

## PCWASA Board welcomes new members, elects slate of officers

During its February Meeting, the Peachtree City Water and Sewerage Authority (PCWASA) Board of Directors welcomed new appointees to its ranks, while selecting a new slate of officers to lead the utility this year and beyond.

The five voting board members (one additional board member serves as an alternate) elected Terry Garlock as the new Chairman, joined by Phil Mahler as Vice Chairman, and John Harrell as Secretary/Treasurer.

The PCWASA Board also experienced some shuffling among its members this year, evident in the presence of two newcomers at the February meeting. Former alternate board

member Bill Holland has moved to the ranks of the voting members, who are joined by new board member Cliff Stern and new alternate board member

John Dufresne.

Members Garlock, Harrell, and Holland joined the PCWASA Board last year, while Phil Mahler's term on the board began

in 2010. PCWASA Board Members are appointed to serve five-year terms on the independent Water and Sewerage Authority by the City Council of Peachtree City. Some current board members are fulfilling the unexpired terms of previous members.

The PCWASA Board of Directors meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Authority headquarters, located adjacent to the Rockaway Wastewater Treatment Plant at 1127 Highway 74 South.

Additional biographical information on PCWASA Board Members is available on the "Administration" pages of the Authority's Web site at [www.pcwasa.org](http://www.pcwasa.org).



Newly elected PCWASA Chairman Terry Garlock (center) is flanked by the newest appointees to the Authority Board in Member Cliff Stern (left) and Alternate John Dufresne, Jr. (right).

## PCWASA applauded as the state's FOG Program of the Year

Since the Peachtree City Water and Sewerage Authority (PCWASA) established a fats, oils, and grease (FOG) education program in 1997, it steadily gained valuable information and insights through participation in the Georgia F.O.G. Alliance. Now, the Authority has the model program in the state.

PCWASA is the 2013 Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Program of the Year Winner, as awarded by the Georgia F.O.G. Alliance, in the small sewer system category. A Program of the Year is selected among those smaller utilities such as PCWASA who have less than 250 commercial FOG producers or generators, in addition to a Program of the Year being awarded among larger utilities with more than 1,000.

The Authority had been selected as an "Outstanding FOG Program Winner" in 2012, prior to attaining the highest honor in the state this past year with the Georgia F.O.G. Alliance Program of the Year Award. The Authority's FOG Program includes oversight of approximately 200 fats, oils, and grease generators or producers, such as restaurants, hair salons, and pet grooming businesses. PCWASA also educates residential customers on the importance of proper grease disposal for Peachtree City homes, too.

PCWASA officials conduct grease trap inspections of commercial customers, to make sure they are in compliance with the Authority's ordinance for proper grease trap installation and maintenance. The Authority also inspects the grit/sand interceptors at the city's car wash establishments, in addition to beginning inspections on oil-water separators as well.

Xavier Davis serves as the Authority's FOG Program Coordinator, while working closely with Keisha Lisbon Thorpe, PCWASA Division Manager of Technical Services. Davis also is serving this year as Vice President of the Georgia F.O.G. Alliance, of which the Authority is a founding member.

The Georgia F.O.G. Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to public education and the promotion of a cleaner environment through the control of fats, oils, and grease.



Georgia F.O.G. Alliance President Doug White (right) presented PCWASA with an Outstanding FOG Program Award last year. This year during the March Board Meeting, White returns to present the Authority and FOG Program Coordinator Xavier Davis (left) with the 2013 FOG Program of the Year Award.

## PCWASA receives national acclaim through trade publication editorial



Stephen Hogan presents the issue of *Municipal Sewer & Water* featuring PCWASA.

PCWASA received national acclaim when the utility was profiled in *Municipal Sewer & Water*, a leading national trade publication of the water and sewer industry.

Within the editorial of the January 2014 Issue of *Municipal Sewer & Water*, PCWASA was noted for its "Award Winning Performance" by staff writer Cory Dellenbach.

PCWASA programs and operations highlighted in the article included the Authority's FOG Program (see story on FOG Program of the Year), its system condition assessment with the use of RedZone Robotics, and its planning for necessary capital improvements and sewer system upgrades for the community.

## PCWASA following state legislation and policies impacting the community

When the Georgia General Assembly convened in January, PCWASA General Manager Stephen Hogan and his staff had a head start on anticipating potential legislation that might impact the utility's system, operations, or customers.

Thanks to the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Legislative Luncheon, Hogan was able to attain insights on changes to Georgia law and policies under consideration by the state legislature. In addition, the luncheon provided updates on the regulatory activities of the state Environmental Protection Division (EPD), which could alter the work of water and sewer professionals such as those at PCWASA.

"We work within a heavily regulated industry, stemming from state and federal laws intended to protect water resources and the environment, as well as the safe and effective operation of water and sewer facilities and the delivery of services," says Hogan. "The Legislative Luncheon afforded us the opportunity to anticipate potential changes in the way we do business, so we can be proactive in implementing any subsequent, necessary adjustments to the operation of our sewer system."



**Stephen Hogan (left), General Manager of PCWASA, chats with Russ Pennington, Director of Policy and Public Affairs for Georgia EPD, prior to the Legislative Luncheon hosted by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.**

Guest speakers at the GAWP Legislative Luncheon included state Sen. Rick Jeffares of McDonough, who is an Administrative Floor Leader in the Senate, and Russ Pennington, Director of Policy and Public Affairs for Georgia EPD.

Perhaps most salient to the sewer industry is the state's consideration for land application of septage or septic tank waste, says Pennington. PCWASA requires waste haulers, which are typically carrying fats, oils, and grease (FOG) from commercial properties

and restaurants within Peachtree City for proper disposal, to have their trucks inspected and registered with Georgia EPD.

Pennington also noted a small change forthcoming to the permitting process directed by EPD, with municipal land use ordinances being more closely considered prior to permit issuance. As public hearings occur for projects seeking EPD related permits, they now will be held on the site of the proposed activity, he notes.

In his overview of recent and pending legislation, Sen. Jeffares referenced Senate Bill 117 and the slight changes in definitions and protocol it proposes for the "Call before you dig" or Georgia Facilities Protection Act, which the Georgia Public Service Commission currently oversees.

At PCWASA, Construction Coordinator Nathan Brooks and Utility Locator Michael Cole address utility locates when overseeing capital projects and system improvements for the Authority. Both also are involved in Georgia 811 Utilities Protection Center, Inc., which is a non-profit organization preventing damage to underground utility facilities and promoting safety and efficiency through high quality and economical notification services.

## Looking to the future of the water and sewer industry

### *PCWASA encourages students to explore science through Model Water Tower Competition*

In an effort to encourage student involvement in the study of science, engineering, and the intricacies of the water industry, the Peachtree City Water and Sewerage Authority (PCWASA) provided assistance in organizing and advising the annual Georgia Model Water Tower Competition. The judging that culminated the



**Jackson Hogan, an eighth grade student at Woodland Middle School, was the winner of the 2013 Georgia Model Water Tower Competition, which was organized with the help of PCWASA.**

statewide event this past fall was held at Woodland Middle School in McDonough.

The Competition is sponsored by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) and the Georgia Section of the American Water Works Association (GAWWA). Keisha Lisbon Thorpe, Division Manager of Technical Services for PCWASA, serves as the organizing committee co-chairman for the event. She also is a Trustee on the GAWWA Executive Committee. In addition, PCWASA General Manager Stephen Hogan served as a technical advisor for students as they engineered their model water towers.

The Georgia Model Water Tower Competition ultimately is an engineering challenge for students, which teaches them about the importance of water and sewer infrastructure to the quality of life in a community, says Lisbon Thorpe.

The Georgia Model Water Tower Competition is an opportunity for middle school aged children to design and build a water tower out of household items, she explains. Competitors must consider cost, materials used, functionality, and design, as factors that will determine their success



**Students from Woodland Middle School and Austin Road Middle School take part in the second annual Georgia Model Water Tower Competition, held at the end of the fall term of this school year.**

in the competition.

The models are judged based on three primary scientific categories – hydraulic efficiency, structural efficiency, and design ingenuity – while the final presentations and interviews on the day of the judging are critical as well, as water professionals from throughout the state serve on a panel of volunteer judges.

For more information and photos from the Georgia Model Water Tower Competition, log onto the Authority's Web site at [www.pcwasa.org](http://www.pcwasa.org).

**Please think before you pour grease down the sink!**

**You can help us prevent sewer spills and overflows by properly disposing of your household grease.**

**For more information, check out our Web site at [www.pcwasa.org](http://www.pcwasa.org).**



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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bill Holland

Vice Chairman  
Phil Mahler

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Cliff Stern

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John Harrell

Alternate  
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