



**THE MATTABASSETT DISTRICT**  
Preserving the environment  
for future generations to enjoy.



## MATT'S NEWSFLOW

2017 July Newsletter

A message from the Chairman.....

**John S. Dunham, P.E.**  
District Chairman

**Arthur G. Simonian, P.E., LEED**  
Executive Director

Member Towns and  
Representation:

### **New Britain**

Paul Catanzaro  
Peter Centurelli  
Tonilynn Collins  
Mary Marrocco  
Timothy Stewart

### **Cromwell**

Bonnie Anderson  
Doug Sienna  
Thomas Tokarz

### **Berlin**

John S. Dunham, P.E.  
Robert Argazzi  
James Fallon, P.E.

### **Middletown**

Dale Aldieri  
David Bauer  
Joseph Samolis  
Thomas Serra

**Mattabassett District**  
245 Main Street  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
860-635-5550

As the Mattabassett District finalizes the close-out of our \$100,000,000 Plant Upgrade and Denitrification project, we are encouraged by the improved quality of the effluent generated through the plant process. Our nitrogen discharges into the Connecticut River consistently meet the threshold requirements established by our permit. This certainly speaks to the hard work of all involved in seeing this project through. This has allowed the District to receive \$90,361 in nitrogen credits over the past 2 years, as part of the nitrogen trading credit program established by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.



John S. Dunham, P.E.

The next milestone we are looking toward will be the inclusion of 4 to 6 MGD of Middletown flows which we expect to see tied into Mattabassett in 2019. The additional flows generated with the tie-in will help spread the capital and operational costs of the District by economies of scale, **resulting in a financial benefit to all communities.**

Through the years energy usage is one of our largest budget items. Over the coming fiscal year Mattabassett will explore ways to improve our energy efficiency and reduce the costs of processing waste. We strive to be good stewards to the community while providing highest value to our rate payers while consistently finding new ways to increase efficiency and reduce costs to our community rate payers.

### About the District.....

The *Mattabassett District's Water Pollution Control Facility*, one of Connecticut's most efficient *Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)*, processes wastewater from New Britain, Berlin, Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill and Farmington. Once treatment is provided, clean water is discharged into the nearby Connecticut River. *The District* began operation in 1968, as a physical/chemical treatment facility; then in 1987, the facility was upgraded to provide secondary treatment; and recently has completed a second upgrade to provide Nitrogen Treatment that will meet the new State and Federal Standards. Our wastewater capture rate is over 99.8%, significantly above industry standards. **Our plant is State of the Art and first of its kind to navigate through new federal emission regulations. Other plants, in the future, will be guided by Mattabassett's innovative direction.**

For the latest newsletter please visit [www.mattabassettdistrict.com](http://www.mattabassettdistrict.com)

**Elizabeth Walters  
Laboratory Manager  
RETIRES**

Elizabeth Walters retires after 27 years of service as the District Laboratory Manager. Liz Walters started at the Mattabasset District in May of 1990 as a Lab Technician. In 1991 became the Lab Chemist and in 1998 she became the Lab Manager. Liz retired on May 12, 2017 after working 27 years. We will always remember Liz as the soft spoken, quiet worker who liked the confines of the Lab. We all wish her well in this next phase of her life.



**Dave Stille promoted to  
Incinerator Manager April  
2015**

Dave started with the District in 1988 and moved quickly through to a Supervisor before recently being promoted to our new position as Incinerator Manager. This position is critical to the safe and consistent reliable operation of our new incinerator which runs 24/7 and must meet the strictest of Federal Regulations.



**Kathleen Pelouquin  
New Laboratory Manager**

Kathleen (we call her Kat) started working as a Lab Technician on July 10, 2000. After 17 years, she is now our new Lab Manager. We are excited for her to begin this new venture in her career.

**We are welcoming a new Part Time  
Lab Tech starting in July 2017**

**Employee  
Highlights**

**Operator Certifications**

We would like to congratulate the following employees on receiving Operator Certifications:

- Chris Jahne – Class III Operator Certification
- Tim Comstock – Class I Operator Certification
- Matt Bober– Class I Operator Certification

**Recipients of Spotter Awards**

We would like to congratulate employees on receiving a Spotter Award for their unselfish dedication to their work to help keep the District running and operating smoothly.

- Michelle Ryan, Elaine Brousseau, Matt McClimans, Andy Purchia, Eric Bruscoe, Ty Wagner, Dave Stille, Jan Dusza, Melissa Lancia, Andy Laz, Matt Bober.



## Safety Record

We are excited to announce that our District employees have gone over a full year without any accidents. No accidents were report from March 2, 2016 to April 16, 2017 for a total of 410 DAYS.

### District Environmental Health & Safety Training (EH&S)

#### Safety Record

In March, the Executive Director and District Board recognized plant personnel in achieving 12-months without an accident. Plant personnel are commended on the consciousness, preparation, training, practice and discipline, required in order to achieve this incredible mile-stone. This summer, the District Executive Director will be hosting a summer gathering where he will be presenting a plaque to our plant personnel in recognition of this extraordinary achievement.



#### EH&S Programs and Annual Refresher Training

The District is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment and to protecting our employees from injury or death caused by an unsafe work space where a potential for fire, explosions, exposure to hazardous chemicals, and a lack of proper operation of equipment can exist. The District therefore has recently completed updating all Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) Programs, consistent not only with the new processes incorporated under the Nitrogen Upgrade Project, but also updated with respect to current OSHA General Industry requirements for wastewater treatment facilities, and other applicable safety standards and regulations. The District EH&S Programs include Emergency Response, Hazardous Waste, Electrical Safety, Hot Work, Lockout-Tagout, Personal Protective Equipment, Respiratory Protection, Hearing Conservation, Fall Protection, Hazardous Communication, Confined Space, Ammonia Safety, Fire Extinguisher, NIMS Incident Command, Bloodborne Pathogens, First Aid/CPR, and Chemical Hygiene.

In addition to the EH&S Programs, the District also provides initial safety training to all new employees, and annual refresher training to all existing employees, as required by OSHA and consistent with the District's EH&S Programs.

#### EH&S Regulatory Compliance

The District has also performed a silica sand exposure evaluation to assess silica sand release and potential exposure to Operators during the incinerator sand addition operation; and is currently in the process of performing a review of all fixed ships ladders to determine compliance with OSHA standards and selection of fall arrest systems to be utilized with ships ladders.



## Incinerator Compliance Achievement

### New Incinerator NOx Compliance

The District has come a long way with respect to operating the new incinerator to meet NOx emission limits. While the incinerator was designed to meet the new incinerator regulations for NOx removal, compliance with NOx emission limits was not achievable without the careful and diligent operation of the reactor by our District Operators. The essential experience acquired by the District Operators over the last several years has lead the District to a point where it is now possible to operate the incinerator without injecting the potentially hazardous ammonia solution designed for NOx emission removal.

The District is also currently working with regulators for various approvals with respect to demonstrating compliance with NOx emissions by parameter monitoring and annual stack testing, as well as the removal of the ammonia injection system. Once these approvals are received, the District will remove the ammonia system and the hazardous product from the plant.

Eliminating the use of the hazardous ammonia product would be a significant achievement with respect to ensuring a safe and hazard free working environment for out plant staff, as well as saving money for our rate payers, and at the same time meeting new stringent air permit emission limits.

Matt's NewsFLOW! You may wonder why we selected this as the name of our newsletter.

MATT is obviously short for Mattabasset. However, it's also the name of the fish on our website, [www.mattabassettdistrict.org](http://www.mattabassettdistrict.org). And it's also the name of the real fish that swims in an aquarium in the lobby of the wastewater treatment facility in Cromwell. The water in the aquarium is actually effluent – water taken from the facility after it has been cleaned and treated. **The effluent is so clean that the fish can survive for many years without extra treatment.**

