

Message from Jay Lehr

To: All Ground Water Professionals Everywhere

From: Jay H. Lehr, Ph.D.

Re: Summary of the activities that led to my imprisonment by the federal government and my firing by the National Water Well Association.

In 1988, the U.S. EPA began an investigation of a \$170,000 add-on contract to NWWA's initial U.S. EPA contract to develop the Drastic mapping system to delineate ground water vulnerability. The additional money was intended to develop an expert system within 18 months for remediating leaking underground storage tanks in cooperation with the Honeywell Computer people. We finished the project in about 17 months, quite successfully, and found that \$29,000 in time had not been charged. I knew all the work had been done and the project could not have been completed significantly under budget; so I requested that the NWWA controller adjust the accounting accordingly. EPA ended up disallowing \$100,000 in charges and penalizing the company an additional \$100,000 as well. There has never been any question in my mind that all the money was spent and properly earned and the government received an outstanding product. But without consulting me for my opinion, the NWWA Board, at the direction of the NWWA legal counsel, chose to pay U.S. EPA the full amount they requested without filing my objections. Concurrently, the NWWA legal counsel advised my to plead guilty to a charge of signing a document I knew to be incorrect rather than chancing an indictment and trial. They believed that from the evidence they were told the U.S. EPA possessed that a trial would cost me, personally, in excess of \$200,000, last 18 months to two years and could result in a prison sentence. They advised my that a simple guilty plea to a lesser charge would result only in a community service punishment that

would allow me to retain my job with the National Water Well Association. NWWA then obtained a criminal attorney for me and I followed their guidance.

At no time during this entire investigation was I ever interviewed either by a federal investigator or the NWWA Board. When the sentence was handed down on September 18, 1991, the prison sentence and immediate firing by NWWA was a devastating shock to me.

I feel I have committed no crime and yet I am suffering the ultimate destruction of my life and my career. I am presently serving my six-months prison term in a federal prison camp in Morgantown, W V.

Most Sincerely,
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Minnesota Ground Water Association

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President's Page

Caution! Read before opening

As the Minnesota Ground Water Association nears the end of another year and as I draw near the end of my tenure on the Board (initially as Secretary then President Elect/President) I find myself wondering how good a job we are doing on serving the needs and interests of our membership. It is easy to dwell on perceived successes and clearly the MGWA has sponsored or co-sponsored many successful and significant meetings and conferences. As an example, the fall field trip (report on page 2) was enjoyed by over 70 people. A few more attendees and the logistics of herding people on and off the buses would have been unmanageable.

Similarly, our conference last fall on Risk Perception was a great success. The MGWA has co-hosted the Birdsall Lecturer and Darcy Lecturer as well as assembling speakers on a variety of subjects over the past years.

However, throughout, one element has been missing. There has been a noticeable absence of feedback, input, suggestions, or other pleas from the membership at large about the utility and value (if any) of our programs. The MGWA has a large and diverse membership that does support the programs developed and produced by the board and some of our members have contributed time and energy to the success of the activities. With a membership of over 550 it would seem there should be more exchange of ideas and concerns. As your new officers assume their duties I am confident they would welcome your participation not only in attending MGWA functions but also in suggesting topics, speakers, meeting locations, and so on.

In this newsletter (page 17) you are asked to cast a vote for new

board members for positions of Secretary and President-Elect. Although there are only single candidates for each office, (that's another story in itself) you are encouraged to indicate your approval of that person or write in another if you so desire. A concerted write-in campaign could likely produce a winning candidate based on recent election turnouts! This ballot is a chance for you to indicate your approval or disapproval of board actions and selections. **Don't wait, vote now.**

Although a bit premature, I would like to express my thanks to the current board members; President-to-be Sheila Grow, outgoing Secretary Bob Beltrame, and Treasurer Susan Price, for their help and support in assembling programs and plans over the past year.

Jan Falteisek has done an admirable job as editor of the Newsletter and has been persistent but merciful in reminding me when President page notes are overdue. Jeanette Leete has handled a myriad of indispensable tasks relating to mailings, name badges, membership roles, and newsletter preparation. We would truly be a ship without a rudder were it not for Jennie's seemingly boundless energy for organization and management.

Lastly I would like to thank all of you, our members who support and participate in the activities of this organization. The MGWA is a viable organization thanks to your support. I encourage you to continue in your participation, and even to increase it as admonished above. Thanks to all of you for a fun and rewarding year.

- Gordie Hess, MGWA President

Fall Meeting

Mark your calendar and send in the registration form on page 18 for the Minnesota Ground Water Association November Meeting - Technology Updates - Innovations in Field Screening Methods and Applications of Geotechnical Methods to Soil Stratigraphy. Our Fall Meeting will be held November 26 at the Earl Browne Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Our social hour will follow the technical sessions.

This is your chance to learn some new and innovative methods in field screening using immunoassay methods, nitrate metering, and applications of geotechnical methods to geologic investigations and stratigraphic interpretations. Case studies and field application examples will be included.

This will be the last MGWA meeting of the year and a chance to learn about some recent technological developments that may be just the ticket for that next project of yours. We look forward to seeing you on the 26th!

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