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Comments

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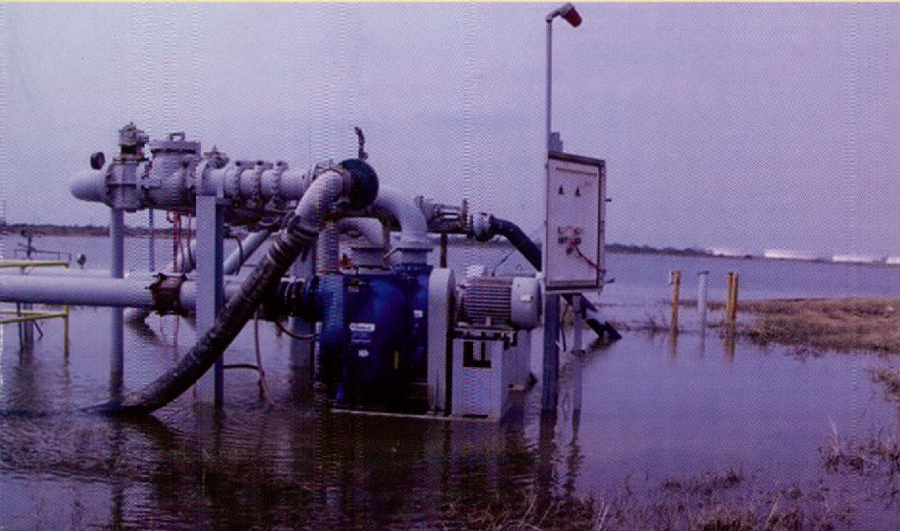
Damage From Ike Widespread

“Every one of our facilities in Harris and Galveston Counties and even our main office building received damage during Hurricane Ike,” said General Manager Charlie Ganze. He expects the repair costs to be several millions of dollars.

“Let me give credit first of all to our employees and our customers and participants in the various operating facilities,” Ganze said. “Our employees turned out and immediately began the job of putting things back together, even before the water had completely drained off. And the entities whose water we treat could not have been more helpful, both in handling their own start-ups and even in lending some of our facilities equipment and manpower. I truly appreciate the dedication and the effort from all concerned.”

The 40-Acre Facility and Bayport Facility were hit especially hard by the 12-foot or higher storm surge. Terri Strachan, Facility Manager for both 40-Acre and Campbell Bayou Industrial Landfill in Texas City, said about half the 40-Acre plant went under water. Campbell Bayou was not affected as much, but still has fences and storage buildings to repair and restock, pumps and electrical equip-

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Pump station for 40 Acre.

Randy Jarrell Joins GCA Board of Directors

Randy Jarrell is the newest member of the GCA Board of Directors, appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to represent Galveston County. Jarrell is an insurance agent with offices in Orange, Texas. He was sworn in by Chairman Mark Schultz at the July meeting.

A native of Jefferson County, Jarrell was born in Port Arthur, Texas, and graduated high school in Bridge City, Texas. He holds insurance licenses for Texas, Louisiana, Colorado and Wisconsin and is a member of the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas. He is also a member of the Lamar University Cardinal Club.



Jarrell is owner and Chief Agent of Beaty Insurance Agency, the largest insurance agency by premium volume and workforce in Orange County. He also in 2003 acquired Love Pipeline Services of Woodville, Texas. The company focuses on new pipeline construction, compressor station construction, fabrication and civil work.

Jarrell is among those who lost a residence when Hurricane Ike washed across Crystal Beach on the Bolivar Peninsula. He and wife, Melanie, are both golfers. The Jarrells are also interested in boating. They have a son, Jason.

Jarrell takes the board position formerly held by Sam Dell'Olio of Galveston.

Gernhardt Picked for E-flows Committee

Lori Gernhardt has been appointed to the Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay Basin and Bay Area Stakeholders Committee by the Senate Environmental Flows Advisory Group established through passage of Senate Bill 3, Article 1 of the 80th Texas Legislature (2007).



The Environmental Flows Advisory Group is charged to conduct public hearings and to study public policy implications for balancing the demands on the water resources of the State resulting from a growing population and the requirements of the riverine, bay, and estuary systems of the State. Aside from appointing Basin and Bay Area Stakeholders Committees for specific river basins and bays in the State, the Group has also appointed the Texas Environmental Flows Science Advisory Committee. The Science Advisory Committee's charge is to advise and make recommendations to the Environmental Flows Advisory Group on issues relating to the science of environmental flow protection.

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Chairman Lauds Board Member Attendance

Due to Hurricane Ike, the September meeting of the GCWDA Board was a little late, but it did take place on September 25th with all nine members in attendance. Chairman Mark Schultz has stated that "each and every member of this Board had some effect of the storm to deal with . . . from total destruction of a home to days without power. I think each member deserves special recognition for arranging their lives and schedules so that they could attend this meeting."

The Board held elections for officers with Schultz re-elected as Chairman. Also re-elected were Rita Standridge, Vice Chair, and Dr. Irvin Osborne-Lee, Treasurer. Ossie Matthews was elected to the vacant position of Secretary. The position became vacant with the expiration of the term of Sam Dell'Olio of Galveston. Matthews has served previously as Secretary from 9/13/1990 to 9/10/1998.

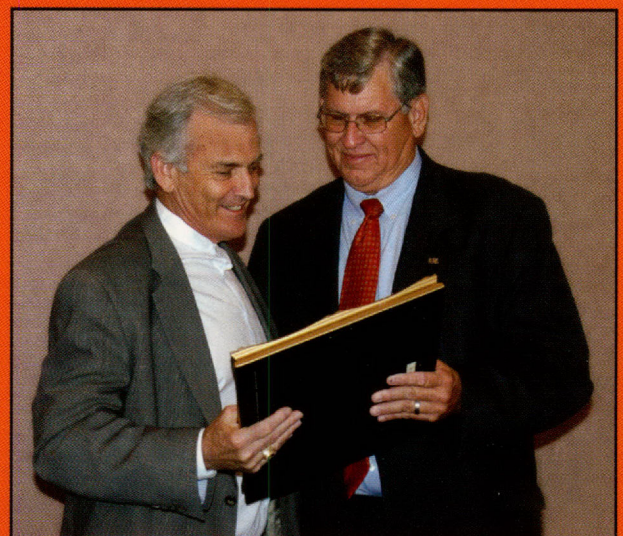
Schultz is appointed by the Commissioners Court of Chambers County. He resides in Anahuac. Standridge is appointed by the Mayors of Chambers County and resides in Beach City. Osborne-Lee is appointed by the Mayors of Harris County and resides in Houston. Matthews is appointed by the Commissioners Court of Galveston County and resides in Texas City.

Sam Dell'Olio Honored

Board Treasurer Sam Dell'Olio was honored at the June 2008 Board meeting with a proclamation honoring his 11 years of service on the GCA Board of Directors.

Dell'Olio, a Galveston businessman, was originally appointed to the Board in 1997 by then Gov. George Bush to represent Galveston County. He is a native Galvestonian who has stated that he "enjoys public service."

He has also been very active in the Catholic Church, earning a degree in theology and becoming a Deacon, a position which performs many of the same duties as a Priest.





Flood waters at Bayport.



Construction and sludge hauling trailers at Bayport.



Trees down at Blackhawk.



Entrance to Bayport and Central Lab.



Electric fuses at 40 Acre.



Fence line damage at Blackhawk.



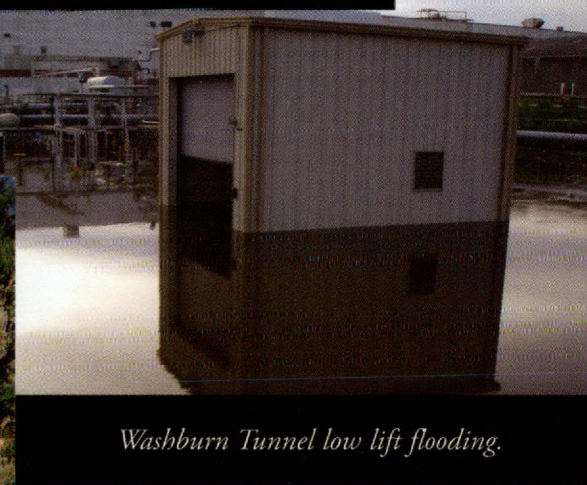
Debris at CBF fence line.



Cable tray and wire damage at Washburn Tunnel.



Trees at Blackhawk covering a portion of aeration basin.



Washburn Tunnel low lift flooding.

Damage, continued from page 1

ment to reclaim or replace and “lots of garbage ranging from washers and dryers to boats to lumber that washed up against our fences.” At 40-Acre about a mile of fencing has to be rebuilt along with major repairs to levees and access roads around the treatment system.

“Of course the salt water ruined lots of motors and switch gear, and being without power for days didn’t make things any easier,” said Strachan. “One of those weird things that always seems to happen in a storm,” she added, “We found a huge light bulb, completely intact. Who knows where it came from?”

Jack Wahlstrom, Bayport Facility Manager, reports that the plant was “inundated by two to three feet of water . . . enough that water got into the Maintenance Building and part of the Operations office area. We have several hundred feet of levees to repair.”

Again, power was a big problem. “We lost power on Sept. 11th and were back up on Sept. 16th,” Wahlstrom reported. He reported “lots of motors ruined” and hesitated to even try to put a cost figure on the needed repairs all over the plant at this point.

“I’d like to give special recognition to Celanese and Lyondell. Both were instrumental in helping us get the plant back up and running,” said Wahlstrom. He added that Celanese went so far as to supply equipment and manpower.

Gordon Pederson, Facility Manager, said the Washburn Tunnel Facility sits considerably higher than the other locations and, therefore, suffered flooding only in the “low-lift” area of the plant where water to be treated flows into the plant. “We did have 50 to 150 h.p. motors and pumps damaged or ruined, along with lots of smaller equipment such as flow meters and monitors.” A large tray system that carries electrical cables was literally lifted and moved off its mounts. This will require the plant to shut down electrical power long enough to reposition the trays and cables. Roof damage was suffered by most of the structures in the plant.

Pederson said the Vince Bayou Receiving Station (VBRS) was severely affected by the storm. Vince Bayou receives trucked in waste from industry and from portable toilet waste companies. It sits lower than the main plant

along the shores of Little Vince Bayou. VBRS had two feet of water inside the control building. “We’ve had to tear out the lower walls,” Pederson said, “and

have pumps and motors to repair there as well.”

Ricky Clifton, Manager of Industrial Operations stated, “Considering the huge amount of damage, especially at 40-Acre, Campbell Bayou and Bayport, I have to credit employees in all areas from Maintenance to Operations, to Central Lab to support from the administrative staff at Central Office for getting us moved from totally out of service to nearly normal daily operations. Believe me, this was no easy task. I’ve lived in the area all my life, and I’ve never seen destruction like we received during Hurricane Ike. All locations received some level of damage.

“We still have a huge job ahead of us in repairing roadways, levees, office spaces, roofs and some pretty expensive equipment, but things are well underway.”

On the Municipal side, Jerald Landis, Superintendent, reports that Blackhawk Regional Sewage Treatment Facility

suffered only minor roof and fence damage. Blackhawk sits on one of the highest points of land along Clear Creek and was spared the flooding of the other locations. And the Cedar Bayou Sewage Treatment Plant near Baytown also did well. “We were not able to physically get to the plant for two days,” Landis said, “but once we got there, everything was operational and we got the back-up diesel generator running to the neighborhood sewer service.” The houses around the plant were not so lucky. “I saw a lot of damage and trees down on houses,” Landis reported.

Maybe the most positive report comes from Diane Maloy, Manager of Central Laboratory. “Central Lab sits just a little higher than the other buildings at Bayport (where Central Lab is located),” she said, “so we didn’t have the mess of dealing with water inside our building.” Maloy said they were so busy getting the lab back in full operation that it was a few days before she noticed that a few of the lab windows were cracked.

“I guess you could say we had an orderly mess, but the Lab crew got things going in record time,” Malloy concluded.



Platinum Awards Highlight NACWA Presentations

Four Gulf Coast Authority facilities have qualified for Peak Performance Awards presented by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). Two locations, Blackhawk Facility and 40-Acre Facility, earned the top Platinum Award. For Blackhawk this is a Platinum 12 Award, signifying 12 years of perfect compliance with its operating permit.

The initial Platinum Award recognizes five continuous years of permit compliance.

Also receiving awards were Bayport Facility and Odessa Facility, both earning Gold Awards. The Gold designation is for one year of perfect permit compliance. All the awards recognize achievements during the 2007 calendar year.

Vice Chair Rita Standridge presented the certificates of achievement to representatives of each plant at a GCA Board Meeting held in August. The awards were initially presented in July at the annual NACWA 2008 Summer Conference, the 38th such annual meeting. In a news release, Ken Kirk, NACWA Executive Director, stated, "NACWA is honored to showcase the achievements of Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority and our nation's public wastewater utilities through the Peak Performance Awards Program."

From top to bottom: Vice Chair Rita Standridge presents NACWA awards to Jerald Landis, Blackhawk; Terri Strachan, 40 Acres; Jack Wahlstrom, Bayport; and Ricky Clifton, representing Odessa.

Gernhardt, continued from page 1

The Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay Basin and Bay Area Stakeholders Committee must perform specific tasks to assist with the work of the Environmental Flows Advisory Group. One of the tasks the Committee is to perform is to establish a Basin and Bay Expert Science Team. The Basin and Bay Expert Science Team will develop an environmental flow analysis and a recommended environmental flow regime for Trinity and San Jacinto river basin and Galveston Bay system.

Gernhardt stated that she is "extremely excited about the opportunity to serve." The various stakeholders represent interests ranging from municipalities to the electric industry to water conservation districts, river authorities, agriculture, and environmental and recreational interests. Gernhardt represents businesses supporting water recreation. Although her focus may be recreational, Gernhardt brings a substantial professional resume and wide experience in water related matters to the committee.

"While I certainly am an avid recreational user of our waterways, and understand the economic impact of these resources on our local economies, I will call on my background as an aquatic biologist to help balance the evaluations which must be made in seeking consensus among the many stakeholders on the committee," said Gernhardt.

She has many years of experience at GCA in the treatment of industrial and municipal wastewater prior to discharge of that water to our receiving streams. Aside from her position as Manager of General Operations for GCA, Gernhardt serves on several boards and environmental committees in the Houston area including the Galveston Bay Council, Environmental Institute of Houston, the Houston-Galveston Area Council and the Galveston Bay Foundation. She was also recently appointed to serve on the Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Committee as an alternate representing recreational diving interests.

Comments

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