

OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

The Group

PO Box 94551

Seattle, WA 98124

www.backflowgroup.org

OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

CHAIR: Tony Peredo tony@rainerviewwater.com	Rainier View Water Company	253 537 6634
VICE CHAIR: Chris Sutton chris@backflowsnorthwest.com	Backflows Northwest	425 277 2888
TREASURER: Dennis McLaughlin mclaughlinbackflowtesting@msn.com	McLaughlin Backflow	206 364 9531
SECRETARY: Carla Snyder csnyder@ccud.org	Coal Creek Utility District	425 235-9200
PAST CHAIR: Tim Cantwell tcantwell@woodinvillewater.com	Woodinville Water District	425 487 4125

Once again we convened at the La Quinta Suites in Tacoma for the 20th annual Cross Connection Control Seminar. We even tried a new lunch menu this year, it was Italian theme, a nice change to the soup and sandwiches we've had in previous years, I think most of us enjoyed the new menu. And other than some mic issues in the beginning the meeting went off without a hitch. Here is an overview:

Our Vice Chair Chris Sutton opened the meeting and introduced the current board members, volunteers and our vendors. All of the vendors had an opportunity to give a quick description of their wares and services. Next, Scott Hemingway, the director of WETRC (Washington Environmental Training Resource Center) spoke a bit about improvements they are working on. WETRC has been in existence since the early 70's and have offered many classroom sessions of training in a wide variety of water/wastewater topics. Included in their training courses is Backflow Assembly Testing as well as Cross Connection training for system operators. Thanks for the update Scott!

Terri Notestine, the CCC Program Manager for the DOH gave an update on the reorganization of their office. She also spoke a bit of the Annual Summary Report, which every CCS loves. They are still in the process of updating the website application. The goal is to improve and enhance the application and correct current defects. The new app will include increased reliability, effectiveness and data quality. New features: Enhanced security, better navigation, data validations, and minor changes in some of the forms, but in general much likes the one we are used to. The new application should be ready for 2016 reporting period. Terri talked a bit about retirement and succession planning for purveyors and distribution systems; inspection and cleaning of water storage facilities. Planning ahead by preparing and training those who will follow in our footsteps. Terry introduced Bill Bernier the new Distribution and Cross Connection Control Advisor for WDOH office of Drinking Water. Bill briefly discussed the new backflow assembly field test report requirements from WAC 246-292 He also presented the new DOH backflow assembly field test report template, how to use it, and how to find it on the DOH web site. If you are interested in looking at it Try this link by cutting and pasting into your browser

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/WaterSystemDesignandPlanning/CrossConnectionControlBackflowPrevention/FieldTestReport>

Next up was Rachel Nevel from Washington Certification Services Certification renewals will be going out in November. If you need to update your address, etc. contact her. The Professional Growth Requirement period ends December 2015. The CCS Public List is available on line. If you would like to apply to be added to the list go to www.doh.wa.gov/ccspubliclist . Rachel is the BAT Program Coordinator for Washington Certification Services. She talked about the new format for BAT certification testing that became effective January 2015. The exam is two-part; first you will need to pass the hands on practical part of the test and then you will qualify to

take the written exam through the AMP Company. You have a three month window between passing the practical and taking the written exam. AMP has four new testing sites in the State; Auburn, Pasco, Spokane and Vancouver. You will receive immediate “pass or fail” on each exam.

Any questions; Get in contact with Rachel at www.wacertservices.org. The BAT Public List is also available there if you would like to sign up for that.

And a big thank you to our generous vendors for providing the door prizes during the breaks!

Our next speaker was Jim Purzycki who actually had two sessions; Jim is with Bavco a wholesale distributor of backflow assembly repair parts and tools. Jim had a discussion on various backflow devices and their proper applications, Jim’s presentation showed some of the backflow devices and how they are used, and for his second session Jim talked of how some backflow preventers require, or their repair can be made easier with the use of special tools, His presentation showed some of the specialty tools available, how and when to use to make the job easier.

The following session was presented by Dave Cantrell, who is the Chief Plumbing Inspector for King County. In his spare time, Dave often times wears the hat of being a liaison between the building officials or the Authority Having Jurisdiction and the CCS’s representing the Water Purveyor. In this session he provided updates to the Uniform Plumbing Code for 2012, He touched on water reuse, and rainwater harvesting. Dave always has a plethora of really good, accurate information for water purveyors and CCS’s. Once again, you can view his presentation in its entirety on the Group website.

The next session was Officer Jennifer Franklin and Brian McDaniel from the City of Mercer Island. Jennifer is the Emergency Manager and Crime Prevention Officer for the City of Mercer Island and Brian is the City’s Utility Operations Manager. Their presentation was from the events and lessons learned when Mercer Island went into Boil Water Advisory in September and October of 2014. Jennifer and Brian gave a presentation of the management, response, and follow up of the incident. Here are some of the highlights from their presentation. They talked about activating the City’s Emergency Operations Center, getting the word out for the boil water advisory to all water users including those who do not have access to television or personal computers, working closely with Public Health and with the T.V, and radio media, dealing with the increased sampling involved, investigating the source of the positive sample, organizing volunteers and the maintenance staff who were working really long shifts during the event, along with neighboring utilities who offered to help with the increased sampling and water main flushing and mapping data and creating a daily spread sheet of the events and a time log of when things occurred and what steps were taken by the emergency response staff.

They also talked about the lessons learned like the reverse 911 calls, water suppliers need to get people to sign up in order for it to work efficiently and get the word out quickly. They recommended considering using a network site like Nextdoor a free social network site that links neighbor to neighbor. Creating positive messages after the event such as the “Dine Local Days” to encourage people to visit the restaurants that were affected during the event. There is so much we all can learn from the excellent job the City of Mercer Island did during this difficult time, they encourage being prepared ahead of time so other drinking water suppliers will be ready in case such an event occurs in your service area. A huge Thank you to the City of Mercer Island staff for sharing your experience and guiding other water suppliers in the events that unfold.

Last, but not least, Jeff Hudson from National Fire Protection Association delivered and a member of the Fire Sprinkler Coalition gave a discussion regarding Residential fire sprinkler system construction, How in 2006 residential fire sprinklers really began to surface resulting in a reduction in residential home fires, Jeff also talked about how sprinkler systems work and where they are utilized in the homes. Many question form the attendees were addressed, .Jeff gave us a web address if you would like to check out the coalition’s webpage firesprinklerinitiative.org

We had a great deal of excellent information provided by all of our speakers and vendors and we thank all of them for their time and support. Anyone that completed a CEU card should see that the credit of 0.6 CEUs has been applied to their Professional Growth Report at Washington Certification Services.

Also a message from Clallam County PUD they have moved effective 11/23/15 their new physical location is... PUD#1 104 Hooker Road Sequim, WA 98382 all invoices and correspondence goes to this new address, all the phone number(s) extensions and fax numbers have remained the same.

The next meeting is our Elections and will take place at Silver Lake Water and Sewer District on November 18th at 10 AM. The address is 15205 41st Ave SE, Bothell, WA 98012, and will be hosted by Casey Parks. If you need to contact him, he can be reached at cparks@slwsd.com or 425 750 9854

We will be nominating and electing new board members. Our Vice Chris Sutton will step up, according to the by-laws, to be Chair for 2016. The positions available are Vice-chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you are interested in any of these positions, and would like to get involved with the GROUP or you would like to nominate someone come to this meeting and see what we are all about, we would love to have you there.. The voting in of new officers will take place at the same meeting. And one last reminder to renew your membership to the GROUP for 2016

Have a great week!

Carla Snyder

GROUP Secretary

Following are some pictures from the event:

RANDY ENGLE



RACHEL NEVILLE



PAUL SCHWARTZ-USC, SEAHAWKS 12TH MAN?



TREASURER JAMES SALTER & KIRSTEN WARD



CHAIR TIM, DOMINIC AND BOB-DOORPRIZES!!



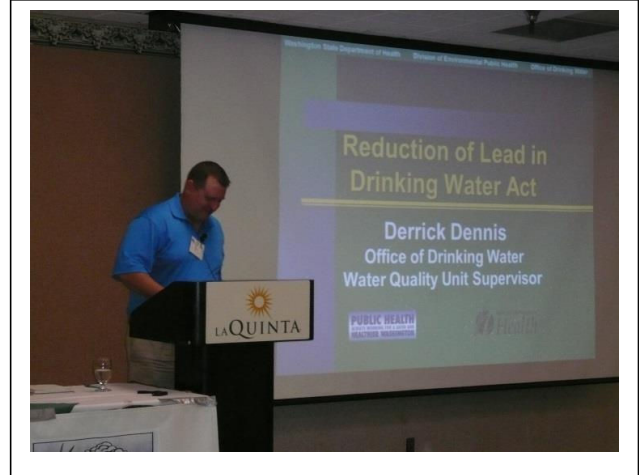
VICE CHAIR TONY, MARY AND LINDA



DAVE CANTRELL



DERRICK DENNIS



**AND.....IN CLOSING WE HAVE
JAMES MOORS FROM KING
COUNTY WASTEWATER.**

MAY OUR PATHS NEVER CROSS