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## WCCD Board Serves You

District residents elect West Central Conservancy District's board of directors, who serve four-year terms on a rotating basis. The board members encourage WCCD customers to attend their open, regular meetings at 5 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in the district office. Meeting minutes are posted on the district's website at [www.wccdin.org](http://www.wccdin.org). Board members are interested in what residents have to say and encourage them to share comments and concerns.

### Board of Directors

Karl P. Buetow - Chairman  
Paul M. Allen - Vice Chairman  
Linda L. Scott - Secretary  
W. James Webb - Financial Secretary  
William Holland - Member

## Aqua-Aerobic Systems Recognizes WCCD Plant Performance

Improving operations and the quality of wastewater treatment systems at West Central Conservancy District is an ongoing mission.

In recognition of those efforts, Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. recently awarded WCCD a special plaque for "Outstanding Plant Performance."

Based in Rockford, Illinois, Aqua-Aerobic Systems is recognized by the industry as a world leader in the design, application and manufacture of wastewater treatment equipment and systems for both municipal and industrial markets. Aqua-Aerobic is the manufacturer of WCCD's primary wastewater treatment equipment.

"Aqua presented the award to acknowledge WCCD's operational efforts to achieve system optimization," said Aqua's Regional Manager Thomas Sichz. "System optimization is an ongoing process and an important aspect of plant operations necessary to consistently achieve the required effluent objectives."

The plaque is the first received by WCCD since it began operating the new wastewater treatment system in 2006.

The plant utilizes a 4-basin AquaSBR® Sequencing Batch Reactor System for primary treatment of the conservancy district's wastewater. The system is designed for an average daily flow of 3.5 million gallons per day, a maximum flow of 6.6 million gallons per day, and a peak flow of 10.5 MGD, Sichz said.

The 2006 expansion took more than a year to complete and more than doubled WCCD's wastewater treatment capacity. The SBR biological treatment method was selected because it is reliable and has been used in the United States for nearly 100 years.

Using computer-controlled technology, WCCD's licensed, experienced plant operators monitor and regulate the system operations for optimum treatment performance. Computer control allows several different treatment functions to occur in

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Above: Flanked by WCCD Plant Superintendent Dave Humpal (left), District Manager Ron Goff accepts the "Outstanding Plant Performance" award from Aqua-Aerobic Systems Regional Manager Thomas Sichz. At right is Assistant Plant Superintendent Shawn Massingale.

## Fats, Oils and Grease Can Block Sewer Lines Creating Environmental and Health Hazards

Diverse restaurants, both in their number and food offerings, are some of the reasons why the Avon community is such a desirable place to live and work.

However, the fats, oils and grease, often called FOG for short, that most restaurants use to create some of their most memorable and tasty dishes, can wreak havoc on WCCD's wastewater treatment system.

Fortunately, area restaurant owners and managers work closely with WCCD employees to minimize the amount of FOG that gets into the system, said District Manager Ron Goff.

"I think we have an excellent working relationship with restaurants in the community," Goff said. "But employee turnover in the restaurant industry is extremely high, so it's important to remind restaurant owners and managers that they must regularly educate new employees about how FOG should be handled."

FOG can build up in sewer lines over time constricting the flow capacity of the West Central Conservancy District's collection system. The impact is similar to the way cholesterol affects blood flow in your

body. When a blockage occurs, it can create a potentially serious community and environmental health hazard.

We can recall from our earliest grade school science classes that oil and water don't mix. When the two substances separate, oil and grease can be deposited directly on pipe walls decreasing capacity, which means they need more frequent cleaning, maintenance and replacement. In addition, FOG is extremely hard to process and treat at our wastewater treatment facility thus affecting treatment costs and efficiency in operations.

Many of the foods that we eat contain FOG. Meats, sauces, salad dressing, deep-fried dishes, cookies, pastries, butter and many other foods contain these substances.

"We do have a grease trap inspection program once every quarter for all the restaurants and commercial kitchens within the conservancy district," said Assistant Plant Superintendent Shawn Massingale, "and 99 percent of these restaurants and kitchens stay on top of this issue."

Massingale explained why FOG is such a problem to wastewater treatment providers. Bacteria used to treat wastewater at WCCD and other plants, is meant to consume organic matter and not FOG. When fats and oils enter the wastewater treatment process, they create both a bad bacteria called, nocardia, and leathery foam that's difficult to skim off and dispose of.

Here are some recommended best practices for restaurants and commercial kitchens to limit the amount of FOG that goes down the drain:

- Instruct restaurant employees to "dry wipe" pots, pans and dishware by scraping leftover food and FOG into



Above: Fats, Oils and Grease buildup on WCCD equipment can require more frequent maintenance and costly repairs.

the trash. This will keep food and FOG out of the wastewater system.

- Stop using garbage grinders or food disposals. Food waste should go into the trash. This will decrease the amount of solids in a grease trap making it operate more efficiently.
- Clean grease traps on a regular basis. Grease traps that are not cleaned regularly are not effective.
- Move oil-recycling containers to a convenient location. Restaurant personnel are more likely to place used oil in the recycling container and not send it down the drain if recycling containers are in an easy-to-reach location.

Much of this information can also apply to residential users as well. Simply using alternatives to dumping cooking oils would be a simple step that provides significant relief to buildup in your lateral lines as well as our sewer mains.

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#### Aqua-Aerobic Systems

the same concrete basins, thereby reducing the number of basins and space required for complete treatment of the wastewater that flows into the system daily.

Each of the four basins can hold approximately one million gallons of water. This quantity of water equates to the amount it would take to fill two Olympic-size swimming pools. As additional growth continues within the District's boundaries, the technology will optimize space needed for additional expansion.

"We were extremely pleased to receive this award," said District Manager Ron Goff. "Our operations staff really deserves credit for this achievement because it's through their hard work every day that we attained this high level of performance."

**WCCD 2009  
Regular  
Board Meetings**

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2009  
5:00 P.M.**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 21, 2009  
5:00 P.M.**

*WCCD News Briefs*

**We Need Your Help**

Have you observed anyone in your community performing activities around manholes? Maybe, even removing the manhole cover and pouring or even pumping something down the opening?

If you observe such activities by others than WCCD employees in clearly marked vehicles or equipment, please notify the District at **272-2980**.

Such incidents create at least two concerns to WCCD that affects you, the customer. 1) Open manholes obviously are dangerous hazards to you and the children in the vicinity and 2) unknown substances – even drainage water impacts operational efficiency of the plant. Unknown substances can potentially kill or severely limit the biological process of treatment and added water simply means additional treatment that is not necessary. Both incidents affect the cost of operation that, in turn, affects your rates and charges.

**Wastewater Challenge  
Forges Bond Between  
WCCD and Brownsburg**

Although they didn't bring home any awards as they have for the past three years, West Central Conservancy District employees once again teamed up with colleagues from Brownsburg Wastewater Operations to participate in the annual Wastewater Challenge sponsored by the Indiana Water Environment Association. The association has annually sponsored this statewide wastewater competition for 20 years. The event serves as a place to

gather and demonstrate expertise and skills workers use daily. It further affords participants the ability to observe practices and methods in a learning environment.

The cooperative relationship that's developed between WCCD and Brownsburg over the last three years proved immensely valuable this spring when a six-inch force main at Lift Station No. 1 in the Timber Bend subdivision ruptured.

The break occurred about 1:00 a.m. and water was gushing out of a volleyball-sized hole, said System Operations Supervisor Gary Padgett. When the break was discovered, WCCD employees immediately redirected flow and took steps to correct the problem and shut down the lift station. Brownsburg was then called to assist.

Brownsburg supplied tanker trucks and personnel to assist in maintaining active operations of the service lines while the repair of the break was made, Padgett said.

**WCCD Employee  
Accomplishments**

Career advancement is encouraged at West Central Conservancy District so that our team can continue to offer the best service possible to residents. Here are some recent accomplishments:

Assistant District Manager Debra Sillery has been elected to a second one-year term as president of the Association of Indiana Conservancy Districts. She was elected at the association's annual meeting in July. The Association serves as an information resource that responds to the concerns of conservancy districts throughout the state.

It also monitors Indiana Legislation concerning proposed changes for districts. Sillery is also president of the North Putnam School Board.

In other staff news:

- Cory Trueblood recently earned his Class-III Plant Operator certification from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.
- Chris Tucker earned his Class-I Plant Operator certification from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.
- Jake Snodgrass completed and passed the Indiana Water Environment Association's Sewer Construction Inspection Course.
- Dallen Hedges completed a course entitled Basic Electricity for the Non-Electrician.
- Pat DeFord and Jake Snodgrass attended the 2009 IWEA Collection System Committee Conference Odor, Corrosion and Rehab Seminar.
- Dallen Hedges, Chris Tucker and Don Raley completed Professional Safety Services Group Confined Space Training. This training was held at WCCD and was also attended by representatives from Thieneman Construction, M.D. Wessler and Associates, V.S. Engineering, BBC, ATEC Electrical and Brownsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Dave Humpal, Gary Padgett, Bruce Caveney, Aaron Riggie, Bobby Patton, John Love and Dallen Hedges completed and passed CPR training.

**White Lick Interceptor Completed  
Ahead of Schedule and Under Budget**

Avon Community Schools Corp. is building a new elementary school in Washington Township and WCCD is playing a key role in making sure the new facility opens on time.

River Birch Elementary School, located at 5456 East 75 North, is scheduled to open in September 2010, said Avon School Superintendent Dr. Timothy Ogle. It will have a capacity to educate 750 students.

WCCD's role in assisting with the project of the new school was to build a new sewer line, called the White Lick Inter-

ceptor, which runs approximately three-quarters of a mile north from Rockville Road (U.S. 36), just north of County Road 625 East (where the conservancy district's wastewater treatment plant is located) to the school.

Construction of the 24-inch forced main began in March, and work installing the pipe was largely completed by June, said Steve Starek, an engineer with VS Engineering, which was responsible for construction inspection. Dale Kruse, Kruse

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## How to Contact Us:

West Central Conservancy District  
243 South County Road 625E  
Avon, IN 46123

## Billing Address:

West Central Conservancy District  
P.O. Box 447  
Danville, IN 46122

## Office Hours:

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F

## Website:

[www.wccdin.org](http://www.wccdin.org)

## Phone:

(317) 272-2980

## Fax:

(317) 272-2907

## Email:

[info@wccdin.org](mailto:info@wccdin.org)

**For emergencies:** (317) 491-3593

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Consulting, Inc., was the engineer for the project design.

Starek said the new line will have a capacity to handle a daily flow of 1.5 million gallons, and is sized to serve up to 4,750 homes. Initially, however, the only connection to the line will be the new school.

"Avon Schools and the WCCD worked together, and with that effort opened up a predominantly unserved area of the conservancy district," said District Manager Ron Goff. "Among other things, the new White Lick Interceptor provides a connection option for any area homeowners who are having problems with failing septic systems."

Ogle said he's been extremely pleased with the working relationship with WCCD and the fact that that portion of construction of the project is way ahead of schedule and was completed under budget.

"We have already connected River Birch, and our architects and construction professionals are thrilled with the cooperation," Ogle said. "It has been a pleasurable experience and is a great example of how, when entities work together, magic for the community can happen. We're very happy that we're in way ahead of schedule, apparently under budget and that's good for

## THE WCCD NEWS

West Central Conservancy District  
243 South County Road 625E  
Avon, Indiana 46123

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all of us.

Starek said that not only is the work on schedule from WCCD's perspective, and a year ahead of when the school will open, the project was completed at a cost way below original engineering estimates, which Starek attributed to the difficult economic times.

"Because of the economy, everyone sharpened their pencils," he said, noting that 12 companies bid on the project,

which is an unusually high number.

Ron Goff, District Manager, indicated he was certainly pleased with the cooperation of the Avon School Corporation, Eagle Valley, Inc., the construction entity, and Dale Kruse, project engineer, in completing the project. Goff also feels a special thanks is in order to the property owners, Kay Levenhagen and the Madeline Carter family, for their assistance in working with all the parties toward project success.



Above: Workers install a section of a 24-inch force main for the West Central Conservancy District's new White Lick Interceptor. The line will serve Avon Community School Corporation's new River Birch Elementary School currently under construction.