



# Water Works

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## Regional water studies

With three regional water studies out for public discussion, each is receiving review and discussion. This includes questions on design, capacity, need, ownership, and of course, cost. These three studies include:

1. TMACOG's review of Toledo's water plant capabilities.
2. Sylvania's study of an alternative water plant and intake with Southern Michigan.
3. Wood Co. Economic Development Commission's study of alternative supplies for the Wood Co. area.

Each study offers a different set of alternatives and capabilities, depending on the geographical areas of Northwest Ohio. As well, there are varying amounts of costs for each. With relatively flat or little increase in demand, more debt means higher rates for all three studies and all rate payers. The difficulty for us, in the meantime, is to review the studies, talk with the providers and look hard at the best, most economical alternative for our area.

Check our website for copies of these studies where you'll also find our President Jerry Greiner blogging on these topics.

## Operations team one of best in nation

A team of NWWSD employees competed last month in New Orleans at the annual WEFTEC, the Water Environment Federation's Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference. This "operator's challenge" consisted of five timed events for five-person teams participating from across the continent. The District's team consisted of: Bryan Martikan, Jarred Myers, Tom McGrain, Todd Saums and Claud Barringer. They participated against 43 other organizations in events such as process control, laboratory procedures, collection event, maintenance and safety.



The team finished second in the nation in the lab event, and 8th out of 43 overall, a great accomplishment. It's wonderful to know that NWWSD has one of the best operations crews in the United States. We're proud of them!

## Upcoming closures

Just a reminder that we will be closed on **Friday, Nov. 11** for Veterans Day, which recognizes the service of all military veterans on this federal holiday. (Memorial Day remembers men and women who died while serving.) Be sure to thank a vet! Of course, we'll also be closed **Nov. 24-25** for Thanksgiving.

### **Cross-connection inspections**

Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-95 requires the public water supplier (Northwestern Water & Sewer District) to protect the public water system from cross-connections and prevent backflow situations. The District must conduct cross-connection control inspections of our water customers' property to evaluate hazards. This inspection must be repeated every 5 years per Ohio EPA law. When your inspection is due, you will receive a visit from a District Representative to conduct the inspection of your property. The representative will have proper ID on him/her to show that they are a district employee. If you want to confirm they are an employee, please call 419-354-9090 ext. 155. If the timing of the visit does not work for you, another appointment will be scheduled with the inspector to work with your schedule.

### **2017 budget**

Our internal budget review meetings are underway with every aspect and every department under scrutiny for discussion. Whether it's staffing, field operations, customer service, IT, engineering capital improvements, or public relations-marketing-public informational efforts — all are expensive to staff and operate and all get our attention for financial review.

We know for sure: Toledo has a 13% increase in its water treatment rate for this year, and another 13% already approved and scheduled for 2017 implementations. Our other suppliers are not in the same mode of repairs and upgrades for this year, though. Our own costs for operation and maintenance (O/M) are expected to see a small inflationary increase — it is anticipated — but yet unclear until late November or early December board decisions.

### **Readying for winter, closing out work projects**

The construction year is not over, but we are preparing for more Northwest Ohio challenging weather seasons. That means little grass seed will grow until the spring, and the asphalt plants will close later in November when the colder temperatures set in. In the meantime, if you have construction or repair work in your neighborhood, we will be there very, very soon to tidy up in preparation for winter. If you see something that needs attention, though, call or email us ([district@nwwsd.org](mailto:district@nwwsd.org)). The work may be done by our crews or a contract project that we have bid in which we are responsible for inspection and administration.

### **Veterans Day**

With Veterans Day almost upon us, we think it's worth reminding you about the valuable services offered by the Wood County Veterans Assistance Center (WCVAC). It advises and assists persons in the Armed Forces, and their families, in obtaining rights and benefits under the law. Benefits include areas such as vocational rehabilitation, outpatient medical center, pension, compensation and VA home loans. To learn more, visit: <http://www.co.wood.oh.us/veteranshome.asp>.

### **How to Reach Us**

- The District's office is located at 12560 Middleton Pike, Bowling Green, Ohio.
- Our mailing address is P.O. Box 348, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.
- Our local phone number is (419) 354-9090, toll free is (877) 354-9090, fax is (419) 354-9344.
- The District's office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.
- You can also e-mail the District at [district@nwwsd.org](mailto:district@nwwsd.org).
- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and at our blog: <https://jerrygreinernwwsd.wordpress.com/>

Sincerely,

Jerry Greiner, President