



Partners in PA

Partnership for Safe Water Update

Summer 2014

118

Partners in PA

54 Phase I & II Plants
58 Phase III Plants
4 Presidents Awards
2 Phase IV Plants
19 Distribution Plants



The SPOTLIGHT is on: Ephrata Area Joint Authority



Analyzing data for Partnership helped Ephrata reach Phase III

By Bob Donnelly, Partnership for Safe Water Representative

The Ephrata Area Joint Authority (EAJA) has been one of my favorite water systems to work with over the past few years. They, like many of our other independent systems, chose to join the Partnership family to see what the buzz was all about but more importantly to possibly improve their treatment results.

Like many of us, Ephrata WTP lies in a location in which the raw water source sees contributions from multiple areas including agriculture, suburban areas and older urban communities. The system is stressed by this flashy source which results in constant challenges to the operators, especially following rain events. The operators always “pushed” to meet these challenges but felt an organized plan of attack would better prepare them for current and future challenges. They looked around, found the Partnership was a good fit, and joined the family.

The four steps outlined in the Partnership program seemed to fit their need and apparently got them on the right track. They became committed, had the correct data to analyze their operations, and seemed to be making the right decisions.

The first step was the commitment by all parties, including management, operations and maintenance, to the Partnership ideals and goals. While



Ephrata Area Joint Authority

Shown are (front row, left to right): Barb Martin, AWWA PFSW Manager; Joseph Pezzino, EAJA Chief Operator; Jeff Iezzi, EAJA Water Quality; (back row, left to right): Kevin Anderson, PA DEP; Reid Campbell, AWWA Vice President; Gene Koontz, incoming AWWA President; Bob Thompson, EAJA Director of Engineering; and Tom Natarian, EAJA Director of Operations.

seemingly a small step to the outsider it is in fact a giant leap forward. Ephrata took this leap and committed to the program and the challenges that come with it.

When I visited the plant after Ephrata committed to the program, the place was alive with new concepts, new directions and in some cases new ideas from new operators. As it turned out, operators from other locations were also hearing about Ephrata’s challenges and ideas and wanted to become a part of the solution.

Data was being collected and analyzed in a new way (called Phase II of the Program) and daily discussions by staff resulted in changes to the plant operations, resulting in improved plant performance. More importantly, for the sake of some imaginary time goal, they did not hurry this step along, they

collected their data, analyzed their data and learned about the plant they thought they knew.

Their goal, as is it with all of us in the Partnership, is rock solid optimization, 24/7, all seasons, all year.

Finally, their analysis and hard work had paid off and they were ready to write their Phase III report, the report which provides the roadmap of where they had been and what would be necessary for the future.

By truly embracing the program, Ephrata staff has experienced first-hand this unique approach to optimization.

Ephrata staff recently received recognition for their hard work at the PA-AWWA Conference held in Bethlehem. At the Partnership Mixer, Ephrata’s operators were awarded the Phase III

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Several longtime **PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS** recognized at **Conference Mixer**

PA-AWWA congratulates utilities receiving the 2014 Partnership for Safe Water awards. This is an outstanding achievement and the Section celebrated the efforts of utility staff as these systems were recognized among an elite group of top performing facilities at the PFSW Mixer in Bethlehem during the 66th Annual Conference. Systems recognized at the Mixer include:

PRESIDENTS AWARD

- Pennsylvania American Water (Philipsburg WTP)
- Western Berks Water Authority

DIRECTORS AWARD

- Ephrata Area Joint Authority
- Pike Township Municipal Authority

5-YEAR DIRECTORS AWARD

- Pennsylvania American Water (Huntsville WTP)
- Williamsport Municipal Water Authority

10-YEAR DIRECTORS AWARD

- Brodhead Creek Regional Water Authority
- Carlisle Borough Municipal Authority
- Chester Water Authority
- City of Harrisburg/ Capital Region Water
- Jersey Shore Area Joint Water Authority
- Shenandoah Municipal Water Authority

15-YEAR DIRECTORS AWARD

- Philadelphia Water Department (3 treatment plants)



PA American Water

Two of PA American Water's water treatment plants were recognized at the PFSW Mixer: Philipsburg WTP received the President's Award while Huntsville WTP received the 5-year Director's Award.

Shown are (front row, left to right): Jon Prawdzik, PAW; Bob Schnitzler, PAW; Barb Martin, AWWA; Dan Hufton, PAW; Mark Cross, PAW; John Yamona, PAW and Ed Chescattie, PA DEP; (back row, left to right); Kevin Anderson, PA DEP; Paul Zielinski, PAW, Reid Campbell, AWWA VP, and Gene Koontz, incoming AWWA President.

ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIP MIXER HONOREES FEATURED ON PAGE 3

PA AMERICAN Pushes the Envelope

AWWA, in both Pennsylvania and the National Office in Colorado, were proud to announce that the PA American Water Company, Phillipsburg Water Treatment Plant, serving customers in Clearfield and Center Counties has received the Phase IV "Presidents Award" recognition from the Partnership for Safe Water Organization to which they belong.

The Partnership Program is a voluntary organization developed to enhance finished water quality from systems that are willing to take up this difficult challenge. This challenge is not for everyone as it requires hard work, increased knowledge of the science of water treatment, and constant vigilance as the Operator's strive to reach and maintain much higher goals from their Treatment Plants than those required from regulation.

To the PA American Company's credit every system in their "family" participates in the Partnership Programs and it appears that they compete within to determine who gets to the next, best level first. In this case the Philipsburg Plant and its operators have become the first in the "family" to achieve the Phase IV level.

Phase IV goals are the highest possible level of performance that can be achieved in the four-phase program. The Presidents Award recognizes the facility for having achieved and maintained this performance level during all seasonal and weather related impacts.

"Reaching this elite status is a very significant achievement in our ongoing efforts to meet stringent performance goals," said Paul Zielinski, Senior Director of Water Quality and Environmental Compliance for Pennsylvania American Water Company. "Improving the quality of our drinking water remains a goal that we continually strive to meet and exceed. Our Philipsburg team worked very hard to earn the Presidents Award, and this recognition is a testament to their dedication and hard work on behalf of our customers.

The Philipsburg Facility has been in the Partnership Program for Treatment since 1996 and is also participating in the Partnership Distribution Optimization Program. It is only the fourth treatment plant in Pennsylvania to receive the Presidents Award, I have a feeling more will follow their lead.

Partnership Mixer Honorees continued from page 2



Western Berks Water Authority

Western Berks Water Authority was honored at the Partnership Mixer for receiving the PFSW President's Award.

Shown are (front row, left to right): Barb Martin, AWWA Partnership Manager; Chip Bilger, WBWA; Matt Walborn, WBWA; (back row, left to right): Kevin Anderson, PA DEP; Reid Campbell, AWWA VP; Gene Koontz, incoming AWWA President; and Ed Chescattie, PA DEP.



Carlisle Borough Municipal Authority

Carlisle Borough Municipal Authority was honored at the Partnership Mixer for receiving the 10-Year Director's Award.

Shown are (left to right): Kevin Anderson, PA DEP; Reid Campbell, AWWA VP; Gene Koontz, incoming AWWA President; Mike McFadden, Carlisle Borough Municipal Authority; Barb Martin, AWWA Partnership Manger; and Ed Chescattie, PA DEP.



Chester Water Authority

Chester Water Authority was honored at the Partnership Mixer for receiving the 10-Year Director's Award.

Shown are (front row, left to right): Barb Martin, AWWA Partnership Manager; Gordie Miller, CWA; Ed Chescattie, PA DEP; (back row, left to right): Kevin Anderson, PA DEP; Reid Campbell, AWWA VP; and Gene Koontz, incoming AWWA President.

York Water Company joins the PFSW 'treatment' program



Shown (left to right) are: Kevin Anderson, DEP; Reid Campbell, AWWA VP; Jeff Hines, President of YWC; Doug Crawshaw, YWC; Gene Koontz, President-Elect of AWWA; Barb Martin, Manager of AWWA's PFSW; and Ed Chescattie, DEP.



George Hart (far right), Chair of PA-AWWA, presents the Partnership for Safe Water Optimization Poster to the York Water Company, which recently joined PFSW. Shown from York Water Company are (left to right): John Strine, Doug Crawshaw and Tim Young.

The York Water Co. Water Plant in York County recently became the newest member of the Partnership for Safe Water Treatment Program, a voluntary effort to provide safe drinking water. Presently, the water system provides drinking water service to approximately 159,623 people. The York facility is the fourth plant in York County to join the treatment program.

The Partnership for Safe Water is made up of DEP, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Pennsylvania Section American Water Works Association (PA-AWWA) and other drinking water organizations. Its goal is to implement preventative measures that are based on optimizing treatment plant performance.

The treatment program is specifically geared toward potential improvements in plant operation, design and administration that could lead to a breakthrough of waterborne disease-causing organisms into the finished water that is distributed to consumers.

Making potential improvements helps prevent waterborne disease outbreaks from pathogenic organisms like Cryptosporidium and Giardia. By participating in the program, the York Water Co. Water Plant is working to provide an additional measure of protection to its drinking water consumers.

The Partnership for Safe Water also offers a "Distribution" Program for water suppliers who wish to pursue optimization of their distribution system. Currently, 118 surface water treatment plants serving over 6.1 million people are now involved in Pennsylvania's Partnership for Safe Water Treatment Program.

Compliments of PA DEP UPDATE

In memory of our friend and colleague **Cindy Hitz** by Bob Donnelly

Over the years I have heard it said a million times...“This is a “guy’s business.” So it seems it has been for the many years I have been involved in this business. But, every once in awhile someone comes along and breaks the mold or shows how things can be done differently. For us in the Partnership, that person was Cindy Hitz, Supervisor of the PA American – West Shore Water Treatment Plant.

Cindy was not the first woman in this business, but she was certainly one of the best operators I have ever met, man or woman. When I met her at the plant that she supervised and helped build, Cindy was always in the plant “somewhere” assisting with repairs or issues that needed her immediate attention. She was a “hands on” supervisor, and to those of us who are in the business, that is the mark of a great operator. Always looking for more from her operators, Cindy pushed the technology and got the most out of both. Her plant



In 2013, Pennsylvania American Water dedicated its West Shore WTP to Cindy Hitz (right). Kathy Pape (left), PAW President, participated in the ceremony.

was the pride of the PA American family and we were thrilled to have her part of the Partnership family as well.

Cindy will be sadly missed as she passed away on June 11, 2014 following a brave fight against lung cancer. At a PA American retirement event held for Cindy at the plant that she helped build and ran for many years and was dedicated in her name, she spoke eloquently of her time in the business and the people that she met along the way. This was her life, her passion, and she had so much more to give. Cindy hoped that others would

follow and pick up where she left off.

This is not a “guy’s business, but rather, this is a family business and we have lost a member of our family that will be missed a great deal and remembered for her contributions large and small that she made while with us.

Ephrata

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Award recognizing their work and accomplishments by both PA and National AWWA staff and PA DEP representatives.

By the way, Ephrata is now working on their Phase IV step using the guidance and feedback gathered from their Phase III report. While I estimate they will complete this final step fairly quickly, at the recent Mixer, Operator Jeff Iezzi noted that “the road to optimization for us is a commitment for better water for our community, and so it should never end.” Congratulations to the entire staff of Ephrata Water for a job well done!

The Partnership’s mission

is to improve the quality of drinking water delivered to customers of public water supplies by optimizing system operations.

SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 18 - 19, 2014
PA-AWWA’S
Pennsylvania Infrastructure Expo
Hollywood Casino and Racetrack
Grantville, PA

Visit www.paawwa.org for more information and for registration form.

Looking ahead...April 21 – 23, 2015

67th Annual Conference
at The Hershey Lodge and
Convention Center • Hershey, PA

Visit www.paawwa.org for more information.