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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chair's Corner 1

Membership News 1

EPA Needs Improvement 2

Compliance News 2

Programs 4

The Chair's Corner

David Jelmini

Last year's Chairman, Kevin Ovard, related the story of the blind men describing an elephant. So, in keeping with the "animal" theme, I thought I would explore the "year of the Dog". The **dog** represents the current year of the Chinese zodiac cycle. As the Chinese zodiac is based on a twelve-year cycle, it will appear again in the year 2018. According to Chinese folklore, people born in this year are responsible, compassionate, reliable, honest, pessimistic, anxious, overwhelming, nosy, loyal, and trustworthy; but can also be stubborn and selfish. People born in the Year of the Dog tend to compliment with people born in the Years of the Horse, Rabbit, and Tiger. Following are some of the more famous "Dogs:"



- [Mother Teresa](#), humanitarian and Albanian Catholic nun
 - [Uma Thurman](#), actress
 - [Donald Trump](#), real estate tycoon, television host, and producer
- Ok, so some Dogs display some characteristics more than others.
- So, what does this have to do with the Air & Waste Management Association? Good question. Let's look at a few of the characteristics and see how they relate to the A&WMA.
- [Andre Agassi](#), professional tennis player
 - [George W. Bush](#), President of the United States
 - [Laura Bush](#), First Lady of the United States
 - [Winston Churchill](#), former British Prime Minister
 - [Madonna Ciccone](#), singer, actress, author
 - [Bill Clinton](#), former President of the United States
 - [Herbert Hoover](#), former President of the United States

continued, page 3

Membership News

If you've visited the Great Basin Chapter website lately (<http://www.metsolution.com/newawma/index.html>), you may have noticed that the member list no longer includes members' contact information. Because of the inherent risks to members' security and privacy by posting this information on the website, it has been removed. By clicking on the "update

your membership information here" link under the Members tab, you will be redirected to the main A&WMA membership website (<http://www.awma.org/members>), where you can verify your information is accurate.

There are approximately 93 members in the Great Basin Chapter, including 3 new members. If you know anyone

who may be interested in joining, please have them contact Dave Hansell (dhansell@emassist.com). When considering memberships, remember that A&WMA offers student, individual, and organizational memberships. You can find more information on the main A&WMA website (<http://www.awma.org>).



EPA's implementation of its strategy for managing contaminated sediments may need an overhaul.

Utah remained in compliance with federal air quality standards for 2005.

EPA Needs Improvement

In a report released on March 16, 2006 (<http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2006/20060315-2006-P-00016.pdf>), the US Office of Inspector General stated that the EPA needs to do a better job implementing its 1998 strategy for managing contaminated sediments in rivers, lakes, and other watershed areas. The report said EPA's various program offices often do not use all of the available data on contaminated sediments before making decisions on pollution prevention and remediation plans. It also said that various offices within EPA, such as the Offices of Wa-

ter; Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances; and the Solid Waste and Emergency Response--need to coordinate more often on contaminated sediment management activities. Contaminated sediments are underwater soils, sand, or organic matter that contain toxic or hazardous materials, such as PCBs and mercury. EPA estimates that at least 10 percent of the sediments below surface water bodies are sufficiently contaminated to pose risks to fish as well as wildlife and humans who eat fish. The Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy, drafted in 1998, was

adopted in 1999 to prevent increased contamination and tackle existing problems (<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/cs/stratindx.html>). EPA has authority to address contaminant sediments under the superfund law, the Clean Water Act, the Water Resources Development Act, and the Great Lakes Legacy Act. Although various program offices have made headway implementing portions of the 1998 strategy, no one office has assumed responsibility for oversight and implementation of the overall strategy, the report said.

Compliance News

At the state level:

The Utah Division of Air Quality (UDAQ) published the 2005 Annual Report in February 2006 (http://www.airquality.utah.gov/Public-Interest/annual-report/2005_AQ_annual_report.pdf). Good news – despite an increasing population and the resultant increase in emission-producing activities, Utah remained in compliance with the 1-hour and 8-hour federal ozone standards. UDAQ attributed residents' cooperation with the No Drive Days campaign as making a large contribution to Utah's compliance status. Likewise, residents' coop-

eration with the winter-time "No Burn Days" campaign helped maintain Utah's compliance with the federal PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} standards.

At the federal level:

As printed in the New York Times on March 19, 2006: A three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit struck down as illegal an attempt by the Bush administration to allow power plants and other industrial polluters to evade the Clean Air Act. At issue was New Source Review, which requires older power plants to install modern pollution controls when they undergo physical

or operational changes that increase harmful emissions. The rule was largely unused until the mid-1990's, when the Clinton administration and Northeastern states started suing companies that had upgraded their plants without installing the necessary controls. The companies filed complaints with the current administration and EPA, seeking the rule to be rewritten.

EPA's answer was a regulatory reasoning that would have allowed utilities to make investments in a plant equal to one-fifth of the total cost of replacing it before the rule was applied; anything less than that was

Compliance News, *continued*

to be regarded as "routine maintenance."

This generous threshold would have allowed hundreds of plants to continue with business as usual, without responsibly accounting for increased emissions. As the court noted, it would also have had the effect of allowing plants that are now in compliance with the law to break it. Ruling in favor of a coalition of states and environmental advocacy groups, the court declared that the "plain

language" of the act required a much stricter approach and that only inadequate interpretation could construe the law otherwise.

New EPA enforcement cases are not expected, but this ruling may signal future air quality battles associated with New Source Review.



Chair's Corner, *continued*

Responsible. As fee-paying members of the association, we should all be responsible to get involved with the various activities offered by the local chapter. Every year we offer several events, including lunch and dinner meetings, web-casts and plant tours. Our first event this year is the annual dinner meeting on March 29th at the Hilton. I know how hard it is to make time for such activities – until I joined the A&WMA board, I rarely attended any events. Then, one day, a fellow member asked me why I still maintained my membership – was it just something to put on my resume or perhaps the monthly edition of the *Journal*? It got me thinking that I had a responsibility to get involved if I was going to be a member. Once I got involved, I made many new business friends and associates!

Reliable. The A&WMA needs reliable members to grow and

succeed. We rely on members to pay their dues, attend educational meetings and special events, volunteer to help organize such events, bring in new members, etc.

Anxious. We should all be eager to get involved in the A&WMA activities. In addition to local chapter functions, the national A&WMA sponsors a number of professional events throughout the year – check out their website at www.awma.org. This year's annual conference is June 20-23 in New Orleans. If it's too late to plan for this year, I would encourage you to make plans for the 2007 conference, which celebrates the A&WMA 100th anniversary in Pittsburgh, PA. If you've never been to Pittsburgh (A&WMA headquarters), I would highly encourage visiting this revitalized city.

Pessimistic. Well, maybe it's time to stop while I'm ahead.

Anyway, what I'm trying to say is that we need all of our members involved in A&WMA in order to make our chapter a clearinghouse of information and forum of ideas for environmental professionals in the intermountain west. So, next time you get a call or email from one of the board members, take the challenge and get involved!

Oh, and if you're a dog, happy Chinese New Year!



We should all be eager to get involved in the A&WMA activities.



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The Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional organization that provides training, information, and networking opportunities to thousands of environmental professionals in 65 countries.

The Great Basin Chapter is part of the Rocky Mountain Section and covers Utah, eastern Nevada, and southwestern Wyoming.

Programs & More Membership News

The Great Basin Chapter Annual Dinner was successfully held on March 29. Special thanks go to our Programs Director, Judy Moran, for all her hard work in orchestrating yet another annual banquet – Thanks! Special thanks also go out to our guest speaker, Ernie Wessman, PacifiCorp VP for Resource Development and Environment.



100 Years! - David Jelmini touting the progress of A&WMA

Judy's working on scheduling events for the remainder of this year – if you have any ideas, please contact her at (801) 536-4047 or judy.moran@ehs.utah.edu.

Member Drive

A&WMA Headquarters is once again sponsoring a membership drive. Until June 30, 2006, a new A&WMA membership is offered at a discount rate of \$100. This offer is not available through the A&WMA web site new membership form, but information can be found there (some restrictions apply, so check it out) – www.awma.org



The Crew getting in a few shots before the dinner

Fill Us In!

If you have news to include in the next newsletter, please send it along to Alex Hildebrand: alex_hildebrand@urscorp.com