

DISTRICT DIGEST

Vol. 2 / Issue 3

BRUNSWICK SEWER DISTRICT *Protecting Maine's Environment*

GREGORY H. THULEN TO RETIRE

Gregory H. Thulen will be retiring on December 11, 2014 after 40 years of service to the District. He began on May 29, 1974 as an Operator at the Treatment Plant. On October 11, 1983 he was promoted to his current position as treatment plant supervisor. Greg has worked diligently at overseeing the operations and maintenance of the treatment facility. During his tenure the plant has run efficiently and has maintained excellent levels of effluent loading and removal required by our DEP permit. Brunswick area school children and Bowdoin College students have enjoyed many tours of our Treatment Plant with Greg. As our resident Plant tour guide, Greg explained everything that "anyone ever wanted to know about the sewer treatment process" with great pride. The Board of Trustees, Management and Staff wish our friend a happy, healthy and well-deserved retirement!

In honor of Greg the District will hold an Open House on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 from 2 to 4 PM at the District Admin building office at 10 Pine Tree Road. All are welcome to stop by to wish Greg a happy retirement.



Asst. General Manager Garners 2014 Young Professionals Award



During the September annual conference, the Maine Water Environment Association presented its 2014 Young Professionals Award to Robert (Rob) A. Pontau Jr., P.E., the District's Assistant General Manager.

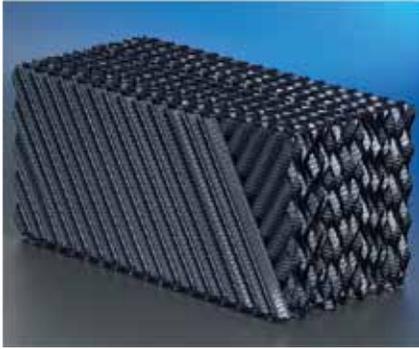
Jason Prout Graduates From JETCC Management Candidate School

At the Maine Water Environment Association's annual conference in September, Treatment Plant Operator Jason Prout was presented with his diploma at the graduation ceremony for completion of the Management Candidate School. The MCS is designed to prepare mid-level water and wastewater personnel for career advancement in utility management. The class is presented by the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC). JETCC was originally created by the Maine Legislature through the Department of Environmental Protection to provide training to Maine's wastewater treatment plant operators.



TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE UPDATE

“TRICKLING FILTERS” BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT



The biological treatment process happens when microbes consume organic matter in wastewater and convert it to carbon dioxide, water, and energy for their own growth and reproduction. In our treatment process, the microbes, grow on a plastic cross-flow type media, which looks like a honeycomb. The media in each trickling filter is 22' deep. The cross flow design enables more biological treatment to be accomplished in a smaller space because of the increased surface area. The

surface area in EACH filter is 3,830,000 SF, the equivalent of 80 football fields! More area means more room for microbes to grow. The slimy growth on the trickling filter media is called a zoogeal mass. It is where the “bugs” such as nematodes, stalked ciliates, and rotifers live and break down the organic chemical bonds in the waste.

The Treatment Plant Upgrade project is now well under way. In early October the District hired PC Construction of Burlington, Vermont and Portland, Maine to join the project team as construction managers. Instead of the traditional design-bid-build method of project delivery, The District will use the Construction Management method. This method allows for better time management and cost control while fostering a team environment. The results will be a high quality, cost effective project. This is the first project funded through a clean water state revolving fund (CWSRF) loan that will utilize the construction management model.

The upgrade will include significant interior renovations to accommodate staff and add systems control technology. After a few rounds of discussion and many brainstorming sessions, the District has decided to build a separate vehicle and equipment garage and office space that will also serve our collection division. Preliminary estimates show that a 9,000 SF garage and office facility separate from our existing treatment facility will save more than \$400,000 on the total cost of the project. The savings, coupled with the fact the District can get more facility per dollar spent by building a separate garage makes the decision easy. This is a win-win for the staff and our rate-payers.

On October 16, 2014 the Board of Trustees took the first vote to implement a rate increase to pay for the upgrade project. A public hearing on the rate increase has been tentatively scheduled for January 22, 2015. Following the hearing, a second vote by the Board is required to authorize changes to rates. The increase, which is planned to take effect in early 2015, is \$6.75 per 1,000 cf. The average user will see their costs increase approximately \$13.50/quarter, or \$4.50/month.

REMINDERS

As the season changes and the temperature drops, here are a couple things to be mindful of during the colder months. Turn off your spigots inside—ice can potentially fall off the roof and break the spigot causing a massive amount of water to flood outside—a bill you do not want! And for those who want an ice rink, please take meter reads before and after flooding and notify us at ddutton@brunswicksewer.org or (207) 729-0148 ext 110 to have a credit applied to your account.



RECOGNITION

Employee anniversaries for the 4rd quarter 2014:

Matthew Densmore, Senior Operator, 20 yrs

Lisa True, Staff Accountant, 6 yrs

Robert Pontau Jr, Assistant General Manager, 4 yrs

THANK
for your service
YOU

DID YOU KNOW?

- Every year the District removes more than 2000 cubic yards of biosolids from the waste stream.
- That is enough material to fill nearly 30, 27' diameter backyard swimming pools.
- If the sewer collection system and treatment plant did not exist, the solids would be deposited in the Androscoggin River.
- To our knowledge, there have been zero three-eyed fish caught in the Androscoggin River.

