



# THE ClearView

A Publication of ClearWater Solutions, LLC

April 2022

## RECOVERY FUNDS TO IMPROVE CWS PROJECTS

In March of last year (2021), the federal government passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This legislation, among other things, authorized over \$350 Billion in financial assistance to every county in the United States. The program was intended to “combat the Covid-19 pandemic, including the public health and economic impacts”. And while the government permitted flexibility in the use of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) funds, it requires that they fall into one of 4 categories: (1) replace lost public sector revenue, (2) support COVID public health and economic response, (3) provide premium pay for eligible workers performing essential work, and (4) invest in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

For CWS, this means much-needed funds will be available for several of our clients including both South and West Dallas Water Authorities, and Hale County Water Authority. According to Regional Manager Torrey Jones, the CWS project managers have worked diligently to assist the clients with their efforts to obtain a portion of those American Rescue Plan funds for their communities. “A lot of work has been done by our team in addition to our daily responsibilities. We wanted to help our clients and see these communities benefit from this money.” As for that process, Jones said it began when the County Commissions received notification of the money that would be given to them. The Commissions, in turn, contacted the various water boards to determine what sort of projects could be completed with those funds. CWS helped the clients put together a list of needs/wishes and submitted the information, along with pricing, back to the County Commission. “Although we were not required to provide plans and specs, there was definitely significant time spent in researching options, obtaining pricing, etc. We had questions about the process and those were submitted to and answered by the grant writer. We had to gather three quotes for material and labor. And now that we know how much money was awarded, we are working with the engineers to get those projects going.”



For South and West Dallas Water Authorities, they will each be receiving \$150,000 which will allow them to complete such projects as a 6” water main extension to the interior of the South Dallas Industrial Park, installation of SCADA communication controls for existing PRV at County Roads 38 and 407, water main extension along County Road 26, installation of new fire hydrants, SCADA upgrade at the water treatment plant, and water line extensions in River Oaks and along County 101.

Hale County Water Authority will also receive funds to perform various water system improvements including installation of a new well in west-central Hale County, new transmission water main from the well to the water tank on CR 21, reactivation of the ground water storage tank on CR 21, and upgrade the Gallion BPS. The final dollar amount of the award has yet to be announced to the County.

According to Jones, construction projects for each of these clients are expected to begin soon. Of course, CWS will assist the client and the engineers as needed throughout the construction process.



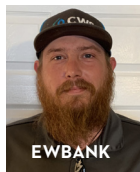
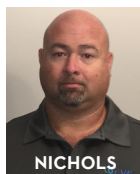
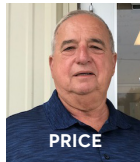
Russell Davis, PM in Gautier, MS working the CWS booth at the AL/MS Joint Water Conference in Mobile

# NEW CWS PROJECT MANAGERS NAMED

It's been a busy few months since our last newsletter! New project managers for CWS projects have recently been named, managers have relocated, and other leaders have received new titles. According to company COO, Houston Black, CWS has a tremendous amount of talent in each and every team. "When you can promote someone from within the company, it says a lot for the stability and experience of the entire company. The CWS training classes help play a large role in this. They prepare our staff for all levels of management. We are excited about the direction the company is headed under this leadership."

## ALABAMA

**Torrey Jones** is now the Regional Manager for all of Alabama. Before being promoted to Regional Manager for West Alabama in 2019, Torrey was the Project Manager for the West Dallas and South Dallas Water Authorities for over 10 years where he was not only been responsible for the daily operations of the systems, but was also involved in numerous capital improvement projects.



As Torrey's new responsibilities will require travel throughout the state, **Herbert "Junior" Malone**, currently an Area Manager for West Alabama, will assume some additional responsibilities in the area. Junior has served as the Project Manager for the Butler County Water Authority, assisted with the start-up of the Lowndes County Water Authority project, helped with the Hale County leak detection effort, and served as the Safety Director in Butler County.

In East Alabama, **Jeff Aston** has been promoted to Area Manager. Jeff was the Project Manager for CWS's Lanett project where he has served since September 2019. Jeff has been a part of the CWS team since April 2018, starting out at the Hoover project and then relocating to the Beulah project as the Superintendent before moving to the Lanett project.

**Zachary "Zac" Ewbank** has been promoted to Project Manager for the Lanett project. Since re-joining CWS in May 2021, Zac has proven himself as a valuable member of the team, serving as the Field Supervisor and holding an AL Grade 1 Water certification. He is currently working to obtain his wastewater certification. He has a decade of new water and wastewater installation experience, as well as three years of water distribution and sanitary collections experience. Zac has also been a part of various traveling teams - assisting with the startup of the Inlet Beach project, serving in the disaster recovery efforts after the tornadoes in Mayfield, KY, and helping out at the Midlands, SC project.

You may have picked up on the word "re-joining" in the first sentence. Zac was a part of CWS several years prior to 2021. "I worked for Clearwater Solutions in 2015 at the Beulah project and left to go move dirt on big construction sites. Although I got a lot of experience on different types of equipment, leaving Clearwater always weighed on my mind. There is no telling where I would be with my certifications and experience if I would have stayed. I kept in touch with Houston over the years and he assured me there was always a spot on the team for me here. Coming back to be a part of this team was one of the best decisions I have made, and couldn't be happier."

**Jerry Price** is the new Project Manager for the North Choctaw Water Authority project. Jerry is no stranger to our company, he is actually returning after a short retirement break to a position that he had held for 8 years. Jerry holds an Alabama Grade 4 wastewater license and an Alabama Grade 2 Water license.

## GEORGIA

In Swainsboro, GA, **Chris Morton** is the new Project Manager. Chris has over 18 years of management experience with 8 of those years spent in the water and wastewater industry. Chris actually worked for the City of Swainsboro as the Plant Operations Supervisor prior to CWS beginning work there. His background also includes project management in Waynesboro and Sardis, GA. He holds a GA Class 2 Wastewater and GA Class 3 Water Operator certifications.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

**Robert Nichols** has moved from the Blue Granite to lead the Williamston and Belton, SC projects. Robert has been with CWS since 2005 (as part of Artesian at that time). His expertise has made him a valuable team member at various projects including Blue Granite; Friarsgate Wastewater Treatment Plant; Coosa Valley Water Treatment Plant; Hoover Riverchase Wastewater Treatment Plant; Perdue Foods in Cromwell, KY; and Perry County Water Authority.



In honor of **NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK**, we want to give a shout-out to our **SUPERHEROES** (aka Public Works teams). They are always ready and resilient. They work hard each and every day to ensure our communities provide safe and healthy environments for its residents. Without their assistance, critical services such as water and sewer system maintenance, right of way mowing, cemetery upkeep, debris removal, facility maintenance, street sweeping, traffic signs and signal replacements, and fleet maintenance tasks could not be provided. They serve as first responders in times of emergencies and disasters. Their responsibilities are important and we couldn't let this week slip by without extending our gratitude for their commitment. **THANK YOU!**



# STOOPS HIRED AS COMPLIANCE MANAGER

We are pleased to announce that **Joe Stoops** is our company's new Regulatory Compliance Manager. Joe was the Compliance and Safety Manager with Midwest Water Operations prior to the merger of MWO and CWS.

Joe and his team will work to develop processes and strategies to track, evaluate, and mitigate regulatory issues and aid in improving operational performance. He will review state and federal regulations for new and existing operational areas and provide summaries to management for consideration in staffing and contract bidding decisions. Joe will work with Wesley Bass and the others in his department to help ensure compliance on all aspects. He, as well as others in his department, will travel to the various offices to get a firsthand look at daily issues.



Joe's background includes his time as the first ever Compliance and Safety Manager for Midwest Water Operations during which he helped develop a great department overseeing hundreds of discharge permits, dozens of water systems, and tracking testing and compliance issues in eight states.

Joe also has experience as the Supervisor and acting Regional Director over the Central Field Operations office, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Environmental Quality. In this position, he established a new state regional office, he was responsible for the oversight of inspectors of the water section and associated media, planning and tracking of workplan activities, and managing budget measures. Joe was also directly responsible for the regulatory oversight of 460+ public drinking water and 1000+ clean water regulated entities in the Central Field Operations office and all the associated inspections, investigations, and enforcement determinations. During this time, he also implemented the qualification card training program for drinking water inspectors, which has since been adopted for all environmental media for new and transferring staff to the Central Field Operations office and St. Louis Regional Office.

Through his previous work history, Joe has developed an expertise in tracking multiple escalation and enforcement activities in multiple environmental media and offices. He has participated in and led numerous enforcement negotiations with regulated entities, and has been afforded the opportunity to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other staff, regulated entities, government and industry officials, professional organizations/groups, and the general public. He can evaluate and communicate with senior management on emerging issues, environmental emergencies, and problematic concerns. He is proficient in the preparation, evaluation, communication, and supervision of the preparation of concise reports, presentations, plans, grants, bids, contracts, and cooperative agreements.

When asked what will be the first thing he wants to tackle in this new position, Joe responded, "As we are merging and consolidating IT systems and resources, I would like to construct a comprehensive and intuitive file structure to maintain our operations, regulatory, and engineering documentation for ease of access and use. I would like to have our staff see the regulatory compliance unit as a resource and a place to find regulatory information and assistance, not as the group only looking for things that went wrong."

Joe graduated from Auburn University in 2015 with a Bachelor of Materials Engineering (WAR EAGLE!). Over the years, he has held a wide variety of titles including Land and Air Section Manager (hazardous waste, solid waste, and air pollution), Nuclear Machinist Mate, Engineering Laboratory Technician, E6 in the U.S. Navy, Fire Fighter and Hazmat First Responder, Nuclear Reactor Operator, IT Consultant, and college-level Math & Science Tutor. He will now add the new title of Regulatory Compliance Manager for CWS/MWO.

## NOBLE RETIRES WITH 10 YEARS



John Noble recently retired at the end of April with 10 years of service to the company. John was a Crew Leader/Foreman at the Gautier, MS project. He became part of the CWS team when CWS assumed the O&M services for the City of Gautier in 2012, but he actually began his service to the city in 2005. Russell Davis, the Gautier Project Manager, presented John with his 10 year service award and retirement recognition stating that John was a loyal and dedicated employee to the City and a valuable part of the CWS team. We wish him much happiness in his retirement!

## GRAVES HAS GREAT START IN COMPETITION

Congratulations to Brady Graves, a Supervisor with Midwest Water Operations... now a part of CWS. Brady is an amazing fisherman who is competing in the MLF Phoenix Bass Fishing League, Ozark Co-Angler Division with Midwest as a sponsor. Brady recently gave us an update on his competition. "Just thought I'd give you guys an update on how your sponsorship funding has went and how my season is going in the MLF Phoenix Bass Fishing League Ozark Co-Angler Division. After two stops, I'm sitting in 11th place in the standings out of 244 Co anglers. I couldn't realistically ask for a better start to the season, I'm in a great spot to qualify for Regionals." Congratulations, Brady and good luck! We are excited to be a part of your success!



## CWS Assists with Groundwater Festival

Students from Union Springs Elementary and Macon East recently attended the 11th Annual Bullock County Groundwater Festival, an event put on by the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. This year's theme was "Saving Water for the Future". The students left their classrooms on a field trip to the Wehle Nature Center in Midway, AL where they participated in hands-on activities that focused on the meaning of groundwater, the importance of water to all life forms, and the water cycle and groundwater's role in the process. According to Carla Elston, Bullock County's Extension Coordinator, the students were taught the effects of human actions in our water supply and the need for responsible behaviors to help conserve water for future generations.

CWS was proud to assist with this effort by donating money for the purchase of t-shirts for the students, teachers, and volunteers. Groundwater, surface water, the water cycle, environmental conservation - that is the wheelhouse of CWS. This event served as a perfect opportunity for CWS to 'build communities and impact lives.'



## WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



CWS is excited to announce that **Abby Hilyer** has joined our team as an HR/Financial Administrative Coordinator based in the Auburn office. She will assist both the HR and Accounting Departments in their day-to-day responsibilities. Initially, Abby will focus on payroll, new hire pre-employment background/drug testing, on-boarding, and benefits enrollment.

Abby has a tremendous background in business and accounting and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Columbus State University where she graduated with honors. She previously worked for Auburn University as a Financial Assistant in the Student Financial Services Department and has more than 12 years in other related experience.

Although she worked for Auburn University, Abby is not an Auburn fan - she cheers for the Georgia Bulldogs instead. She grew up in an area in southwest Georgia that is home to Phillip Phillips (American Idol), Cole Swindell, Luke Bryan, and Buster Posey (MLB pitcher). Cole actually went to the same tiny high school as Abby, although he's a couple years younger. Abby has been married to her husband Jared for 9 years and they have two children - Evelyn (age 8) and Amelia (age 5). When asked what excites her about this new position with CWS, her response was "I am excited to learn new things, do new things, and to put my own skills to work. I'm excited for the direction in which the company is headed and to be a part of that growth."

If you need to reach Abby, just call the Auburn office (334) 532-3201 or email her at [abby.hilyer@clearwatersol.com](mailto:abby.hilyer@clearwatersol.com).

## MOVING ON UP...

Congratulations to those who have passed various certification exams in the last few months...

...**Thomas Sweat** who passed his Wastewater Collections Operator exam. Thomas is a Distribution Supervisor at the Fayetteville, GA project. He has been a part of the team since February 2021. Thomas also passed his Distribution Operator exam back in November. Talk about determination!

...**Dustin Berliner** passed his South Carolina Class B wastewater certification exam yesterday. Dustin is a Wastewater Operator at the Pendleton-Clemson Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. He's been a part of CWS since August 2019.

...**Zach Roper** passed his South Carolina Grade D water distribution exam. Zach is the Operator at our new Pickens, SC project. If you think his name sounds familiar, you're right! We celebrated him in January when he passed the SC Grade A wastewater exam. Two certifications in just four months' time...what an accomplishment!

...**Marques Suber** and **Nathan Bruce** - both members of the Horn Lake Water Association project team. Marques passed his Georgia Grade 4 water exam and Nathan passed his Mississippi Class C water exam.

Congratulations again to each of you! We are thankful to have you on our team!

## CWS Lab Successfully Completes South Carolina Audit, Breaks Ground on New Building

Exciting things are happening with the CWS lab in Clemson, SC. The lab recently completed the process of a South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) audit. The survey takes place every three years and consisted of three days of reviewing quality control and accuracy in the records, results, and reporting; as well as interviewing each analyst to determine their proficiency regarding the tests they run. DHEC also looked for traceability regarding the chemicals and methods used, and at our annual proficiency testing results. They also inspected our equipment to ensure that all required calibrations, analytical curves, and temperatures are as accurate and efficient as possible. The successful completion of the survey enables CWS to perform certain tests for its clients.

In addition, CWS has broken ground on a new lab building. According to Steve Cawood, the company's CEO, the successful audit, in combination with the new lab facility, reinforces our commitment to our clients in South Carolina. "Our goal is 100% compliance and a lab provides quality and timely response to the operators. Nearly 20% of the operator's tests centers around laboratory subjects. As the company continues to expand the lab's capabilities and client base, a new lab facility has become necessary. We are currently in the process of constructing a new building in Clemson that will house essential equipment and a state-of-the-art training center." The new lab facility should be completed by the end of the year.

