

WATER ENGINEERS FOR THE AMERICAS

2015 YEAR END REPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As seems to be typical for WEFTA, 2015 was a year full of challenges, inspirational experiences, frustrating setbacks, and fantastic achievements. Through it all, tremendous work was done in finding solutions to the lack of safe and reliable drinking water sources and proper sanitation facilities for rural communities in Latin America who have historically lacked such access. All of us at WEFTA are very hopeful for the future and our ability to continue to partner with these communities and work together with them in finding solutions.

One of the most significant achievements of the year was the funding for and construction of a very ambitious and logistically challenging project deep in the jungle of Chiapas, Mexico. WEFTA received a donation of more than \$44K from the Schumacher Kramer Foundation based in Holland to fund the project. The construction materials had to be transported by truck once the rainy season ended to as far as the road could take it, and from that point carried on shoulders and horseback to the community by the locals from Benito Juarez. More on this later in the report.

We were also excited to welcome a team of representatives from Suma Jayma, our partner non-profit organization in Bolivia, who came to the U.S. to receive specialized training on well drilling techniques. Volunteers from WEFTA housed the visitors who received the training generously offered by a local driller in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Bolivians were impressed by the

wealth of knowledge they gained from the American drillers and returned with new skills and increased confidence, not to mention several tools and materials donated by the very drillers they had spent their time with. One of WEFTA's board members was able to find a person to donate the cost of shipping the materials to Bolivia later in the year.

This was also the first year that WEFTA worked with a person in the official role of Executive Director. Elise Arena was hired in late 2014 and served as the organization's Executive Director for most of 2015. It was agreed at the regular annual board meeting of WEFTA toward the end of 2015 that her skills lied more in public relations and resource development and that she should dedicate her efforts in that capacity going forward. WEFTA would look for another person to play the role of operational director of the organization.

Elise organized two wonderful events in 2015 in an effort to get WEFTA's name better known in New Mexico. One coincided with World Water Day in March, and another with an event at a local art gallery in Santa Fe focusing on the impact of human activities on the natural environment. Both were well received and generally recognized as the type of event the organization should occasionally organize going forward.

There was also the tragic loss in November of our colleague Holly Chapman who had brought so much energy and great ideas to the table during her years supporting the organization as director of public relations and external communications. Holly will be greatly missed by all of us at WEFTA who had the chance to work with her, and we pray her soul rests in peace.

There were some fascinating and productive trips made by WEFTA volunteers during the year, and several successful projects funded and constructed. These are described throughout this report. All of these efforts will have a positive impact on the quality of life of hundreds of families for many years to come now that they have access to safe and reliable drinking water supplies and/or healthy, sustainable sanitary systems.







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SITE VISITS MADE BY WEFTA VOLUNTEERS IN 2015

The following are summaries of what our volunteers observed while in-country. Detailed trip reports are available for viewing on the WEFTA website (www.WEFTA.net).

Trip to Guatemala by Ewan Young and Marvin Martinez

WEFTA was asked to assist another NGO based in New Mexico, United by Friendship, run by Deborah Simon. Deborah and her group have been working for many years with the community

of Uspantan in Guatemala. The assistance requested of the WEFTA team of Ewan Young and Marvin Martinez was to evaluate the feasibility of the construction of a wastewater treatment facility for the town. Ewan and Marvin met with officials from the town and gathered valuable information to assist in the ongoing development of a plan for the needed infrastructure. As is the case in too many communities throughout Latin America, sewage waste is collected and sent directly to the nearest river without any whatsoever. **WEFTA** treatment forward to being a part of the discussion viable solutions for regarding such wastewater treatment infrastructure and selection of the most appropriate technology.



Ewan and Marvin conduct ammonia and nitrogen tests of the river water downstream of the existing sewage discharge point, to assess the impact on the river from the existing system.

Trip to Honduras by Andrew Robertson and Karen Pereira

In mid-April of 2015, Andrew Robertson and his wife Karen travelled to Honduras to check on the status of past projects and speak with various community representatives about new projects on the horizon, and those that are underway or already completed. They spent much of their time with Enrique Lozano, our local representative in Honduras.





Andrew and Karen visiting the sites of various projects in Honduras with the locals



Trip to El Salvador by John Lincoln and Scott McKitrick

At the request of Habitat for Humanity (HFH) in El Salvador, John Lincoln (senior civil engineer) and Scott McKitrick (senior hydrogeologist) of WEFTA travelled to El Salvador to explore opportunities to help provide potable water and sanitation systems in several communities where HFH has been involved. This visit occurred from September 28 through October 2, 2015.

The HFH organization was established in 1992 in El Salvador and has provided simple, decent housing solutions for more than 13,500 families since then. They have extensive experience in managing, financing, and constructing housing units and associated facilities (community centers, etc.), but virtually no experience in water supply or sanitary systems. Recently, HFH has been approached by several communities in El Salvador for help with existing water supply systems that are not functioning properly, or with supply of water systems in communities served only by centralized community wells (typically hand-dug wells with buckets to raise the water to the surface). Because supply of clean water and adequate sanitation systems are an essential part of a livable habitat, HFH is interested in pursuing an association with WEFTA to provide assistance with water supply and sanitation systems in El Salvador.

The WEFTA team stayed in the capital city of San Salvador and travelled with representatives of **HFH** to several communities in outlying areas. These included Valle Nuevo, Isla La Calzada, Tepeagua, Los Buenos, and Getsemani.

The WEFTA team also visited a site for a low-income project housing being developed another non-profit by organization in El Salvador called Homes from the Heart. This project is known as the Monsignor Romero project, located on the outskirts of San Salvador. This proposed community needs a water system and a sanitary sewer collection system.

The project that appears most ready for WEFTA involvement is that of Tepeagua. The WEFTA/HFH team conducted a reconnaissance of the area around the



Scott McKitrick collecting a water sample from a hand-dug well in Tepeagua for later analysis

community, in conjunction with Angel Rosas of Living Water International, another non-profit organization working in the area, specializing in well drilling, to determine if a water supply and distribution system was feasible. The team visited potential sites for a community well, and after reviewing regional hydrogeology reports and visiting some of the nearby hand-dug wells, Scott McKitrick/WEFTA hydrogeologist, concurred that one of the proposed well sites was appropriate. The team then went to visit a site for a potential storage tank located about 0.4 kilometers from the church on top of a hill. The storage tank site is ideal in that it has very good bedrock foundation conditions and is high enough above the community to provide sufficient pressure to feed the water distribution system by gravity (in case of power outages). The site is also owned by the local bishop, so use of the site by the community is not an issue. Scott McKitrick then took water



quality samples from two of the hand-dug wells in the community to assure that the groundwater was acceptable as a potable water source.

It was concluded that WEFTA could supply the technical expertise required for the project, which includes preparation of design drawings and technical specifications, and training for the HFH construction manager and the community in proper construction techniques for water pipelines. WEFTA may also be willing to fund a portion of the materials required for the project, especially the well pump and appurtenances.

Living Water International indicated that they could construct the new well as early as January, 2016. Once the well has been constructed and the yield determined, WEFTA will send another team and then complete the design of the system and prepare a cost estimate for the project.

Thanks to this developing relationship between WEFTA and HFH El Salvador, it appears that there will be many opportunities for the two organizations to join forces in assuring access to safe and reliable water supplies, and possibly sanitation facilities in the future with assistance from WEFTA, and providing housing solutions via the HFH model.

WEFTA PROJECTS OF 2015

The following projects were funded and completed in 2015. Detailed final reports and accounting for each are available upon request.

Contorno Arriba Well, Bolivia

The Contorno Arriba project benefitted 96 families, 16 directly and 80 indirectly, or a total population of approximately 480 people. The work began with initial coordination plans spelling out the roles of all stakeholders in the project, and purchasing of materials in mid-February. Work was completed in mid-March 13, 2015 at a total cost of \$6,550.

The project consisted of the transporting of all the materials, mobilization and set up of the drilling rig, drilling of a 7-1/2" diameter well to 36 meters of depth, installation of well casing including screened portion, placement of pea gravel around casing, construction of concrete seal at the surface with surface casing, cleaning of the well, and determine pump test to production capacity.

The Suma Jayma team worked dawn to dusk on the well. The locals were impressed that the actual well drilling was completed in just four days.



Local Authorities of Contorno Arriba at the site of the newly completed well, with Jaime Rosas of Suma Jayma to the right.



They mentioned to the Suma Jayma team that they knew of other drilling efforts in neighboring communities taking more like a month to complete by other drillers.



Women and men alike from the community assist with the excavation of the pits to be used to prepare the drilling mud. Hard physical labor is nothing foreign to the Aymaran people.

Pongoni Well, Bolivia

This well will provide water to 87 families, for a total population of 435 people including children, adults and elderly community members.

The dimensions are similar to the Contorno Arriba well but much deeper at 60 meters. Upon confirming a good new and reliable source of water for the community, the people of Pongoni will use their own funds to complete the storage tank and distribution system to all the homes.

In the final report prepared by Suma Jayma, they mentioned the valuable lessons learned from John Torres of Rodgers Drilling during their training in New Mexico earlier in the year. Clearly that experience was valuable in the development of Suma Jayma's skills in well drilling. There is more about that training later in this report.



Community members assist the Suma Jayma team throughout the drilling process, including preparation of the drilling mud.



The important task of mixing the drilling mud. One of the ways the locals can help.



Jalsuri Hand Pumps, Bolivia

This project consisted of the construction of 32 individual hand-dug wells and hand pump structures, benefitting a population of approximately 160 people. As is typical with these individual hand pump projects, the work of Suma Jayma goes much further than the simple construction of the wells and related equipment. It includes various preliminary visits to the site to meet with the community members to explain the construction process and what is expected of each family. The training also included instructions on how to operate and maintain the pumps over the long term. One significant advantage to the locally constructed pump mechanisms is that the technology is relatively simple and replacement parts are readily available, most capable of being fabricated locally.

The families provided all the unskilled labor to construct the wells and pumps, including excavation by hand of the wells themselves, installation of concrete rings to hold the walls of the wells in place, plus assistance throughout the pump installation process. The families also collected a significant portion of locally obtainable materials such as rock, gravel and sand needed to construct the wells.

The project was completed in mid-December, 2015 for a total cost of approximately \$14,600.

Chacoma Irpa Grande Well, Bolivia

A transfer of \$5,100 was made to Bolivia in November of 2015 for a well to be drilled for the community of Chacoma Irpa Grande to serve 154 families, approximately 770 people in all.

Contorno Centro Water System, Bolivia

This project will be executed in coordination with the Municipality of Viacha who will fund the construction of the proposed well, pump house, water storage tank and main transmission line to the community. WEFTA made a transfer of \$14,500 in December of 2015 to fund the construction of essentially everything else from the main trunk line to each home. The families, as is customary on any WEFTA/Suma Jayma project, will provide all the non-skilled labor needed to construct the project, plus a portion of the actual project cost.

This project will benefit 31 families, or a total population of approximately 155 people. Construction should be concluded in early 2016.



Gathering and preparing the well casing pipe



Yamaranguila, Honduras

The town of Yamaranguila built its first water project in 1987, serving 100 families. When WEFTA first started working with the community in 1999, it had a population of less than 1,800 people and provided water approximately 6 hours per day before the tank dried up and the community ran out of water. The WEFTA project completed in 2004, made possible by contributions from the American Chemistry Council (ACC) and the Vinyl Institute, alleviated shortages and allowed community to grow. By 2015, population had more than doubled to 4,000 people, and again began to experience water shortages as the town outgrew its water supply. Moreover, the



The whole family pitches in preparing sand for the concrete mix.

town's water board had to turn away many families applying for new water service. In 2015, the American Chemistry Council and the local community partnered to construct a second water well, PVC water supply line, 50,000-gallon storage tank/ chlorine contact basin, and chlorine disinfection unit. The second project was completed in 2015. At this time, while the town continues to grow and prosper with its new water supply, it does not suffer any more water shortages.

Monquecagua, Honduras

The town of Monquecagua is home to approximately 2,400 people, of whom approximately 600 do not have water, and the rest had only intermittent water service of poor quality. In 2014, the community embarked on a multi-phase project to obtain a new water source, construct a new storage tank and chlorination unit at higher elevation (where it can serve the entire community), and upgrade the existing distribution system with larger. better quality PVC pipes to provide more reliable water service and hook-up currently unserved areas.



Topography and soil conditions can be challenging in some cases, resulting in the need for creative solutions.

Phase 1, consisting of a spring water source and PVC transmission line, was completed in 2015. Phase 2, consisting of a 40,000-gallon tank/ chlorine contact basin and chlorine disinfection unit, will be completed in 2016. Phase 3 is currently under construction, with approximately 1.7 miles of main trunk line installed.



Funding was provided by the Vinyl Institute, Baptist Church mission, World Geologists, WEFTA, and the local community.

La Rinconada, Belen, Manazapa, Honduras

The twenty-four families of La Rinconada had no water system whatsoever. This project provided first-time running water for these families. It entailed an entire new water system, including new spring source, new tank, new chlorine disinfection unit, new PVC supply line and PVC distribution network.

Funding was provided by the American Chemistry Council, USAID, WEFTA, and the local community.



Common to all WEFTA projects in Honduras and elsewhere is the teamwork among community members and commitment to the common good

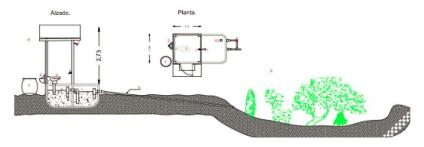
Llano Largo, Quioco, and Guadalupe Regional Project, Honduras

Llano Largo has a population of approximately 200 families, or total population of 1200. The community has no water system. The families hand carry water from open pits during the wet season.

The American Chemistry Council has committed \$55,000 toward this project. The local Honduran government has committed approximately \$70,000, the Catholic Church has contributed \$10,000, USDAID has contributed \$5,000, and the local community has raised over \$30,000 for this largescale regional project.

Benito Juarez, Chiapas, Mexico

WEFTA coordinated with Kees Grootenboer who lives in Chiapas, and the Schumacher Kramer Foundation based in the Netherlands, regarding funding for the large Benito Juarez project, consisting of the construction of latrine facilities at each of the 53 community members' homes, with a total population of approximately 600 people. The Schumacher Kramer Foundation provided the funding necessary for the project totaling \$44,507, all of which was transferred to Chiapas in the spring of 2015. The design and construction essentially mirrored the processes used in the construction of the latrines in the neighboring community of Chum Cerro in 2011. The latrines use a sort of modified septic system which discharges effluent into low areas downgradient from the latrines where water-loving shrubs and grasses absorb the wastewater.





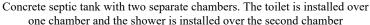


Design of latrine systems, and photos of concrete tanks with lid and toilet.



Water is discharged to a constructed wetland, which is an excavated cell filled with sand that serves to filter out odors. The filter consists of native plants whose roots in the sand are fed by the wastewater. The nutrients in the water are absorbed by the native plants which sequester them in their tissues as they grow. The nutrients absorbed are eliminated with the native plants, whose remnants for an insulating layer. The purified water filters from the wetland into the ground.







Interior of a completed shower.

Ongoing Circuit Riding Programs in Honduras and Bolivia

At the WEFTA board of directors meeting in October of 2014 the board agreed to formalize the relationship between WEFTA and our partners in Honduras and Bolivia. In the case of Honduras, Mr. Enrique Lozano, a retired engineer, continued to play the role of 'circuit rider' throughout 2015, and acted as official representative of WEFTA in the region. And in Bolivia, it was agreed that the Suma Jayma team, especially Braulio Rojas as director, will play the important role of incountry representative of WEFTA and assure an ongoing circuit riding presence in Bolivia. Braulio, along with other members of the Suma Jayma team, continue to coordinate with communities WEFTA has worked with in the past, checking on the status of their projects. The Suma Jayma team also continually meets with new communities we may partner with in the future, explaining the WEFTA/Suma Jayma methodology and what each partner in this effort can bring to the table to make these projects possible.

SPECIAL EVENTS OF 2015

Visit from Suma Jayma team to learn well drilling techniques in New Mexico

One major goal for WEFTA going forward in Bolivia will be ensuring the viability of Suma Jayma as a sustainable organization; and the development of skills with regard to well-drilling and marketing this work. It is the belief of the Suma Jayma staff that such well-drilling capacity would be of tremendous service to communities throughout the region and will have the added benefit of creating a sustainable work model for their organization.



Two members of the Bolivian NGO by the name of Suma Jayma, who WEFTA has teamed with on many projects over the years, travelled to the U.S. in January of 2015 to receive specialized training on well drilling best practices from a local driller based out of Albuquerque, NM. Rodgers and Company, one of the largest well drilling contractors in NM, invited the team to shadow their work on a well they were drilling for the community of Corrales, just north of Albuquerque. The two Bolivians, Jaime Rosas and Felix Alanoca, participated in activities on-site, and learned a great deal from the job foreman, John Torres, who was generous with his knowledge and ample experience throughout their stay. John, who is bilingual, is one of the most senior drilling foremen at Rodgers and Company, and provided many insights to Jaime and Felix. He later spent most of a Saturday, on his own time, showing the Suma Jayma team around the company's yard in Albuquerque, explaining the specialized equipment that is used from time to time on various jobs, based on special project needs. He also later worked with corporate staff at Rodgers and Company who went so far as to generously donate materials that Jaime and Felix brought back with them.



Invitation to the public to participate in presentation put on by WEFTA/Suma Jayma in Albuquerque, NM

Another driller in Albuquerque, Bill Whaley of Hydrogeologic Services, Inc., donated some submersible well pumps and other materials which were later shipped down to Bolivia via another generous contribution from a shipping company based in Texas by the name of World Commerce Forwarding. WEFTA's part in shipping the materials was limited to covering the customs fees upon arrival to Bolivia.

While in New Mexico, the team gave two very compelling presentations of the type of work they've been involved in over the years, in collaboration with WEFTA and Souder, Miller & Associates (SMA); one in Santa Fe and another in Albuquerque. Both presentations were wellattended by SMA staff and several special guests, including the well drillers mentioned above, other locals involved in the water and sanitation sector in New Mexico, politicians, and the general public interested in learning about the work of WEFTA and Suma Jayma.



Bolivians with representatives from Rodgers & Company, Hydrogeologic Services, Inc., and Souder, Miller & Associates after presentation in Albuquerque.



World Water Day event at Rail Yards in Santa Fe in March, 2015

Elise worked with a local audiovisual consultant to produce a display held at the Rail Yards in Santa Fe to coincide with World Water Day. Images captured during the many site visits made by WEFTA volunteers over the years were projected onto the wall of an adjacent building from below the old elevated water tower on the site, which itself was bathed in blue lights. Several WEFTA volunteers attended where they mingled with locals who had heard of the event and came to learn more about WEFTA, as well as those that simply happened by. The display was very professionally done. The ambience was informal and conducive to conversation with visitors about the work of WEFTA in Latin America and the ways in which the organization is helping rural communities find solutions to their water and sanitation needs.

Desert Research Institute/WEFTA encounter in May, 2015

A group of representatives working in the water/sanitation sector from throughout Latin America visited New Mexico and Nevada in May. The group toured northern New Mexico with Blanca Surgeon of the Rural Community Assistance Corporation, also a member of the board of directors of WEFTA, to see firsthand the challenges that rural communities in New Mexico face related to the provision of safe and reliable water to their community members. Toward the end of the group's visit to New Mexico, Souder, Miller & Associates hosted a summary encounter at their headquarters in Santa Fe, where members of the group, including leadership from the Desert Research Institute based in Reno, Nevada, along with visitors from NGOs such as Waterlines and WEFTA, had a chance to brainstorm on what they'd seen during their visit. The exchange was thought-provoking and generated many ideas that the group identified as worthy of follow up and further discussion.

'Let's Talk Blue' event at The Verve Gallery in Santa Fe in August, 2015

Elise organized an event in late July of 2015 to raise awareness of the work of WEFTA in conjunction with an event already planned for the Verve Gallery highlighting the impact of humanity's activities on the natural environment. The event was well attended and seemed to be well received. It was generally understood from the onset that the direct financial benefit would not be immediate; rather the event was meant to be another way to get the name of WEFTA better known to a wider audience, which may one-day lead to contacts that could result in additional funding to support the work of the organization.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2015

WEFTA has been fortunate over the last year to receive very generous donations from other organizations and individuals. The organization continues to rely on the countless hours provided by our volunteer professionals that make the very important site visits each year to the communities where we work.

Below is a list of key contributions followed by a cash flow summary for 2015.



Grant from the Wallace Genetic Foundation

The Wallace Genetic Foundation has continued to provide ongoing support to cover the operational expenses related to running WEFTA, especially those related to administrative support and resource development, and coordinating with our partner organizations, donors, and the beneficiary communities who ultimately receive the assistance they need to meet their water and sanitation needs. A grant of \$50,000 was received in September of 2015.

Grant from Waterlines

Waterlines, another New Mexico based non-profit with close ties to WEFTA, donated \$25,000 in October of 2015 to encourage and facilitate the circuit riding component of the work of WEFTA. This generous gift has made possible the growth of the in-country circuit rider program as well as numerous site visits made by WEFTA volunteers from the U.S.

Contribution from Jennifer McDowell via the Pittsburgh Foundation

In 2015 WEFTA received two generous donations from Jennifer McDowell totaling \$36,500. Jennifer continues to be one of WEFTA's most long-standing and generous donors. The first donation of \$6,500 received in early 2015 was specifically designated to cover the cost of the Contorno Arriba well project in Bolivia (as described earlier in this report), and the other \$30,000 donation to cover other project costs and potentially additional administrative costs of the organization. Thanks to the contributions from the Wallace Genetic Foundation, WEFTA has yet to use the funds donated by Jennifer for anything other than direct project costs.

Contribution from the Vinyl Institute

WEFTA received a grant of \$12,000 from the Vinyl Institute in February of 2015 to fund the ongoing work in Honduras.

Contribution from individuals and matching grants

Throughout 2015 WEFTA received several donations from individuals, philanthropic groups, and a new online donation system set up by Holly Chapman. There have been some significant additional donations made toward the well drilling efforts in Bolivia that continue to arrive, as well as several generous donations toward the end of the year to fund the new work anticipated in 2016 in El Salvador. Andrew Robertson, of Souder, Miller & Associates, made two large donations to WEFTA together with matching funds from the firm totaling \$60,000 in 2015, all dedicated to upcoming projects in Honduras.

Contribution from Souder, Miller & Associates

In addition to the matching grant program for its employees, plus all the time donated by a number of individuals, Souder, Miller & Associates (SMA) has provided the administrative personnel and material necessary for the operation of WEFTA. SMA has invoiced WEFTA for the direct costs of such services, but has covered all the associated indirect costs such as benefits for personnel, all equipment and materials such as computers, office space, and infrastructure required by the organization. The success of WEFTA is due in large part to the continued commitment on the part SMA to support the work of WEFTA.



Banking Activity in 2015

Beginning Balance (1/1/2015)	\$165,738.18
Donations Received:	
Individual donations received first quarter of 2015	\$9,125.94
Individual donations received second quarter of 2015	\$696.00
Individual donations received third quarter of 2015	\$2,228.23
Individual donations received fourth quarter of 2015	\$3,786.58
Individual donations toward work in Bolivia (Jason Obergfell projects)	\$12,000.00
SMA/Andrew Robertson	\$60,000.00
Jennifer McDowell/Pittsburgh Foundation	\$36,500.00
Waterlines	\$25,000.00
Wallace Genetic Foundation	\$50,000.00
Schumacher Kramer Foundation	\$44,507.00
Vinyl Institute	\$12,000.00
Total Donations Received:	\$255,843.75
Program Expenses:	
Transfers to Bolivia	\$50,243.67
Transfers to Honduras	\$46,541.00
Transfers to Mexico	\$49,507.00
Executive Director (Elise Arena)	\$16,936.84
External Communications/PR support (Holly Chapman)	\$12,267.00
Invoices from SMA	\$14,502.75
Circuit Riding in Honduras	\$10,000.00
Circuit Riding in Bolivia	\$7,500.00
Travel Expenses for WEFTA volunteers in El Salvador	\$1,251.22
Travel Expenses for WEFTA volunteers in Guatemala	\$1,859.83
Travel Expenses for WEFTA volunteers in Honduras	\$1,302.62
Travel Expenses for Suma Jayma team for training in NM	\$5,184.48
Travel Expenses for Events within U.S.	\$580.90
Wire Transfer Fees	\$725.14
Misc. Expenses (taxes, brochures, promotional material, business cards, etc.)	\$3,051.20
Total Program Expenses:	\$221,453.65
Ending Balance (12/31/2015)	\$200,128,28

Ending Bulance (12/01/2010)	Ψ200,120.20	

Board of Directors: Peter Fant, P.E., Jason Gehrig, P.E., Lou Harrington, John Lincoln, P.E., Jennifer McDowell, Scott Rogers, P.E. and Blanca Surgeon