



The Clarifier

VOLUME TWENTY, ISSUE ONE

DOYLESTOWN, PA

DECEMBER 2023

Water For People Gala



Stone Hill Contracting Co., Inc. hosted the 17th Annual PA AWWA Water For People Gala on Thursday evening, November 2nd at the historic William Penn Inn in Gwynedd, PA. It was a great night to be among colleagues, friends, and welcoming many newcomers to the annual event.

Throughout the evening, people were given opportunities to contribute to the work of Water For People, through a silent auction which had great items available for bidding including golf packages, restaurant gift certificates, designer purses, as well as, sports memorabilia. The highlight of the evening was a presentation by Nathan Aragon, Senior Manager, Business Development for Water For People.

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It is important to note that the success of this event came in large part from the sponsors, who teamed with Stone Hill Contracting, as well as numerous individuals who went above and beyond to make sure that the event accomplished its purpose of raising money to help people in developing countries to realize their goals of having clean water and sanitary conditions.

Stone Hill would like to recognize their event sponsors: Grace Media Services, Inc.; Trijay Systems; Blooming Glen Contractors; Mott MacDonald; Riordan Materials Corporation; Pact Construction; Carollo Engineers; Raritan Group; Zack Painting; JAG Services, LLC; and North Penn Water Authority.

Mark your calendars for next years' event, November 7, 2024!

Special points of interest:

- Operation Christmas Child Packing
- 2024 Water For People Events

Operation Christmas Child

Item donations for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoeboxes were accepted from colleagues, vendors and friends for the annual packing party held on November 3rd at the Perkasie Fire Company. A total of 250 boxes were packed and a pizza lunch was enjoyed by all in attendance. For more information on OCC, please visit www.samaritansPurse.org.

In order to make collecting donations a bit more streamlined, beginning in January 2024, Stone Hill will have a collection bin in their office and will receive items each month according to the following schedule (Jan—wash cloths, Feb—girls socks, March—boys socks, April—small stuffed animals, May—flip flops, June/July—fun stuff (puzzles, jump ropes, cars, etc.), and August/September—school supplies (pens, pencils, erasers, notebooks, 6" ruler, scissors, etc.)) Please donate items that are appropriate for the 5-9 age group. You can also help by putting a little money away each week to start saving up to assist with postage. It costs \$10 to get one shoe box into the hands of a needy child.



A special thanks goes out all who donated either items or funds to Operation Christmas Child. There are needy children throughout the world who will benefit greatly from your support.

PVSC Decant Facility

As Stone Hill continues to wait for the next tank, they have completed some of the miscellaneous work that has become available. Isolate and Demo about 100 LF of the existing 6" scum line in the basement. Cored all the pipe penetrations (9) in to the basement for the remaining tanks. Installed the new sample Line piping on tank 1 when PVSC had it down for maintenance. Installed a 2' concrete extension on Substation 16. Installed 3 new vac Lines that go from Ground level to the top of each stair tower. Stone Hill has also begun the removal and replacement of the Odor Control Duct from the Decant North Header to the Filter Press Building. This work was Originally contracted with a bypass system, but after numerous back and forth and design changes, Stone Hill came up with a way to do it in 2-3 Phases where we would remove and replace portions of the duct within an 8 hour shutdown. Phase one is already complete where we demoed and replace roughly 200LF of 24" FRP and supports. Phase two is schedule for the week after this article was due, where we will Remove and replace the final 300lf of pipe and temporarily tie the system back in with rubber couplings. Phase three will be to remove the temp. couplings and fiberglass the remaining joints.



McPhee Electric has continued to install new Conduit and pull wires to the new equipment. And is currently Buttoning up the substation 16 Gear to get ready for testing, scheduled for the beginning of December. Once Energized they can begin transferring power to the new gear.

Queen Lane WTP Air Scour Project

Zack Painting has completed the lead paint abatement work for upcoming stage 1 pipe demolition. Blind flanges and hardware deliveries have been received from LB Water and Robnet Fasteners. Piping demolition is currently on hold.

Prior to the end of 2023: Shupper Brickle Equipment Co. will be installing a new power delivery system for the runway of the existing overhead bridge crane within the blower room. The first delivery of air scour equipment for this project has been received from Roberts Filter group. Additional air scour material deliveries are anticipated in the upcoming months.



Work within the blower room will begin in early 2024 upon delivery of the blowers, valves, and fabricated piping.

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NJDWSC Clarifier Basins 1-4 Project

Work Continues at NJDWSC. Demolition processes are underway in clarifier basin 4. Stone Hill has begun demolition of the existing cable vac sludge removal system, settling basins baffle walls, mix basin baffle walls, and flocculator system in basin 4. Zack Painting is handling the crack injection and concrete repair portion of the project and has begun the water blasting of the concrete surfaces in settling basin 4. MBE Mark III is handling the electrical side of the project and is well underway with supplying the new equipment with power and controls.

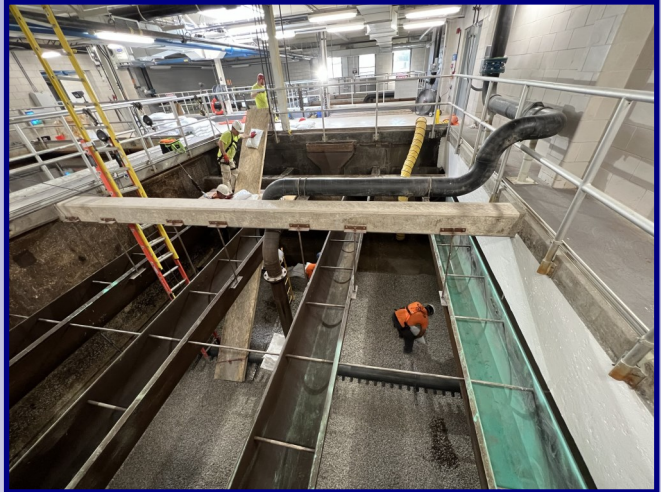
By press time, Stone Hill hopes to be done with the mechanical demolition and be well underway with the concrete repair to prepare for the new mechanical installations. Concurrently with the concrete repair, they hope to complete the concrete demolition in mix basin 4 which will enlarge the influent opening into the basin.



Norristown WTP Filter Project

Stone Hill Contracting continues with the work at PAWC upgrading the 7-filter basins. To date we have completed filters 4, 5, 7 and 1. Work on basin 6 has begun. Water Services removed the media and Stone Hill removed the tile underdrain. After media removal we discovered the same issue discovered in Basin #1. The membrane coating on the North and South walls being adjacent to dry walls was compromised. Zack Painting was called in to remove the coating on both sides. Once the coating was removed, we discovered cracks in both the North and South walls. Mott McDonald reviewed the cracks and determined that pressure grouting would be required. At present, Stone Hill is addressing the crack repair.

Once complete, Zack Painting will apply the Tnemec protective coating on both walls. The Tnemec coating requires a 5-day cure prior to any water emersion. In the meantime, Stone Hill will install the required hold down anchors and new underdrain system. Once complete, Water Service Professionals can then install the new media and aeration system. Following the media install, PAWC will run the required testing. Once it meets their approval, Stone Hill can then move on to Basin #3 and repeat the whole process again. The last basin to be completed by the steps above will be Basin #2, which should be completed sometime in January of next year.



NJDWSC Wanaque South Pump Station HVAC Project

On Friday, September 29th, Stone Hill Contracting Co., Inc. received word that their bid of \$2,418,117.00 was approved by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) for the work associated with the Wanaque South Pump Station HVAC Replacement Project. This project, as the name suggests, is the replacement of the heating and ventilation systems at the NJDWSC Wanaque South Pump Station located in Wayne, NJ. This project will continue a nice string of projects for NJDWSC and everyone involved is pleased to be able to work with them once again.

Stone Hill had completed a project at this location, replacing the pumps and drives a number of years ago, and looks forward to returning to this site. Stone Hill will also be teaming with subcontractors, Hays Sheet Metal, Cooper Plumbing and Mechanical, and Travis Electric to work toward another successful project.

As the Clarifier goes to print, purchasing and shop drawings are getting underway in hopes of being able to mobilize in second quarter of 2024 for a year-end completion of the project.



Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority Preliminary Treatment Upgrades

Submittals and engineering approvals for this project are underway. Onsite work is tentatively scheduled to begin in early 2024 pending equipment and material approvals and deliveries.

Major work for this project consists of the replacement of the existing bar screen and grit washing equipment which is being supplied by Sherwood Logan & Associates. Other improvements for the project will also be completed by Travis Electric, Emerson Process Management, Hays Sheet Metal, Cooper Plumbing, Fine Painting, and others.



Baxter Water Treatment Plant

Site restoration work for trenching at the south side of the facility has been completed by Stone Hill and Ram T Corporation. Curb and roadway restorations have also been completed. Stone Hill has now completed the north applied chlorine feed line to basin 4. The piping has been tested and tied into the pre-treatment building connection. Final restoration for this area will be completed by press time.

Currently, work at the weir chamber and post treatment building is on hold pending direction from the Owner and Design Team. Upcoming work for the chlorine room at the pre-treatment chemical building will be closely coordinated with PWD construction and operations staff.



Raritan-Millstone Water Treatment Plant Project

Stone Hill continues to work feverishly to complete all the permitting and submittals with a goal of mobilizing in Spring 2024. The major submittals have run their course and equipment is in production. Stone Hill along with their subcontractor partners, Gannett Fleming, R. Spark Electric, First Goal HVAC, Combustion Services & Equipment, Trane, City/Newark Glass, Zack Painting and RS Philips Steel, and of course New Jersey American Water all look forward to getting the field work portion of this project underway.

American Water and the American Water Charitable Foundation Celebrate National STEM Day at Local Camden, N.J. High School

American Water, the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the U.S., and the American Water Charitable Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization established by American Water, announced today that it hosted a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Education workshop at Eastside High School in Camden, N.J., utilizing materials donated over the past five years to the district.

“The American Water Charitable Foundation is committed to empowering the future leaders of Camden by providing STEM-focused resources over the years to help students succeed in and out of the classroom,” said Carrie Williams, President, American Water Charitable Foundation. “National STEM Day serves as a great reminder and chance for American Water and the Foundation to engage and support student learning and explore STEM-related careers. Our commitment to the community goes beyond our donation; it also creates opportunities for students to learn from and network with experts and professionals in the field.”

The STEM Education workshop offered students hands-on experience using 3D printers, drones, and other software to explore potential STEM careers. Students also had the opportunity to network with American Water employee volunteers and learn more about how STEM is used in the water and wastewater industry.

“American Water has been an invaluable partner in our mission to provide quality education and opportunities, not just to the students of Eastside High School, but to the entire Camden City School District community. Their generous donations and unwavering commitment to STEM education have had a profound impact on our city. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to American Water and the American Water Charitable Foundation for their unwavering support,” said State District Superintendent, Camden City School District, Katrina T. McCombs.



Industry News

Oradell Reservoir Dam Turns 100

Veolia North America recently commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Oradell Reservoir Dam, which captured the Hackensack River to quench the thirst of a rapidly expanding region.

Constructed in 1923 to serve a growing population, the dam continues to ensure Northern New Jersey thrives. More than 885,000 residents and businesses depend on the 35 billion gallons of drinking water drawn from the reservoir every year.

“We celebrate the Oradell Dam as an engineering feat that has withstood the test of a century, and we also recognize the people at our company and in our communities who had the foresight to build it,” said Alan Weland, Vice President and General Manager of Veolia’s operations in New Jersey. “Without a reliable source of drinking water, North Jersey would not exist as we know it today.”



Weland was joined by Bergen County Executive James Tedesco, Oradell Mayor Dianne Didio and other state and local officials, who spoke about the importance of the dam to the region. Rep. Josh Gottheimer, Rep. Bill Pascrell, Hudson County Executive Thomas DeGise and numerous other elected officials honored the company with proclamations commemorating the dam’s 100 years of service.

For a century, the Oradell Reservoir has been the source of clean drinking water for residents and businesses in Bergen and Hudson counties, with the capacity to hold 3.5 billion gallons of water,” Tedesco said. “I thank Veolia for their stewardship and operation of this crucial facility, and for their dedication to guaranteeing equitable and secure access to clean drinking water for all Bergen County residents.”

The reservoir that would become essential to the state's water infrastructure and supply had humble beginnings. In 1892, the Hackensack Water Company, now known as Veolia, was serving 100,000 people, a population that would quadruple over the next two decades. To meet the increasing demand, the company purchased Veldran’s Mill in Oradell along with \$1 million of farmland and woodlots and, in 1901, began work on a 250-million-gallon reservoir that would contain the Hackensack River. Clearing and excavating was monumental work because of the dense growth of timber and brush.

The wooden dam would be expanded in 1911, but demand for clean water continued to increase. In 1921, anticipating a postwar boom, work began to replace the timber dam with a modern and considerably larger concrete structure. The massive undertaking required steam shovels and scores of laborers. By the time the dam was completed in 1923, the structure was 402 feet long and 23 feet high. The enlarged reservoir extended four miles back to Harrington Park and Closter and had the capacity to hold 3.5 billion gallons.

The Oradell is the linchpin of a four-reservoir system that stretches into New York state. Woodcliff Lake, Lake Tappan and Lake DeForest all feed into the Oradell. The Oradell also receives water from an interconnection with the Wanaque Reservoir 17 miles away.

On average 98 million gallons a day are drawn from the Oradell and treated at Veolia’s Haworth Water Treatment Plant to meet the needs of North Jersey.

One hundred years after it was constructed, Veolia’s engineering and operations teams continue to work every day to maintain the dam and the ability of the reservoir to provide water to an ever-expanding region. Because superior-quality water begins with a clean environment, the company’s watershed team is championing biodiversity projects and pioneering water management methods to protect Veolia’s 4,162 acres of watershed at its reservoirs in New Jersey. Meanwhile the company’s lab ensures the water pulled from the Oradell and treated at the Haworth Plant meets or surpasses all water quality measures. A trusted water provider in New Jersey for 154 years, Veolia continues to make substantial improvements on behalf of residents and businesses.

“This reservoir and the Haworth plant are literally pumping life into North Jersey,” Weland said. “This structure was built to withstand all conditions while meeting an ever-increasing demand. It’s an honor to be here to commemorate the dam.”

Aqua Pennsylvania receives \$13.7 from PENNVEST for two Northeast Pennsylvania Wastewater Treatment Projects

Aqua Pennsylvania announced it has secured funding through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) to complete wastewater treatment plant improvements to ensure clean, safe, reliable wastewater service in its Luzerne and Wyoming Counties service area.

Aqua received approval for low-interest loans up to \$7.8 million for its Laurel Lakes Wastewater Treatment Plant in Rice Township, Luzerne County and up to \$5.9 million to improve the Rivercrest Wastewater Treatment Plant in Tunkhannock Township, Wyoming County. Both projects will be used to improve or replace existing equipment that is nearing the end of its service life and improve treatment plant reliability.

The low-interest loans are part of Aqua's efforts to obtain alternate funding sources that balance the need for extensive infrastructure investment—especially given rising costs and evolving regulatory requirements to maintain wastewater systems—with customer costs.

"We appreciate PENNVEST's board and staff for their continued support and for this funding, which helps us protect public health and the environment by improving critical wastewater infrastructure Wyoming and Luzerne counties," said Aqua Pennsylvania President Marc Lucca. "We've successfully secured nearly \$30 million in PENNVEST funding as part of our ongoing commitment to our customers as we aggressively seek out alternate funding sources to help minimize the cost of infrastructure replacement for Aqua ratepayers."

In September, Aqua also secured a Susquehanna River Basin Commission grant of \$280,000 to support monitoring equipment installation and flow meters at a dam in Shenandoah, PA, which the company acquired in July 2023.

Prior to this round of funding, Aqua Pennsylvania secured more than \$16 million from PENNVEST since 2021. This includes two grants to eliminate PFAS, or "forever chemicals," in three well stations in southeast Pennsylvania, and funding to expand the company's electric vehicle fleet as part of its aggressive companywide emissions reduction goal.



Tidewater Utilities Announces Leadership Change

Middlesex Water Company (Middlesex) has named Bruce E. Patrick, P.E., President of Tidewater Utilities, Inc., (Tidewater) a wholly owned subsidiary of Middlesex Water Company. Tidewater, together with its wholly owned subsidiary, Southern Shores, provides water services to approximately 59,000 retail customers for residential, commercial and fire protection purposes in over 460 separate communities in Delaware.

As part of Middlesex' continued succession planning initiatives, Mr. Patrick, who previously served as Executive Vice President, will assume his new role and responsibilities effective December 1, 2023. He succeeds A. Bruce O'Connor, who formerly served in this role, and who remains the Senior Vice President, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer of Middlesex.

Mr. Patrick will oversee all regulated and non-regulated operations of Tidewater and its affiliated companies, Southern Shores Water Company and White Marsh Environmental Systems. Additional responsibilities include oversight of all capital projects and managing key external stakeholder relationships.

"Bruce Patrick brings an exceptional combination of leadership, operational and management expertise to guide Tidewater's future growth, as well as strong local knowledge to deliver best in class service to our growing residential and commercial customer base," said Dennis W. Doll, President and CEO of Middlesex. "As Tidewater approaches its 60th year of service to Delaware residents, we're confident in his abilities and the entire Tidewater team to serve all of our stakeholders well into the future," continued Doll. "On behalf of the Middlesex Board of Directors, I want to thank Bruce O'Connor for his leadership at Tidewater, especially throughout the pandemic crisis and its aftermath," added Doll.

Mr. Patrick has extensive experience in regulatory compliance, permitting, planning and design, having served Tidewater for over 21 years. Prior to joining Tidewater, he served as Kent County Public Works Director and County Engineer where he had overall responsibility for the County's regional wastewater facilities. Mr. Patrick also held prior positions with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control as well as the Delaware Division of Public Health.



DigDeep and Water For People Launch Vessel™ to Unite Efforts in the US Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Space

DigDeep, a human rights nonprofit working to ensure universal access to clean water and proper sanitation in the United States, is pleased to share the launch of Vessel™, a new collective of a dozen domestic WASH (Water Access, Sanitation & Hygiene) organizations taking collaborative action to close the water access gap for every person in the nation.

More than 2 million people across the United States live in households without running water or a flush toilet. No single organization can tackle this alone. While there is a strong and effective international WASH sector, with billions of dollars invested by government agencies, NGOs and other philanthropists in places like sub-Saharan Africa, there is no formal US WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) sector to address this crisis at home.

Vessel™ is the first step in building a formal, robust and dedicated U.S. WASH sector: a network of nonprofits, funders, academics, government agencies and other community champions to share knowledge, strategic coordination and engage in more effective policymaking.

“Closing the water access gap in the United States is too large of a problem for any one organization to solve alone,” said Kabir Thatte, DigDeep’s Director of Policy & Coalitions. “Vessel™ is an effort to bring collective action to this complex, and often hidden, issue. We look forward to working alongside other nonprofits, policymakers, academia, and business leaders to uplift the voices of impacted communities and find lasting solutions.”

The Vessel™ collective is spearheaded by DigDeep and Water For People, with the participation of a dozen other prominent organizations doing domestic WASH work including the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), Center for Water Security and Cooperation (CWSC), International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health, Moonshot Missions, the Pacific Institute, Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), the US Water Alliance, Community Engineering Corps, American Business Water Coalition, and Xylem.

“We are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to lasting safe water and sanitation services,” said Sarah Bramley, Chief Impact Officer, Water For People. “Everyone doesn’t only apply to people in low and middle-income countries. It also applies to our neighbors right here in the United States. Vessel™ gives us a tool to come together to speak with a common voice towards making the human right to water a reality for all.”

Inspired by the international WASH sector, the Vessel™ collective envisions a united effort that extends beyond any one organization’s agenda. To kickstart this collaborative endeavor, a domestic convening is scheduled for May 2024 in Washington, DC. This event will gather representatives from government agencies, funders, and other stakeholders from over 150 domestic WASH organizations. The aim is to foster cross-sector collaboration and set action-oriented targets to begin a concerted response to the water and wastewater crisis.

Vessel™’s goals are ambitious and impactful:

- 1) Coalition Building: Uniting NGOs, academics, public and private sectors, Vessel™ forms a structured domestic coalition for unified action.
- 2) Community Amplification: Engaging frontline communities and WASH leaders, Vessel™ gains insights and tailors strategies to the crisis.
- 3) Target Setting: Collectively defining goals and actionable targets, Vessel™ paves the way for a comprehensive domestic response.
- 4) Knowledge Sharing: Equipping sector organizations with practical knowledge, solutions, and training through workshops.
- 5) Public Awareness: Amplifying urgency among stakeholders, officials, and the public for a united purpose.
- 6) Advocacy for Change: Coordinating a policy agenda to drive reforms and secure resources for marginalized communities.

For more information, please visit www.vesselcollective.us.

Upcoming Water For People Events

May 13-15, 2024—Silent Auction, PA AWWA Annual Conference, Lancaster, PA. For more information, please contact Nickole Petroselli at nmuva@StoneHillContracting.com

July 20, 2024—Night at PNC Park, Pirates vs. Phillies. For more information, please contact Macy Divens at MDivens@EntechEng.com

October 28, 2024—17th Annual Water For People Charity Golf Outing, North Hills Country Club, Glenside, PA. For more information, please contact Sandy McIntyre at sales@GraceMediaServicesInc.com

November 7, 2024—18th Annual PA AWWA Water For People Gala, William Penn Inn, Gwynedd, PA. For more information, please contact Sandy McIntyre at sales@GraceMediaServicesInc.com

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Stone Hill Contracting



"Committed to Excellence"

Stone Hill Contracting is a regional contractor that provides valuable services by partnering with Owner's, Engineer's, Utilities, Municipalities and communities to improve the environment and our nation's infrastructure.

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