

A Message from the Executive Director



By Carol Batterton, Executive Director

It is hard to believe that Texas Water is upon us once again. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the wonderful educational (as well as social) opportunities that Texas Water provides. Please be sure to tell Cheryl Smith and the Program Committee how much you appreciate all the hard work they do planning and executing this conference.

Water is Life and Infrastructure Makes it Happen™ Update

If your utility is facing an infrastructure improvement or expansion program, then you will want to attend the *Water is Life* update at Texas Water on Wednesday, March 26 at 10:30am. This session will provide you with some great ideas and tools that your utility can use to increase awareness of the importance of investing in wastewater infrastructure among your rate payers. We will be reviewing some additions to the program which should prove to be valuable for Texas utilities. These include:

- The *Water is Life* website www.WaterisLife.net has been improved to be more user-friendly. It is packed with tools (many of them free) that your utility can download and use to help increase public awareness and understanding of wastewater issues.
- A new public opinion survey has been created for utilities to use to measure the effectiveness of their education programs, or to get a baseline of rate payer understanding prior to initiating a public awareness program.
- There are now three 30-second public service announcements available for free on the website.
- *Water is Life* bill stuffers are now free and can be customized for your utility.

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has joined WEF as a partner in supporting *Water is Life*. A joint workgroup has been formed to develop new bill stuffers, ads, and other communication tools that will be available later this spring.

Liquid Assets

WEF, NACWA, ASCE, and AWWA are mobilizing to promote a PBS documentary which will be released in the fall of 2008. "Liquid Assets" is being produced by Penn State Public Broadcasting and is designed to elevate infrastructure investment as a priority issue during the election season. A short preview of the documentary can be viewed at www.liquidassets.psu.edu. As this documentary nears its release date, we will have more information on what you can do to promote viewing in your area.

Clean Watersheds Needs Survey

EPA has recently released a new report, the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey. This report can be found at www.epa.gov/cwns. EPA estimates that over \$200 billion is needed to control wastewater pollution over the next 20 years.

Government Affairs Committee

Rebecca Cobos will be stepping down as the chair of the WEAT Government Affairs Committee very shortly. I want to take this opportunity to say how much I have appreciated Becki's help and guidance since I have been on staff with WEAT. Becki's experience with legislative issues and her knowledge of the "system" have been invaluable. We will miss her expertly researched articles in *Texas WET* and her leadership on the Government Affairs Committee. As she is planning her retirement, we all hope Becki will save a little time to continue to be involved in WEAT and government affairs.

"Products that make sense"



Since 1989 Pressure Switches Inc. has manufactured a complete line of UL & cUL approved vacuum, DP, and pressure switches. Our products are CNC machined from 6061T6 aluminum corrosion resistance. Our narrow dead band and set point repeatability (<.5%) proves our pressure switches are of the highest quality in the industry.



Since 1993 North American Sensors Corp. has manufactured magnetic reed float level switches, pressure switches, and tank gauging sensors/systems. We are the only manufacture to incorporate test mechanisms on both our level and pressure switches. Our bilge level switches are our most popular product and are our largest volume switch. We have ABS and DNV approvals on the bilge level and the external mounted level switches. We also specialize in custom single and multi-level switches with up to 6 floats.

P.O. Box 1074
Mandeville, LA 70470
Ph. (985) 893-0909

Email: sales@mepinc.net
www.mepinc.net
Fax (985) 893-0807