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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TWO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, AWWA AND NWEA, HOST EVENTS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT WATER**

The Nebraska Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA) both recently held separate events to help raise awareness about the need for clean, safe water. Water is essential to nearly every aspect of life, and ongoing access to clean, safe water is critical to the economy and the health of our communities. By focusing on the infrastructure that connects, protects, and supplies communities with water, organizations like the Nebraska AWWA and NWEA help ensure clean, safe water is accessible to everyone.

This fall, the two organizations will also team up with each other and the Nebraska Chapter of the American Public Works Association to host their annual fall conference. Set for November 7-9, 2017 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, NE, the fall conference offers members of the three organizations, as well as other interested individuals, an opportunity to learn more about the industry, honor water professionals for their contributions, and network to build relationships. To learn more about the fall conference, visit <http://www.awwaneb.org/fallconference/>.

**2017 Nebraska AWWA Water for People Golf Outing**

On Monday, May 8, 2017, the Nebraska AWWA hosted a golf scramble fundraiser at the Woodland Hills golf course in Eagle, NE. The event raised just under \$4,000 for Water for People, an international nonprofit working across 9 countries to bring safe water and sanitation to 4 million people.

Sponsors of the event included Municipal Pipe Tool Company, HDR Inc., Engineered Equipment Solutions, Midland Scientific, Olsson Associates, Olmstead & Perry Consulting Engineers, The Logan Clay Products Company, Lincoln Winwater, and Vessco.

2017 AWWA Water for People Golf Leaderboard	
<p><b>Flight 1</b>            Winning team with score of 57</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amit Shrivastava, Tim Papstein, Adam Wilmes, Kent Papstein</li> </ul> <p>Second place with score of 58</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kathleen Alexander, Keith Kontor, Keith Alexander, Bob Stubbe</li> </ul>	<p><b>Flight 2</b>            Winning team with score of 68</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marc Rosso, Jake Hansen, Tim O'Brien, Lucas Billesbach,</li> </ul> <p>Second place with score of 68</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Justin Stark, Jim Condon, Silas Clarke, Dave Dykmann</li> </ul>
<p>Award for "Closest to the Pin on Hole 6" went to David Gill</p> <p>Second "Closest to the Pin on Hole 6" went to Adam Wilmes</p>	

## **NWEA hosts 2017 Water Environment Federation Collection Systems Conference, helps raise more than \$10,000 for two water-focused non-profits**

The NWEA and the City of Omaha co-hosted the 2017 Water Environment Federation Collection Systems Conference on May 21-24, 2017 at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha. The conference drew approximately 550 attendees from more than 40 states, Canada, and Europe, as well as more than 50 exhibitors, including a sewer history exhibit sponsored by the National Association of Sewer Service Companies.

The conference began on Sunday, May 21, with two workshops focused on “Performance Management for Collection System O&M Programs” and “Managing Uncertainty: Program Management Concepts for I/I Control Programs.” Both workshops included active participation from various individuals from Omaha Public Works and surrounding communities.

The workshops were followed by an evening social, sponsored by NWEA, at the Lauritzen Gardens. In addition to being one of the most beautiful places in Omaha, the Lauritzen Gardens was an ideal venue for the social it is also the site of a recently completed sewer separation project. More than 300 NWEA members and 2017 WEF



*Jennifer Morales led a strategic planning process.*

Conference attendees attended the social. As a result of fundraising and donations for the social, a donation of approximately \$5,500 was given to both Engineers Without Borders and Water for People.

The second day of the conference included:

- a summary of the Omaha Sewer History and the “Back to the River” initiative, provided by Jim Theiler of Omaha Public Works and Scott Aurit with the Nebraska Water Environment Association.
- an overview of the Henry Doorly Zoo and its amphibian conservation initiative, provided by Peter Brunette.
- a variety of vendor mobile sessions highlighting collection system technologies.
- 13 technical sessions providing a collective 52 presentations, including two local sessions that highlighted specific issues in the Nebraska/Iowa and Kansas/Missouri areas. The Nebraska presentations featured the Omaha CSO Control Program and green infrastructure in Omaha parks.

The final two days of the 2017 WEF Conference featured tours that allowed attendees to see improvements made to Omaha’s collection system. The first tour was of the Leavenworth Lift Station, South Omaha Area Industrial Lift Station, and the Missouri River Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project. The second tour included Adams Park, Fontenelle Park, Saddle Creek Area Sewer Separation, Spring Lake Park, and the UNO Visitors Center bioretention basin.

Eileen J. O’Neill, Ph.D., who is the Executive Director of the Water Environment Federation said;

“Attendance exceeded budget, there was good participation of first-time attendance and a sense of energy at the event and actually in Omaha generally. The hospitality of our local hosts was simply outstanding and this certainly made the event extra special for those of us from out of town”.

The **Nebraska Water Environment Association** (NWEA) is a non-profit organization comprised of professionals dedicated to protecting Nebraska’s water quality. The Nebraska Wastewater Operators Division (NWOD) is an internal membership division within the NWEA. NWEA is a member association of the Water Environment Federation (WEF).

Established in 1881, the **American Water Works Association** is the largest nonprofit, scientific and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water, the world’s most important resource. With approximately 50,000 members, AWWA provides solutions to improve public health, protect the environment, strengthen the economy and enhance our quality of life.