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CWWA 24th Annual CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2015 Highlights

For the first time in the history of the CWWA, its Annual Conference and Exhibition was held in the mainland United States, at the splendid Intercontinental Hotel, Biscayne Bay, Miami, FL. The 24th Annual CWWA Conference and Exhibition was jointly hosted by the American Water Works Association (AWWA), Florida Section and the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS). The theme for this year's Conference & Exhibition was **"Improving the quality of life with water and waste management solutions"**.

The Opening Ceremony was attended by a host of dignitaries, representatives of national, regional and international agencies, exhibitors, students, experts from the public and private sectors. The audience was addressed by Mr. Carlos Gimenez, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Mr. Lester Sola, Director of Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department, Mr. Mark Lehigh, Florida Section Chair of AWWA, Mr. Luiz Augusto de Lima Pontes, President of AIDIS and Mr. Jason Johnson, President CWWA. CWWA's newly appointed Executive Director, Mrs. Patricia Aquing acted as Chairperson. On the third day, our luncheon speaker was Ms. Jennifer Carroll, former Lieutenant Governor of the United States Navy, with her roots in Trinidad and Tobago.

The 11th High Level Forum of Caribbean Ministers responsible for Water (HLF 11) was convened during the last two days of the Conference. The objectives were to discuss policy issues related to water including how water and climate could be placed on regional and international agendas. Also discussed was the need for a regional mechanism for coordinating the water sector. The Assistant Secretary General of CARICOM Dr. Douglas Slater was in attendance.

The Conference was a great networking opportunity. Participants also had the opportunity to meet with exhibitors who displayed various technologically advanced products for use in the water, wastewater and waste management sectors. There were over 350 plus persons in attendance. It was deemed a resounding success.



Jason Johnson – CWWA President



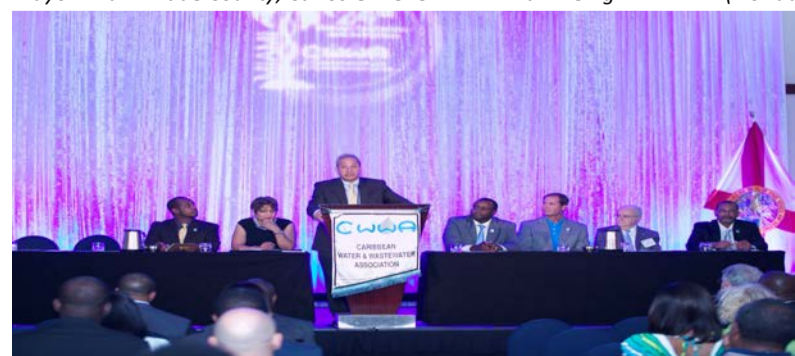
Patricia Aquing, CWWA Executive Director



Mayor Miami-Dade County, Carlos Gimenez



Mr. Mark Lehigh – AWWA (Florida Section)



Mr. Lester Sola, Director of Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS cont'd



Carlos Silvestri, Sherry Dumas-Harewood, Chris Husbands and Jason Johnson



Mrs. Jennifer Carroll, Former Lieutenant Governor, United States Navy



Luiz Augusto de Lima Pontes Lester Sola, Jason Johnson, Mark Lehigh & Cyprian Gibson



Participants at the Technical Sessions



Secretariat Update

WE ARE RETURNING!!!

All roads lead to Trinidad and Tobago for our 2016 Conference & Exhibition. We are returning to where it all began. Come celebrate our "Silver Anniversary" (25 years) with us.



SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 2016



Sara Jade-Govia, Trinidad National Section receives the Conference Banner From Ms.Elizabeth Bradford AWWA representative & Jason Johnson

CWWA EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

At our recently held Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 26th August 2015, the elections for the CWWA Board of Directors were held. The following persons were elected and additionally, retained their positions:

- ✚ Jason Johnson – President
- ✚ Alphonsus Daniel – President Elect
- ✚ Ivan Rodrigues – Vice President
- ✚ Carol Andy Gill – Vice President
- ✚ Casandra La Fleur – Secretary
- ✚ Shamika Cudjoe – Treasurer
- ✚ Sara Jade Govia – Public Relations Officer
- ✚ Stella Saunders – Ordinary Member
- ✚ Cyprian Gibson – Ordinary Member

We would like to welcome our newly appointed members and to reaffirm our commitment to working with our Executive as they carry forward the work of the CWWA throughout the Caribbean and beyond.



CWWA 2015-2016 Executive Board of Directors



DOMINICA TRAGEDY: Experienced first-hand at the HLF

On Thursday 27th August, the 11th High Level Forum of Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Water (11th HLF) was in session at the 24th CWWA Annual Conference and Exhibition in Miami. Present at the Forum was Mr. Bernard Ettinoffe, Chief Executive Officer of DOWASCO and CWWA Member, who was representing his Minister. It was Mr. Ettinoffe who apprised the meeting of the tragedy that was unfolding in Dominica as Ministers, Development Partners, representatives of CARICOM and others were discussing subjects related to the theme of : *Connecting Water to Climate, Economic Growth and Development Within the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. Tropical Storm Erika was ravaging the island. Mr. Ettinoffe's solemn announcement of 4 persons (at the time) feared dead with bridges washed away, infrastructure severely damaged, hundreds of persons displaced and activity in Dominica had come to a grinding halt was the supreme irony for all of us.

This tragedy that has played itself out each year in many of our islands once more brought home to us our vulnerability and most importantly, the need for us to build resilience, no more so than in the water sector, a key area that is feared to be most impacted by climate change. Water is no longer seen as a sectoral issue but a development one which impacts every facet of our daily existence. Sectors such as tourism and agriculture which are our economic life lines; in the case of Dominica, its biodiversity; health, education, travel to name a few more. By the time the final count was made, it was announced that 22 persons had lost their lives.

We at the CWWA, of which DOWASCO is a member , launched an appeal to our membership including sponsors, exhibitors, the private sector and individuals to provide assistance to Dominica, directly to DOWASCO since we felt that we were getting the story, directly from "the horses' mouth" as to the extent of the damage and what was needed to bring the water infrastructure back to normal. We have been in regular contact with the CEO of DOWASCO. Since our appeal, a number of persons and utilities have come forward to date.

Mr. Alphonsus Daniel of Daniel and Daniel Plumbing of Grenada and President Elect of the CWWA will be joining Mr. Ettinoffe in Dominica this week with a team of technicians to lend support and to coordinate CWWA's effort. We wish to thank the following for their responses and offers of thus far:

1. The Antigua and Barbuda Public Utilities Agency (APUA) Water Manager Mr. Ivan Rodrigues.
2. The Belize Water Services Ltd. Mr. Alvan Haynes (CEO) and Mr. Dave Pascacio Operations Manager
3. The National Water and Sewage Authority of Grenada (NAWASA) Christopher Husbands, General Manager
4. The Water and Sewage Authority (WASA) of Trinidad and Tobago Mr. Gerard Yorke (Act'g CEO)
5. The Ministry of Public Utilities Minister Ian Liburd and Mr. Dennison Paul, Manager of the St. Kitts Water Services .
6. Mr. Dave Benny CWWA Member
7. Mr. Noel Whyte of N. O Whyte and Associates Ltd of Jamaica
8. Mr. Daniel Mason – Mason Engineering
9. Bahamas Water and Sewerage Corporation, Mr. Cyprian Gibson, Senior Engineer

One of the challenges faced is that of transportation of materials and personnel to Dominica from some of the countries that have volunteered assistance. This is a matter that has to be addressed from a regional standpoint as part of our attempt to build resilience. We will keep our Membership informed as developments unfold.



Tropical Storm Erika

Rouseau, Dominica, August 27 2015: Rescue crews are continuing to search for more than 50 people still missing in Dominica after Tropical Storm Erika caused flooding and mudslides on the Caribbean island. The death toll in Dominica has risen to 20. Officials are working to evacuate roughly 1,000 people from the town of Petite-Savanne because of fears of new landslides, said Don Corritte, director of the office of disaster management. Evacuations were carried out by boat because of damage to roads and bridges. **Tropical Storm Erika Leaves Trail of Deadly Destruction;** Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerritt said all the residents of the town in the country's southeast would be evacuated today. He declared disaster status for nine areas, calling the extent of the devastation "monumental." "Access by road to these communities is impossible," he said. These towns "are cut off from the rest of the country."



The Hurricane also affected Haiti, causing mudslides after heavy rains on Saturday 29 August 2015



CWWA 2015 GOLD AWARDEE: Mr. Vincent Sweeney

This year, the CWWA had the pleasure of awarding Mr. Vincent Sweeney with our highest award, GOLD. Mr. Sweeney joined the prestigious ranks of past distinguished Gold awardees. Below is an excerpt of his biography and acceptance speech:

SUMMARY OF BIOGRAPHY

Vincent Sweeney holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, with a specialty in Environmental Engineering and a Master's Degree from the Centre for Water Resources Studies, both at the Technical University of Nova Scotia (now known as the Faculty of Engineering, Dalhousie University). He was admitted to the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia (APENS) as a full Member in 1989.

He is currently based at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Nairobi, Kenya as the Coordinator of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (or GPA). The GPA, which celebrates 20 years in November, addresses the priority pollutant sources of wastewater, marine litter and nutrients and is the host for the Global Wastewater Initiative, the Global Partnership on Nutrients Management and the Global Partnership on Marine Litter. He was the Executive Director of the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute which he joined in the capacity of Sanitary Engineer.

His private-sector experience includes working as a Project Engineer with a Consulting firm in Canada, where he was involved in design of water treatment infrastructure and inspection of various civil works, including water storage tanks, roads, ports, piling and buildings

He is a two-time Vice-President of the Caribbean Water & Wastewater Association (CWWA) as well as being the PRO for one year, and has served on the Steering Committee for Caribbean Waternet (the regional arm of the IWRM Capacity-building Network, CAPNET). He currently represents the United Nations Environment Programme as Co-Chair of the UN-Water Task Force on Wastewater Management

EXTRACTS FROM MR. SWEENEY'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

I am deeply honoured to be receiving this award today. The CWWA has been a part of my professional (& social) life since 1992, when I attended the first Conference in Port of Spain, and presented on the work of the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI). As a young engineer, it was early exposure to senior professionals in the sector, who eventually mentored me and shaped my own career. I don't know how many of you attended that conference, but some of the persons present were legends in the sector and I was extremely fortunate to have been able to meet with such persons as Ronald Williams (first CWWA President & father of another President, Wayne); Herbert "Nicky" Sealy (from Barbados Water Authority & also father of a former President, Hugh Sealy); Leo Lawson (another former CWWA President, under whom I later served as Vice President); Emile Warner; Raymond Noel (from Grenada); Arthur Archer; and O.K. Yhap.

In 1992, when I attended the first CWWA Conference, I never expected to ever receive a Gold Award. Frankly, I did not know what it even meant to receive such an award. Many years later, and having seen the calibre of individuals who were selected for this prestigious award, I am both thrilled, and humbled. I quietly wondered if I would ever be considered worthy. Especially since I was simply doing my job! Colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. No professional award could be more meaningful to me than this, from my peers, and presented in front of my peers and many of my closest colleagues. I will cherish this forever. As they say in Kenya, "Asante sana" (thank you very much).



SECTOR NEWS

Tropical Storm Erika – Let us Help our Neighbours

Rouseau, Dominica: As we await a needs assessment report from our counterparts in Dominica, I urge each of you to remember the monumental response from our brothers and sisters in disasters past. Please stand ready to deliver your time, skill sets & finances in raising funds or contributing otherwise to our effort. You can write to the CWWA's Secretariat: cwattsecretariat@gmail.com **ATTN: Ms. Patricia Aquing** and inform her of how you are prepared to assist us in helping our neighbours.

WASA Responds to Water Supply Challenges in Tobago

Tobago continues to be impacted by below normal rainfall since the Met Office announced the start of the Rainy Season on 28th May, 2015. Data from the Met Office indicates that rainfall on the island from June to present is less than half of the long-term average for this time of year. This has resulted in low river flows and impounding reservoir levels at the main water treatment facilities throughout Tobago. In fact, production at Courland, Richmond, Highlands Road, Kings Bay and Hillsborough West Water Treatment Plants have dropped by as much as 60 to 70 percent, while Hillsborough Dam is producing at 40 percent. Aside from this, ground water aquifers and wells at Bacolet, Diamond and Daniel Trace, are also being impacted. However the Authority is maintaining current production levels at these sources.

To read more visit: http://www.wasa.gov.tt/WASA_Media_Press.html

BECOME A CWWA MEMBER

We are the premier professional association in the Caribbean with a membership comprising persons and corporate entities from the water and waste-management sectors. We are 24years old incorporated by an Act of Parliament (1991) of Trinidad and Tobago.

Become a member of the CWWA now and enjoy many benefits:

<http://www.cwwa.net/new/index.php/membership-info/membership-benefits>

Membership is open to water and waste management experts, specialists, students, government enterprises, companies and other interested parties

Come join us today!!!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM & PAYMENT DETAILS INFO

<http://www.cwwa.net/new/index.php/membership-info/membership-form>

Water Taste Test Winners 2015

Bahamas are the winners for the Annual CWWA Water Test Competition. For the first time since the competition's inception, Jamaica has been dethroned (winners from 2012, 2013 and 2014). Congratulations to our new winners and we look forward to them defending their title in 2016.



Minister Phillip Davis, Deputy Prime Minister of the Bahamas, CWWA's Jason Johnson & Employees of the Water & Sewerage Corporation of Bahamas

Water drought in St. Kitts

BASSETERRE, St Kitts, **August 20 2015** -- The Water Services Department (WSD) in St Kitts has issued a new advisory for consumers to implement water saving and storage measures, including the purchasing of cisterns where possible, as water levels are extremely low.

A press release from the agency stated, "We have now reached a critical stage of water abstraction from the Basseterre Valley Aquifer and have taken measures to control demand from that source." Now the aquifers in the rural east and west are the latest to be affected by the prolonged dry spell that has seen a total of 9.876 inches of rainfall from January to July 2015 – way below the national average of 20.63 inches recorded over the past ten years.

To read more visit: <http://www.caribbeannewsnow.com/headline-Critical-water-levels-force-rationing-extension-across-St-Kitts-27298.html>



ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Caribbean Ministers / Representatives Responsible for Water

For more pictures visit us on



Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association