



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REPORT

Lou Kollias – Chair February 11, 2019

It was a very productive year for the Government Affairs Committee. There were 124 attendees at the Annual Government Affairs Seminar on January 18, 2019 at the Chicago Marriott Southwest in Burr Ridge, Illinois. Our Keynote Speaker was Tom Kunetz, Water Environment Federation President and IWEA member. His presentation was entitled “Three Little Stories About Solving Big Problems”. He explained how three ideas can solve many problems. They are problem framing before problem solving, question assumptions, and success favors the connected mind. Tom used examples and illustrations to explain the thought process. The presentation included audience participation which got everyone thinking. The presentation was not only interesting but very entertaining also.

The other presentations featured a variety of topics. The first presentation of the morning was Development and Implementation of the MWRDGC Resource and Recovery Ordinance. Speakers from the District included Joe Kozak, Greg Yarnik, and Matt McGregor. They explained how the Ordinance was developed to include BioP, Biogas, composting/yard waste, and water reuse. The second presentation was by Amy Dragovich, Manager of the Permit Section in the Division of Water Pollution Control of the IEPA. Amy discussed NPDES Permits and how nutrient standards are now a very big part of the permits. They include phosphorus effluent standards, development of nutrient TMDLs, and the recommendations from the Nutrient Science Advisory Committee. The afternoon session started with an informative presentation by Gary Bingenheimer, Manager of the Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section of the Illinois EPA. He discussed the requirements and procedures for obtaining Illinois EPA Loans for wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water infrastructure. The last presentation was Implementation of ANITA Mox at the MWRDGC Egan Water Reclamation Plant by Brian Wawczak and Cindy Qin from MWRDGC. They discussed how the deammonification process was designed and implemented resulting in significant ammonia removal. All presentations were well received by the attendees and are available on the IWEA website.

Two articles were submitted to the Clarifier.

I wish to thank the members of the committee for all of their work over the past year. Thanks to Nathan Davis, Laurie Frieders, Bob Johnson, and Jay Patel.