

Band-Aid Fix

Tim Tice

If you had attended the Oregon Association of Water Utilities annual conference this past March or spoken with a Circuit Rider lately, you may have heard of the funding delay or cancellation of two positions from the staff.

These positions as well as all of the staff play a key role in the development of the many aspects that keep this Association growing; offering the broader spectrum of benefits to our membership.

Each of us both professionally and personally experience times when additional contemplation on solving a concern or circumstance needs our utmost attention. For this moment, the summer of 2007 is uniquely challenging for both the Board and Staff in choosing the best method to continue the level of services for our membership without such proceeds of the two positions.

Being a truck driver for a number of years as previous employment, it is time to change gears and make this article borderline editorial. A friend and I were conversing earlier, speaking of family, politics and society. After the conversation, we arrived at a conclusion that the world is in need of responsibility and respect. Many decisions of the society are made from a band-aid approach, a quick fix if you may without a long term solution.

Now it certainly does not make sense to use bubble gum in a crack of a dam to hold the water back, believing it will buy some time. Time is the most valuable commodity we have, so why make a choice of a temporary nature. Do we have time to go back and do a task all over again? This band-aid fix in finding a solution is quite the pet peeve, since it seems to border on irresponsibility. Such irresponsibility may arise from the simple point that we all have too much to do. Have you ever felt that your life needs organization, yet you have no time to do it? Where does that leave us?

Well, at Oregon Association of Water Utilities new concepts have been contemplated over the past six months, stemming from the suggestions we hear from the 140 plus water and wastewater systems visited each month. At this juncture, it is time to

rearrange our approach to make good on improving the services to those systems which would like some assistance. Be assured that the services will be provided with a responsible and respectful manner.

New ideas are being contemplated to provide the members of our Association with services; services that fall into the background of tasks that are not part of the everyday dance, those odd jobs that get lost in the shuffle of paperwork and time constraints. How often have you looked across your desk; knowing you must complete that endeavor, also knowing there is a wavering timeline? Put it off until tomorrow. It is these services that will allow for much needed growth of our Association, a growth that will enhance the benefits provided to our members, certainly a recipe for a win-win situation.

We at Oregon Association of Water Utilities will outline such services in the near future, services that will set a precedent towards the highest level of accomplishment in order to assist our members in those jobs. Compliance manuals, rate studies, equipment repair, whatever the case, if your water system needs assistance, consider first, Oregon Association of Water Utilities for the tasks, knowing such task will be performed without the use of a band-aid; doing the job right the first time, an old fashion approach.

The best that life has to offer! Tim