WaterOne Staff Active in Efforts to Address Missouri River Bed Degradation

WaterOne staff has been actively working with area groups this year to address the problem of river bed degradation along the Missouri River. Tom Schrempf, WaterOne Director of Production, was instrumental in organizing a meeting with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and the region’s congressional representatives to discuss the significant drop in bed levels along the Missouri River. The group has been investigating ways to resolve the problem and has been active in attempting to obtain support and resources to address the issue.

The area’s congressional delegation previously requested funds for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to investigate the source of the Missouri River bed’s degradation, however, no funds have been appropriated. The investigation would determine the causes of the problem, and would allow the Corps to determine possible actions to mitigate the problem.

Schrempf and WaterOne General Manager, Mike Armstrong, have also been participants on the Drafting Team and Review Panel of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC). The MRRIC Planning Group is developing a Charter for the organization which will detail the future governance of MRRIC and will be used to guide its direction and operations in the future.

Phase V Pipeline Projects Awarded

A major component of the Phase V expansion, in addition to building a new treatment facility, is the construction of a 17-mile 60” transmission main that will bring treated water to Johnson County. Because of the size of the pipeline project, it will be constructed in four separate segments. Completion is scheduled in 2009.

These projects, totaling $54.3 million, were recently awarded by the WaterOne Board:

- A transmission main to transport water from the new treatment facility to Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, Kansas. Contractor - BRB Contractors, Inc.;
- A transmission main from Parallel Parkway to the Kansas River Tunnel. Contractor: Garney Construction Companies, Inc., KCMO; and
- A transmission main that will run from the Kansas River Tunnel to a new Pumping Station in Johnson County. Contractor: Garney Construction Co.

2007 Capacity Development Achievement Award Presented to WaterOne

WaterOne was selected to receive the 2007 Capacity Development Achievement Award from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The award was presented by Dave Waldo, Environmental Engineer, Bureau of Water, at the September 11th WaterOne Board Meeting.

The Capacity Development Achievement Award is the first of its kind in the country, and is designed to encourage utilities to go beyond mere compliance with the Safe Water Drinking Act (SWDA). “We’re very proud of this innovative effort to reward public water supply systems for going beyond what we ask of them,” stated Ron Hammerschmidt, Director of KDHE Division of Environment. “This is a positive way to encourage compliance, while protecting the environment and the public health.”

“I am pleased to report that WaterOne received national recognition this summer when its water was voted 1st Runner Up in the ‘Best of the Best’ International Best Tasting Water contest, sponsored by the American Water Works Association (AWWA). This distinction speaks to the priority we place on producing water that is of the highest quality and the overall commitment of our staff. It is a privilege to be serving again as WaterOne Board Chairman for the 2007-2009 term, along with Vice-Chairman Rob Olson. Committee assignments for this term can be found in the newsletter. If you would like to see recent actions taken by the Board or other Board related news, visit waterone.org.
Ground Broken on New Treatment Facility

WaterOne broke ground this spring on its new treatment facility being constructed in Wyandotte County near the Missouri River. The facility is part of the utility’s Phase V Expansion project. Phase V projects include:

- Construction of a 17-mile 60” transmission main,
- An underground tunnel that runs below the Kansas River that will house a portion of the 60” main;
- Construction of a horizontal collector well near the Missouri River; and
- Construction of a storage reservoir near K-7 and 77th Street in Johnson County.

The Missouri River was selected as the best site for a new treatment facility after an extensive evaluation of alternatives. The Missouri River is less vulnerable to drought and provides water quality that is easier to treat than the Kansas River and has less potential for tastes and odor issues.

WaterOne held a number of public information meetings with the public and other agencies for the project and plans to keep residents informed about the progress of the project. The new facilities are scheduled to come on-line in 2009.

WaterOne Receives GFOA Award

WaterOne was proud to receive the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its 2007 Budget. The President of the Kansas GFOA, Maureen Rogers, presented the award to WaterOne’s Board Chairman, Terry Frederick, at the September 11 Board meeting. This award was established to encourage and assist state and local governments in preparing budget documents of the very highest quality. The award recognizes individual governments that succeed in meeting the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA’s recommended practices on budgeting. In order to receive this award a governmental entity must publish a budget that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communications piece.

WaterOne Committee Appointments Made

WaterOne Board Chairman Terry Frederick has appointed the following Board Committees for the 2007-2009 term:

Finance Committee
Ibob Bob Reese - Chairman Dick Noon - Member Rob Olson - Member

Administrative
Rob Olson - Chairman Jim Vader - Member Bob Reese - Member

Government and Community Relations
Joe H. Vaughan - Chairman Brenda Cherpitel - Member Dick Noon - Member

Operations
Jim Vader - Chairman Brenda Cherpitel - Member Joe H. Vaughan - Member

Retirement
Dick Noon - Chairman Rob Reese - Member Joe H. Vaughan - Member Jill Bell - Board Secretary

Staff Members
Shelley Homan - Member Ron Appeltich - Member

KS River Improvements (cont’d.)

WaterOne Receives GFOA Award (continued on back page)

WaterOne breaks ground this spring on its new treatment facility near K-7 and 77th Street in Johnson County. The new facility will provide water from the Missouri River to Johnson County.

WaterOne Travel ‘Down Under’ With Kansas River Tunnel

One of the challenging components of the Phase V tunnel will be a transmission tunnel beneath the Kansas River, as it is part of the pipeline project. The tunnel will house a steel water transmission main 60 inches in diameter. In all, 17 miles of 60-inch water main will be installed along the pipeline route.

The cost of the Kansas River tunnel project is $6.7 million. It includes drilling two deep vertical shafts on each side of the river, in excess of 100 feet deep, and boring a horizontal tunnel 1,400 feet in length under the river bed to connect the shafts. The 60-inch transmission main will then be welded within the shafts and tunnel.

A similar tunnel was constructed more than 25 years ago when the utility first adopted its Master Plan and brought water from the Missouri River to its existing treatment plant on Holliday Drive. The new tunnel is needed to transport water from the new treatment facilities in Wyandotte County to Johnson County.

WaterOne Retains High Bond Ratings

WaterOne received affirmation earlier this year that it had retained its AAA rating from Standard and Poor’s Rating Services and its Aaa rating from Moody’s Investor Service. Additionally, Moody’s affirmed its Aa1 rating on WaterOne’s Junior Lien Bonds and Standard & Poor’s upgraded its rating on the utility’s Junior Lien Bonds to A.A.A. This is very good news for the utility and its ratepayers.

According to the rating agencies, these exceptionally high ratings are a reflection of WaterOne’s:

- Diverse and growing customer base
- Strong local economy and affluent service area
- Management’s strong financial policies and practices
- Ample debt service coverage, and
- Manageable capital plan for the long-term needs of its customers.

To finance construction of the utility’s new Treatment Facility and other Phase V projects, WaterOne sold $180 million in Water Revenue Bonds in March 2007.

Phase V Construction Progress

Since ground was broken on the new Phase V facilities earlier this spring, construction progress has been steady. As shown in the photo below, construction crews ready a primary contact basin for concrete.