

Operations and Maintenance Infoshare Group Report to BACWA Board

Committee Meeting on: 08/29/18
Executive Board Meeting Date: 11/16/18
Committee Chair: Kevin Dickison and Joaquin
Gonzales

Committee Request for Board Action: None

13 attendees representing 6 member agencies

Highlights of New Items Discussed and Action Items

Installing and optimizing process automation using emerging sensor technologies (i.e. scan, ZAPS, etc.) - Round Table Discussion

- Improvements in online/real-time monitoring allows for enhanced process control and asset management. This discussion centered on the steps plants have taken in improving online monitoring.
- One agency is looking at online surrogate monitoring and is considering the relationship between TOC and BOD, working with Isle Technologies.
- Some agencies are doing both COD and BOD via online analyzers. Others reported they have been having problems with hydrogen sulfide, as well as low levels of ammonia with online analyzers.
- A participant asked if there is an accurate way to measure WAS and RAS.
- A participant discussed a tour he recently took in Raleigh/Dorham, and highlighted their use of online analyzers, and the need to keep software up to date.
- The group discussed issues with staff receptiveness to new instrumentation, and security risks inherent in wireless controls.
- Often, vendors have high staff turnover, leading to lack of continuity and expertise.

Staff scheduling

- Long commutes are an ongoing concern for operator staff. There was a discussion about how to best manage schedules to reduce the commute burden on their staff.
- Sunnyvale has developed a report they will share with the group.

Training and retaining expertise

- San Jose is redoing their OIT test and wants to reach out to other agencies for input.
- There was a discussion about experience gaps between new and retiring staff, as well as the relative importance of breadth vs. depth of knowledge in different parts of a system

Future meeting topics

Future meetings will look at food waste programs, and air regulations. The committee will plan plant tours as part of future meetings, starting with the construction at Sunnyvale in Spring 2019.

Next Meeting: Delta Diablo, January 23