

# The Confluence



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO WASTEWATER UTILITY COUNCIL

Winter Issue

January 11, 2010

## Paul Grundemann—Leader, Mentor, and Friend



By Dennis Stowe

Salsa, Suds and Scopes was an informal gathering at a RMWEA Annual Conference a few years ago. The 'salsa' was hors d'oeuvres, the 'suds' were carbonated adult beverages and the 'scopes' was Paul's GPS guided monster of a telescope. He gave everyone a tour of the night sky, directed some stunning views of several celestial bodies, and he did it with great enthusiasm.

Paul Grundemann was the Chair of the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council when he suddenly passed away after a brief illness. This was his second tour of duty as Chair and he was one of the original organizers of the Council. As with astronomy, Paul brought his enthusiasm, knowledge and skill to the Council and its many activities. His support of the Council and the work he did on behalf of the Council are key reasons the Council is recognized today as an important and effective organization in Colorado water quality and wastewater issues. Paul's efforts have helped lay down the foundation for the future success of the Council and his leadership and insights on difficult issues will be missed.

Those attending Council meetings will not soon forget the frequent discussions about anti-degradation and nutrient controls at wastewa-

ter facilities. Often, when discussions got too intense, you could see Paul sit back to steer an imaginary tractor that was actually located on a 2 ½ acre home site near Delta, where he was planning to retire. Being heavily involved in water supply, also, he was proud to own 2 ½ shares in an irrigation ditch company.

Paul was instrumental in developing two on-going programs sponsored by the Council – a permitting seminar given in all areas of Colorado and the Council's Mentoring Program. Both these programs are intended to provide information and assistance to wastewater operators in Colorado, reflecting Paul's advocacy for water and wastewater operations personnel. Paul's involvement on the operator's certification board was important in the development of the cur-

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### Spotlight on Wastewater Utility Council Member

LITTLETON ENGLEWOOD WWTP

The Littleton Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant has been a Colorado Wastewater Utility Council member since the council's start. Mary Gardner—Regulatory Programs Administrator for L/E is the council representative.

Issues of concern to the Littleton Englewood WWTP include total inorganic nitrogen limits, antidegradation, nutrients, and economic impacts of regulatory requirements.

(see spotlight on pg 4)

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Paul Grundemann listens intently at one of the many CWWUC meetings he chaired.

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## Mentoring Program Provides Support to Easter Seals



Easter Seals Rocky Mountain Village in Empire, Colorado provides a get-away for kids

Easter Seals provides exceptional services, education, outreach, and advocacy so that people living with autism and other disabilities can live, learn, work and play in our communities.

THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CWWUC MENTORING PROGRAM RESULTED IN SIGNIFICANT COST SAVINGS FOR EASTER SEALS.

*by Mary Dawson and Bob Anastasov*

Easter Seals of Colorado hosted a luncheon in which CWWUC Chair, Paul Grundemann, and Aurora Water's Bob Anastasov attended as guests of CEO Lynn Robinson. The board extended their appreciation for the assistance with their ongoing permitting process for the onsite wastewater treatment facility servicing the Easter Seals camp in Eagle, Colorado. Through the participation of the CWWUC Mentoring Program the Easter Seals of Colorado has been working with Paul, Bob, and Paul Ferarro in negotiating a discharge permit for Rocky Mountain Village. The assistance

of the CWWUC mentoring program resulted in significant cost savings for Easter Seals; savings which translates directly into assistance to handicapped children.

Easter Seals of Colorado's Rocky Mountain Village in Empire, Colorado is regarded as one of the top Easter Seals camps in the country. Rocky Mountain Village is fully accessible and used by more than 800 children and adults with disabilities during the summer camp sessions. Campers enjoy swimming, fishing, overnight camping, outdoor cooking, travel camp, day trips, arts & crafts, sports and recreation, hiking, dances, music

& drama, horse-back riding, and riding the zip-line. During the nonsummer season, camp provides approximately four R&R weekends. Campers come up to Rocky Mountain Village to get away and relax while giving their families a short rest from caregiving.

Paul and Bob also given a tour of the camp. It was a pleasure of visiting with some of the campers who had great things to say about their experience at the camp and look forward to coming back next year. Recently, Easter Seals of Colorado has received a federal grant to help with their ongoing work on camp improvements. ♠

# The Confluence

## Water Leader Will Be Missed By Many Who Loved Him

PAUL GRUNDEMANN WILL BE MISSED BY THOSE WITH WHOM HE WORKED, THE FRIENDS HE MADE IN THIS PROFESSION AND THE ORGANIZATIONS HE WAS ACTIVE IN.

(Continued from Grundemann on page 1)

rent and very successful program. In addition, he was involved in many training activities for operations personnel, including the Boulder Water and Wastewater Operators Fundamentals School. In the Mentoring Program, Paul and others were successful in assisting Easter Seals Colorado in achieving regulatory compliance at their camp for disabled and special needs children, near Empire, Colorado, without the installation of an expensive mechanical treatment system.

Paul's real job was Director of Operations for the Centennial

Water & Sanitation District, located in northern Douglas County. Paul was the first employee hired by the District and served for 26 years. A long-time water and wastewater professional, Paul also served as a leader on a number of statewide commissions, councils and committees. He was appointed by Governor Bill Owens as a commissioner on the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission and was a past chair of the Water Quality Advisory Committee of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). He was active in many other organizations, including the South Platte Coalition for Urban River Evaluation, the Rocky Mountain Water Envi-

ronment Association, the Colorado Water Utility Council and many others.

Paul Grundemann will be missed by those with whom he worked, the friends he made in this profession and the organizations he was active in. Paul is survived by his wife Theresa, daughter Sarah, son Chris and mother Martha Grundemann, as well as two grandsons.

Back issues and meeting info are on the WEB

[WWW.CWWUC.ORG](http://WWW.CWWUC.ORG)

## Steve Gunderson's Report on State's Activities (Dec. 09 meeting)

condensed summary by Nancy Keller

**Funding**— JBC is questioning if the 15% of the Division budget that comes from the General fund should be cut. The resultant fees for wastewater would be increased by 45% and drinking water increased by 288%. The Division would lose about \$2.7 million but it would actually be more because that money is used to match Federal dollars that would be lost. Steve stated that the Division tried to convey to the JBC that general funds are necessary to cover expense for events like Alamosa E.coli outbreak that can not be charged through the permit fee process.

**WET**— EPA is pushing the Division to start their work-

group process to update the WET guidance starting the first of the year. The primary issues are how to do reasonable potential for sublethal limits and independent applicability. EPA has mandated that WET sublethal limits are included in permits starting FY 2011. The Division is receptive to the CWWUC providing information from other states as to how they are implementing WET.

**Electronic Reporting**— Pressure is being applied by EPA to do electronic reporting. The Division does not have the equipment and programs currently to handle electronic reporting. Either they will need to obtain funding to do this or everything will be reported directly to EPA and the state will have to work with EPA to get the in-

formation from them. Error corrections may be difficult. The Division will determine their direction before a stakeholder process starts, probably after the first of the year (2010), to work on a fee bill for next year.

**Pesticide**— The application of FIFRA regulated pesticides/herbicides that used to be exempt if they were applied per the instructions on the label must have a NPDES permit to apply near to or on waters of the US by April 2011. Municipalities will have to get a permit to have someone apply pesticides within the facility. Crop application will be exempt. EPA will notice a model permit in April 2010 it should be final December 2010. The states have been encouraged to develop their permits concurrently.



Communication with the State WQWCD staff is one way the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council stays informed.



**Serving Colorado's Water Quality and Treatment Needs**

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO WASTEWATER UTILITY COUNCIL**

The Colorado Wastewater Utility Council's mission is to “professionally and responsibly promote environmental protection by supporting legislation and regulations which achieve well-defined environmental benefits while maintaining local flexibility.”

*The Confluence* is a quarterly publication of the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council. For newsletter questions, suggestions, article submissions, etc. please contact: Blair Corning— [bcorning@sacwsd.org](mailto:bcorning@sacwsd.org)— 720-206-0463

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**Littleton Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant**

(Continued from Spotlight pg. 1)

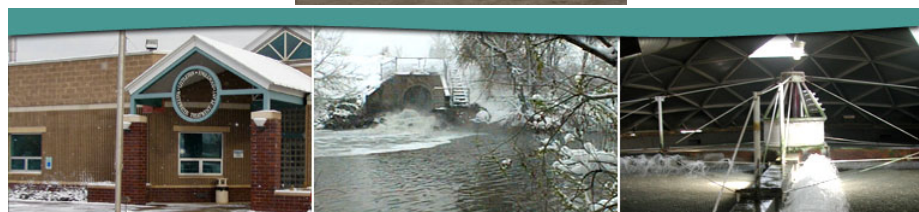
The Littleton/Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant is the third largest Publicly Owned treatment Works (POTW) in the state of Colorado. The plant receives sewage from the cities of Englewood and Littleton, as well as from 21 connector districts within the 75 square mile service area of the cities. The plant is a large, advanced treatment plant re-

quired to exceed secondary treatment requirements by removing ammonia and nitrate from wastewater. The design capacity is 50 million gallons per day (mgd) and is presently treating 23 mgd.

Plant effluent is discharged to the South Platte River. The South Platte is the major watershed in the Denver Metro region. The watershed is a combination of pristine mountain areas, highly urbanized areas, and intense agricultural used lands. The river itself is a tightly controlled stream with water rights usually dictating the flow through the Denver area.



CWWUC members pondering the secondary treatment process at a past tour of Littleton Englewood's new facilities.



Top, LE during construction - L-R, Admin Bldg Entrance, South Platte Outfall , Trickling Filter