual assessments of all SJRA facilities, reviews near misses and incident reports, and endeavors to promote safety in the field. SJRA has several written programs that cover hazard and compliance issues such as confined space entry, hazard communication, and respiratory protection. Employees attend monthly and periodic safety meetings and training that stress the importance of safety in daily duties, provide education and knowledge about work practices and associated hazards, and provide an avenue for employee interaction and discussion on various safety issues. SJRA is always looking for ways to improve with due diligence in environmental matters, reliable operations, consistent performance, and outstanding teamwork when it comes to environmental stewardship.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

OUTSTANDING OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

...presented to an operator and member of WEAT who has provided dedication, years of faithful service, and professionalism at their facility.

Kerry W. Maxwell

Kerry has nearly thirty years of experience with the City of College Station, the majority of which was spent performing mostly maintenance duties. For most of his career Kerry had little to do with plant process control measurements and adjustments, optimizing sludge handling operations, and other technical aspects of operations. In the summer of 2008, due to his experience and his clearly outstanding leadership ability, Kerry was promoted to Lead Operator and put in charge of the Carters Creek WWTP operations. The Carters Creek plant is the more technically demanding of the two plants that the City owns and operates, and Kerry asked for the opportunity to take that challenge. He has had to learn the technical skills associated with operations on the job as he went along. Kerry wasted little time proving that his move to operations was a good decision.

Early in 2010, the City began a project to improve some of the systems at Carters Creek using outside, contracted resources, including bleach injection on the NPW system, replacement of some clarifier and sludge thickener drives, and better pumping and measurement for the WAS system. As Lead Operator, Kerry had to coordinate the construction with staff and the contractors, making sure that all conflicts were resolved in such a manner that processes remained uninterrupted and compliance was maintained. He also had a great deal of input in the various decisions that have to be made from day to day during the construction project. Kerry did not just do these well, he excelled at them. The project was finished with no permit excursions that could be attributed to the construction activities or Kerry's coordination with them. During the construction at Carters Creek, problems developed in the centrifuge at the Lick Creek WWTP. While that centrifuge was out of service, Kerry coordinated hauling Lick Creek WAS sludge in liquid form to Carters Creek for dewatering and disposal. During this change in operation, Kerry was able to help maintain compliance at the Lick Creek plant, and avoid upsets at Carters Creek with the additional loading.

With the limited previous experience that Kerry had with the more technical operations, this is an outstanding accomplishment by itself. It is not, however, his greatest accomplishment during this project. While the modifications were being made to the WAS pumping system, Kerry talked with the contractor and saw an opportunity to install a few valves that were not on the plans, but which would give us the option of returning to using the old WAS pumping system of airlift pumps should problems arise with the new WAS pumps. Kerry's idea was implemented, and as it turned out, was essential to maintaining permit compliance. There were delays with the installation and programming of the new WAS pumping system which would have resulted in the City being out of compliance, had Kerry not suggested the modification.

Kerry continues to develop his skills not only on the job, but through professional development. Within the last year, Kerry has attended seminars and training on chlorine gas safety, groundwater operations, utilities safety, and biosolids treatment and disposal. He is also studying and working toward attaining a Class B Wastewater Treatment license.

Kerry not only takes pride in his work as an operator, but gladly shares his enthusiasm for this industry by providing tours of the Carters Creek WWTP for groups as diverse as elementary school students, Cub Scouts, and graduate environmental students from Texas A&M.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

SIDNEY L. ALLISON AWARD

...presented to a person or organization that has made significant contributions to the engineering, science, and/or operation and maintenance of wastewater collection and pumping stations with the mission to transport wastewater to a treatment plant.

CITY OF ARLINGTON TEXAS
WATER UTILITIES DIVISION
WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM DIVISION

The Arlington Water Utilities Department operates approximately 1,200 miles of sanitary sewer collections system pipelines and four lift stations. The department focuses on making progress in its efforts to improve service to the citizens and visitors of Arlington.

The Department is divided into three operating sections, the Business Services division; the Water Treatment division, and the Operations division. The Operations division consists of four teams: Engineering, Operations Support Services, North Field Operations (NFOPS) and South Field Operations (SFOPS). Included in the SFOPS is the Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) team, coordinated by the I/I Supervisor. With a total of 14 employees, this group is responsible for numerous field operations activities. This includes sanitary sewer line cleaning, video inspection and review, sanitary sewer service line repairs, assisting with the FOG awareness program, the Outreach Initiative agreement with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the coordination of supplemental environmental projects, assisting with water main breaks/repairs, and water/sewer special projects.

Specifically for wastewater collections, it is the goal of the I/I team to clean at least 20% of the 6 thru 15 inch sanitary sewer mains annually. Currently there is 5,955,297 linear feet. In FY 2009/2010 the field crews cleaned approximately 2,791,147 linear feet of sanitary sewer mains. This equates to approximately 47% of the total linear footage of the 6 thru 15 inch mains.

The I/I team had 18,956 linear feet of sewer lines treated for root control. The program included 6 inch to 15 inch sanitary sewer lines in the root treatment program. In FY 2009/2010, 133,720 feet of sanitary sewer lines were televised, this included 47,424 feet of new construction, 65,770 feet of existing sanitary sewer mains and 20,526 feet of sanitary sewer service lines.

Arlington Water Utilities Department entered into a contract for the repair of private sanitary sewer service lines, identified as being located between the right-of-way line and the sanitary sewer main. During 2009/2010, the contractor conducted 65 emergency sanitary sewer service line repairs and 185 routine sewer line repairs.

In Fiscal Year 2010, the I/I Field Operations team completed a total of 3,884 work orders.

The I/I team worked closely with the department's Water Resource Section to conduct customer education programs on the proper disposal of fats, oils and grease. The department distributes informational door hangers and brochures in an effort to educate customers after problems with grease have been identified. A website and newspaper advertisements are also utilized. In FY 2009/2010 3,301 door hangers, five different pamphlets related to Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG), 13 awareness educational CD's and 7,150 grease can lids were distributed to various customers. In addition, over 2,373 educational color post cards were sent to customers in areas where sewer stoppage's related to grease occurred.

In May 2010, the required annual report on the Voluntary Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) outreach initiative was submitted to TCEQ. The report detailed the status of the 14 items that were submitted in the agreement. Arlington Water Utilities has continued on-course with the scheduled plan. Additionally, within the Wastewater Master Plan work, the City completed a technical memorandum on the sanitary sewer collection system. Included is the CMOM self audit along with a review and assessment of all the sanitary sewer evaluation system (SSES) studies. A comprehensive Sanitary Sewer Master Plan was completed for Arlington's collection system in 2008.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

WINFIELD S. MAHLIE AWARD

...recognizing a member of WEAT who has made significant contributions to the art and science of wastewater treatment and water pollution control.

Leonard E. Ripley, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE

Dr. Ripley is a leader in wastewater treatment plant design and implementation of emerging technologies. He also is known and respected for his expertise, creativity, and generosity in teaching, mentoring and supporting professional development among environmental engineers. An Associate with Freese and Nichols, Inc., Leonard is the firm's senior wastewater process engineer. His background includes master planning and design of municipal and industrial wastewater and water treatment plants, and he designed and manages the treatment process laboratory at Freese and Nichols' Fort Worth headquarters. His expertise includes bench- and pilot-scale testing; process analysis and process design; and operational troubleshooting and assistance. Particular areas of expertise include anaerobic processes, biological nutrient removal, and energy conservation/reduction. He earned a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1988), an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from Vanderbilt University (1980), a B.E.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in (1975), and a B.S. in Biology from the University of Texas at El Paso (1973).

Leonard began his career in the modeling section of the Texas Water Quality Board, where he developed mathematical models for pollutant transport/degradation in streams and rivers in the Houston area. He continued in the area of water quality modeling at the Texas Water Development Board, shifting toward calculation of required nutrient loadings to Texas estuaries for fisheries protection.

After his work with the Water Development Board, Leonard earned his master's degree at Vanderbilt University, where his graduate research focused on denitrification kinetics. This led to his doctoral research on methane yield and anaerobic process control at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Leonard developed the IA/PA technique and authored the paper, "Improved Alkalimetric Monitoring for Anaerobic Digestion of High Wastes Strength." The ground-breaking paper described a simple test that operators of many industrial anaerobic treatment systems have adopted to monitor digester stability.

At the completion of his doctorate in 1988, Leonard joined Applied Technologies, Inc. in Milwaukee, WI as their wastewater process engineer. His projects included wastewater plants for municipalities, as well as for such industries as a duck farm, numerous food processing plants, pulp/paper mills, and chemical manufacturing firms. Much of his work focused on analysis, development, and design of anaerobic treatment systems.

A longtime member of WEAT and WEF, Leonard has been a frequent and sought-after presenter for seminars and for Texas Water, where he often has served as a judge for the University Forum. Leonard has taught graduate classes at UT-Arlington and given presentations at TACWA, operator short schools, utility association meetings, and (his favorite!) to elementary school science classes. He also has taught the wastewater portion of P.E. review courses at UT-Arlington and at Freese and Nichols.

One of Leonard's passions is championing implementation of new wastewater technologies in Texas. In 1992, he conducted the treatability study that led to TCEQ's approval of the first SBR plant in Texas greater than one MGD; he contributed the process design for the state's first municipal integrated fixed film activated sludge (IFAS) plant; and he currently is assisting two cities in evaluating implementation of the Cannibal™ process. Other ongoing projects include addition of aeration basin anoxic zones to reduce nutrient discharge and energy consumption, implementation of municipal anaerobic co-digestion facilities, and commercialization of an industrial process to convert waste biomass to "green gasoline." Leonard holds two wastewater patents, for the Process and Apparatus for Applying Alternating Anaerobic Contact Processing for the Treatment of Wastewater (U.S. Patents #6,096,214 & #6,383,371). He has authored numerous papers and has acted as a trusted advisor to many other professionals.

When not contemplating wastewater treatment, Leonard enjoys participating in church activities. He has chaired or served on building, music/worship, and call committees, and he has played in, accompanied, and led various musical ensembles. He and his wife, Melanie, have three sons, and Leonard has been a truck driver/loader, half-time announcer, and solo/ensemble accompanist for the (Keller ISD) Central High School band. He also enjoys woodworking and helping with Habitat for Humanity projects.

When asked for advice to new employees, Leonard replied in part, "Don't limit yourself to doing things the way they've always bee

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

EMERGING LEADER AWARD

...presented to a young member of WEAT who has provided outstanding service in support of the Association in the form of committee involvement, recruiting, volunteer time, event participation, or other contributions.

Jeff Sober

Jeff Sober has worked in the Water/Wastewater field for the last 11 years beginning as an apprentice for Environmental Training, Inc., an operations consulting firm. Jeff specialized in plant assessments to identify areas of O&M improvement through out the US. He trained under a Double A water/wastewater operator and received first hand knowledge of process control of wastewater plants.

Jeff graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Civil Engineering. He joined Carollo Engineers in Dallas and works primarily on wastewater treatment plant projects with a focus on solids processing and handling. Jeff's professional experience includes master planning, design, construction management, condition assessment, and project management.

Jeff has been an active member of Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) since 2005. In 2007, Jeff accepted a position on the WEF Student and Young Professionals Committee. In 2008, he accepted a position on the WEF Membership Committee and the role of Co-Chair of the NTS Young Professionals (YP) Committee. As the Committee Co-Chair, he encouraged involvement of YPs in various WEAT activities, arranged YP plant tours, organized YP networking and social outings, and generated YP attendance levels that were the highest in the last five years.

In 2008, Jeff joined the WEAT Operations Challenge Committee. He was responsible for handling the behind the scenes logistics for the Operations Challenge program. During this time he also served as a WEF Operations Challenge National Competition Collection Systems Event Judge. In 2010, Jeff took over the Committee Chair role for the WEAT Operations Challenge Committee, a year-round responsibility. Since taking a lead roll in the Texas Operations Challenge program, the event has seen the highest level of donations and sponsorships to date.

Jeff currently serves as the Chair of the NTS Seminar Committee and recently completed the organization of the successful February Seminar, which had the highest attendance to date. Jeff also serves as the Chair of the NTS Fundraising Committee; in this capacity, he developed and organized the March 2010 Sporting Clays Tournament. The event was extremely successful, with over 140 WEAT participants and $7,000 raised for the North Texas Section scholarships and Water for People.

Jeff is involved in the WEAT North East Texas Section (NETS). He accepted a position on their Seminar Committee and helped organize their technical seminar. Jeff developed a new sponsorship approach with multi-level categories of sponsors. This new sponsorship structure has led to NETS' most profitable seminar to date.

Jeff's other WEAT volunteer activities include science fair judging, leading a cook-off team at the annual NTS Cook-off event, and participating in NTS fund-raising events for Water for People.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

EXEMPLARY EMPLOYER AWARD

...recognizing Texas employers that support and facilitate employee involvement and activities within the Water Environment Association of Texas and the Water Environment Federation.

Carollo Engineers

Carollo Engineers is an environmental engineering firm specializing in the planning, design, and construction of water and wastewater facilities. The firm was founded in 1933 and is headquartered in Walnut Creek, CA. Carollo currently maintains 28 offices in 12 states.

Carollo's staff includes 450 civil, structural, electrical, mechanical, environmental, and instrumentation and control engineers as well as scientists, planners, architects and CAD designers. All have training and expertise specific to water-related engineering. Carollo's teams work collaboratively with owners to find the best ways to protect and enhance our public water supplies and our lakes, streams, rivers and oceans.

Carollo Engineers is committed to its employees. As part of this commitment, Carollo offers financial support to employees for WEAT and WEF participation, such as full reimbursement for memberships, activities, meetings, and conference attendance. Carollo Engineers advocates employee participation in WEAT and WEF activities. Often times, WEAT and WEF activities and meetings occur during working hours. As part of their commitment, Carollo allots overhead time to work on WEAT/WEF activities during working hours.

Carollo has consistently supported WEAT's objectives and activities both at the state level and at the section level. At the state level, Carollo associates are chairs of the Specialty Conference Committee (Meera Victor) and the Operations Challenge Committee (Jeff Sober). Numerous other staff members are active members of the various committees. Carollo associates have also been very active at WEAT's section level and have been officers at several sections. Darryl Corbin is currently the President of the North Texas Section. Ana Pena-Tijerina and Rudy Kilian are both past presidents of the South Texas Chapter. Carollo associates have lead and participated in many section committees. Carollo associates gave ten presentations at the Texas Water 2010 conference.

Carollo has been very active with WEF at the national level. This participation is part of the company's commitment to share its leadership and technical expertise and improve the water industry as a whole. Carollo associates have been active in over thirty WEF committees, have been involved in writing several WEF manuals of practice, and help shape each year's technical program. At the WEFTEC 2010 conference, as well as the past several WEFTEC conferences, Carollo associates presented over twenty technical papers and posters – an outstanding accomplishment for any single engineering firm.

Carollo Engineers fosters an atmosphere of professional growth among its employees. Many long-term Carollo employees have been members of WEAT and WEF for a number of years. These employees mentor our incoming young engineers. The wisdom and positive experiences in the WEAT and WEF organizations inspire the Young Professionals to expand their technical and professional growth.

Carollo also recognizes that the ambitions and skills of today's young professional engineers need to be shared with up-and-coming engineering students. Carollo not only sponsors and participates in career fairs at industry conferences and college events, but also attends career days at local junior and senior high schools to expose these students to attractive career opportunities available in the water environment field.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Ronald B. Sieger Biosolids Management Award

...presented to a WEAT member, an engineering firm, a specific project, a municipality, or a specific municipal or industrial facility that has made significant accomplishments in the field of biosolids technology and management practices within the boundaries of the State of Texas.

City of Waco Water Utility Services
Metropolitan Area Regional Sewer System
Biosolids Management Program

The Waco Metropolitan Area Regional Sewer System (WMARSS) treatment facility serves the cities of Bellmead, Hewitt, Lacy-Lakeview, Lorena, Robinson, Waco and Woodway (Texas). As part of WMARSS Asset Management, the staff at the City of Waco Water Utility Services looked at the origin of plant influent loading and the available capacity at the WWTP, finding that 30 to 35 percent was high strength organics (HSO) and fat, oil and grease (FOG).
The waste to energy initiative was initiated and WMARSS partnered with local food producing industries and restaurants to truck their HSO/FOG directly to the WMARSS anaerobic digestion facility. Residential customers can use oil recycling stations.

A 500 kilowatt combined heat and power (CHP) generator uses produced methane to provide 1/3 of the plant's electrical power. The water jacket heat from the CHP heats the digester complex. The remaining methane gas provides 50% of the heat demand for the dryer/pelletized process.

The waste to energy project is continually growing with new initiatives. The City of Waco and consulting engineers are exploring options to better serve our industries with additional disposal options for hydrolyzed feather waste. WMARSS is evaluating enlarging the CHP complex and utilizing the CHP exhaust to supply the heat needed for the dryer/pelletizer.

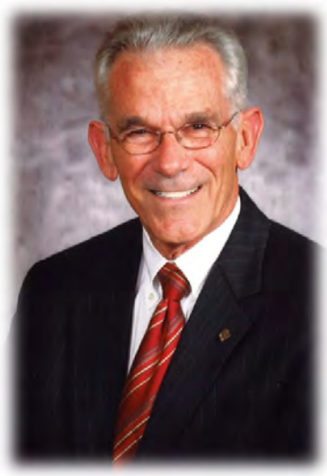
Concurrent with community outreach associated with FOG management, the City of Waco has assisted with educational efforts for the WEAT community, recently hosting WEAT Bioenergy Seminar. The City donated the venue and other services and WEAT offered a strong program at minimal cost. Mike Jupe and Kristy Wolter, arranged a coordinated tour of their facilities that many attendees reported was invaluable.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

ALAN H. PLUMMER ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

...recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the field of environmental sustainability practices within the State of Texas.

Alan H. Plummer



Alan H. Plummer, Jr. graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 1964 from Lamar University and was later honored as a Distinguished Alumni of Lamar University's Civil Engineering Department. He received his M.S. in Environmental Health Engineering in 1968 from the University of Texas (UT) at Austin, working with such notables in the water and wastewater industry as Drs. Ernest Gloyna, Wes Eckenfelder, Davis Ford, and Joe Malina. In 2007, Alan was honored by induction into UT's Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Academy of Distinguished Alumni. A Board Certified Environmental Engineer, he holds engineering licenses in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Arizona, and Oklahoma. Alan Plummer's talents were acknowledged early in his career as he received the Young Engineer of the Year Award from the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 1974. Firmly committed to mentoring the next generation of engineers, he has served on the advisory boards of Lamar State University, University of North Texas, and the University of Texas at Arlington.

Currently, Alan is involved in some major water reuse projects in which highly treated municipal effluent is being used to augment the water supplies of several large water districts in the state of Texas. He is recognized throughout the country as a visionary and expert in the area of water reuse and conservation. He is a frequent presenter at national, state, and local conferences and seminars advocating water reuse as being an effective water stewardship and management strategy.

Mr. Plummer started his career as a consultant with the quintessential Texas engineering firm of Forrest and Cotton and later worked for the Trinity River Authority and Hydroscience before he and his wife Peggy established their own engineering firm in 1978. From early in his career, Alan Plummer saw the need to begin planning for new sources of water for the state of Texas, anticipating the stress that growth would place on the limited raw water resources of the state. One of the first projects at Alan Plummer and Associates, Inc. involved the delivery of highly treated effluent from the TRA Central Regional Wastewater System to the prestigious Las Colinas development lakes in the early 1980s. Since that time, he has worked with many clients to develop alternative water resources and to plan for the use of reclaimed water in their long-range planning efforts. When the State developed its regional water plans, Mr. Plummer worked closely with regional water planners throughout the state. In particular, he worked tirelessly in north Texas with Region C, promoting development of sustainable water supply strategies and guiding the role of water reuse and water conservation in the Region C plan.

Mr. Plummer has been and continues to be involved with many professional associations. He joined the Water Environment Federation (WEF) in 1968. He served on several national committees including Plant Operations (1986-1987), Program (1986-1991), Government Affairs Committee (1992-1993), and Water Reuse (1990 to the present). In the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) he served on the WEAT Program Committee in the early 1980s and was a member of the Water Reuse Committee for years, serving as Chair from 2004-2007. He was one of the original members of the North Texas Section of WEAT, serving as vice-president, president-elect and then president from 1990-1991. He was presented the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award for extraordinary personal service to a Member Association in 1999. He also chaired the Regulation Committee for the Joint Water Reclamation Committee of the Texas Section of American Water Works Association (AWWA) and WEAT. He participated in the revision of the State of Texas's water reuse regulations as a member of the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission Advisory Committee.

Elected to the Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) Board of Directors in February 1982, Alan has continued to serve the TWCA in its efforts to conserve, develop, protect, and utilize the water resources in Texas for all beneficial purposes. He served as President of the organization in 1994. In 2004, Alan was honored by TWCA when it dedicated it 60th Annual Convention to him in appreciation for his outstanding dedication, leadership, unselfish service, and accomplishments to the Association and Texas in water resources development. At present, he is active on the TWCA Federal Affairs Committee, which promotes legislation to improve water quality in the state of Texas, and he chairs the TWCA Water Reuse Committee.

The WateReuse Association presented its 2008 Award of Merit to Alan for his significant contributions to the advancement of water reuse and continued dedication to the water reuse community. The Texas Section of the WateReuse Association was established in 2005. Alan Plummer served as its first president. He is currently serving on the Board of the WateReuse Research Foundation, helping to guide the direction of research in the area of water reuse and conservation.

Mr. Plummer is thankful for Peggy, his wife of more than 45 years, for her love, support, and counsel over the years. He has also been blessed with two daughters, Jamie and Patti and their husbands Scott and Mike. He is the proud grandfather of Emily (15), Macenzi (13), Abbie (13), and Evan Alan (11). Mr. Plummer acknowledges that his family's support, coworkers' contributions, and clients' confidence have greatly enhanced his career. He recognizes that his trust in God as his Source has been the backdrop for any success he has achieved.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

RECRUITMENT AWARD

...recognizing a member of WEAT for outstanding recruitment effort.

Jessica Vassar – 1st Place

Jessica Bradley Vassar graduated from the University of Texas in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. She has worked for Freese and Nichols in the water and wastewater master planning group for four years and is a member of AWWA and WEAT.

She currently serves as the Central Texas Chapter WEAT Young Professional's Representative and is active with The University of Texas AWWA/ WEF Student Chapter.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

RECRUITMENT AWARD

...recognizing a member of WEAT for outstanding recruitment effort.

Sharon Miller – 2nd Place

Sharon Miller is a registered Professional Engineer in the States of Texas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, holds a Grade Four Nebraska Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator License, and is a certified NASSCO PACP operator. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and a Masters of Science degree in Environmental Engineering, both from the University of Nebraska. Yes folks, she is a Cornhusker in Texas territory.

Prior to coming down to Texas, Sharon worked 12 years for the City of Omaha, Nebraska as a plant engineer. She was responsible for all design and construction, whether capital or O&M funded projects, for three wastewater treatment plants, force mains, rehabilitation of over 70 lift stations, and the City's flood protection system (levee and flood wall). In addition to design and construction activities, Sharon participated in training of O&M staff, assisted with troubleshooting and operations of systems, participated in water festivals, spoke at local schools about wastewater treatment, and provided numerous tours of the wastewater plant to schools and other organizations.

Sharon moved to Texas in 2008 to take a job as a Project Manager with HDR Engineering in Dallas, TX. Or as her operators put it before she left Omaha, moving to the dark side. She is on the pretreatment and odor control technical practice committee for HDR, where she participates in establishing best management practices, fact sheets, and design guides on these topics for HDR employees. She has worked on a variety of projects for College Station, TRA, Mustang SUD, Waco, and Commerce, and really enjoys meeting a variety of people, learning about how others treat their wastewater, and assisting municipalities.

Upon arriving in Texas, Sharon immediately became an active volunteer in WEAT. She became chair of the Membership Committee and worked with the Section Reps to focus on WEAT membership services. At Texas Water 2010, she became your Member-At-Large on the board. Sharon recently became chair of the Public Communication and Outreach Committee (PCOC).

In addition to WEAT activities, Sharon is actively involved at WEF. She is on the WEF PCOC committee, and is chair of the publications subcommittee. All those brochures and flyers you order from WEF are developed from this committee. She participates in the WWMD committee, as well as being a North America judge for the WWMD Water Champion Award – an annual award presented at the end of March. Sharon has been actively involved in the Water is Life subcommittee, developing the materials you see as part of the WIL program. Sharon also contributes to the Work for Water program that WEF and AWWA introduced in 2010 as a tool to actively engage people to the water profession. She participates on the WEF's Air Quality and Odor Control Committee as well, and has participated as a co-chair in workshops at several WEFTEC conferences.

Sharon, and her husband Phil, have two active children – Chloe who is 8 years old and Philip who is 6 years old. In her spare time, she assists in coaching her children at soccer and baseball, is crew chief for her husband's dirt track racecar, and is the co-chair of her daughter's school Environmental Club.

You can tell that Sharon is very passionate about her work in this industry. WEAT wishes to recognize, thank, and congratulate Sharon for her continued service.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

RECRUITMENT AWARD

...recognizing a member of WEAT for outstanding recruitment effort.

Foster D. Crowell – 3rd Place

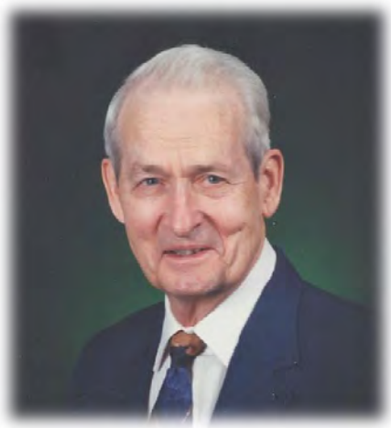
Foster D. Crowell holds a Bachelors Degree in Political Science from the University of Texas/Pan American at Edinburg. Mr. Crowell also has both "A" Water and "A" Wastewater Certificates of Competency issued by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. Mr. Crowell has worked for the City of Corpus Christi in the Wastewater Department for 29 years, 18 years as Assistant Wastewater Director and the last 11 years as Wastewater Director. He is entrusted with the overall responsibility of the operation, administration and management of the Wastewater Department that provides for the collection and treatment of wastewater for over 78,000 customer accounts. The City operates 6 wastewater treatment plants. He began his professional career with the City of Raymondville in 1970 as Wastewater Superintendent. In 1976, he went to work for the City of Kingsville as the Director of Water and Wastewater Utilities. Throughout his career, Mr. Crowell has been active in professional/industry organizations at the local, state and national level, and has served on numerous boards and committees. Mr. Crowell has received numerous awards from the Water Environment Federation. In 1975, he received the Hatfield Award making him the youngest in WEF history to receive the award at that time. In 1997, he also received the Quarter-Century Operation's Club Award and the prestigious Arthur Sidney Bedell Award in 1997. Mr. Crowell is still an active member of the Water Environment Federation, Water Environment Association of Texas and a lifetime member of the American Water Works Association. He has been an Eagle Scout since 1964.

WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

...recognizing a member of WEAT for outstanding service.

Jim Taaffe



Jim Taaffe was born in Foreman, Arkansas. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he attended the University of California at Berkley and North Texas State University at Denton, Texas. Upon graduation from NTSU, he joined Fairbanks Morse as a Sales Engineer and later became the National Sales Manager for the Waste Treatment Division of Can-Tex Industries in Mineral Wells, Texas. In 1963, he founded Pollution Control Equipment Company in Weatherford, Texas for over 40 years.

Mr. Taaffe has served WEAT in many capacities over the years. Shortly after he joined the organization, he was assigned simultaneous positions of leadership as Section Representative for the Abilene/West Texas area.

In 1985, Mr. Taaffe was elected President of TWPCA (now known as WEAT). Upon fulfilling his year as President, he became the TWPCA Resolutions Committee Chair.

As Resolutions Committee Chair, it is his honor to say a brief word and lead a short moment of silence to open the annual Texas Water conference luncheon each year. It is his duty to present any new resolutions that the Executive Committee wishes to bring before the general membership for a vote. It is also his duty to keep records of any WEAT members who have passed away during the preceding year and to remember the names of these WEAT members in a brief memorial service during the Texas Water luncheon. As part of the luncheon ceremonies, he arranges with the Texas Governor’s office to present Certificates of Honorary Texas Citizenship to the national WEF and American Water Works Association representatives who are honored guests at the annual Texas Water conferences.

In 1999, he was awarded Life Membership in WEF in honor of his long membership and faithful service to WEF and WEAT. Today, we honor Jim Taaffe with the 2011 Presidential Award.