

## HDPE Pipeline: HDPE News for the Water Industry

June 2017

Over the years, *HDPE Pipeline* has invested space on these pages extolling the virtues of PE pipe. Where we've been remiss is in neglecting to share actual stories of its use by municipalities. Where we've been remiss is in neglecting to share actual stories of its use by municipalities. In this edition, we share several cases of municipal utilities that have incorporated HDPE into their systems. Each story is different, but the underlying message is consistent: familiarity breeds confidence and confidence leads to greater use. The growth of HDPE for municipal water and wastewater is catching on in regions that have typically not been active users of PE pipe. In fact, we are now seeing more and more utilities embracing HDPE as their 'goto' pipe for capital projects. With Flint, Michigan enhancing public awareness of proper utility management, HDPE continues to receive greater attention. We can learn quite a bit about municipal adoption of HDPE, through sharing several brief and instructional stories from across the United States.

As always, if you read something here that interests you, you may email me at pdyke@pepipe.org for more information. If you would like to share your HDPE case, send me a few details and I will turn it into one of the 250 case studies on our website. To access the other case studies, go to pepipe.org/case-studies.

Best wishes to you all for a great summer! Peter Dyke

#### Sunrise, Florida – saves \$2.5 million on a single project

We met the chief engineer and public works director for Sunrise (suburban Miami) earlier this year and he shared with us how much his utility saved by switching from metal pipe to HDPE. "We just bid out project at the Escape Valencia community of the town of Davie here in Broward County, Florida. The project consists of about 40,000 to 45,000' of pipe. We put bids out with pre-purchased pipe. We have ductile iron pipe that we pre-purchased. Including that in our contract, with an alternate bid for HDPE, we were able to save between \$2 and \$3 million by making that transition on this project."

He went on to say, "The ease of bursting this pipe into an existing pipe gives us a lot of versatility in being able to put the pipe in place and have a



pipe?"

corridor already. It helps us with our Health Department permitting. It also helps us with our restoration costs which are minimized because we are not cutting and destroying the streets and impacting the traffic as much. The strength characteristics and the ease of installation; those things really matter a lot. Wherever we are looking to replace water systems in communities now that's the first place I'm going to look, as far as materials go. With the savings that we are seeing on the Escape Valencia why wouldn't the city want to get that kind of savings everywhere you're replacing pipe?



**AWWA ACE 17 Booth 831** 



Come join the Alliance and expand your knowledge of HDPE! For the last two years we have demonstrated pipe bursting in our large booth. This year, we will demonstrate swagelining in the booth to keep it interesting for our guests. Many thanks to our sponsors who are supporting us this year and to Andy Mayer at Murphy Pipeline for putting together the Swage demo!

Booth 831, Pennsylvania Convention Center Philadelphia, is Where the Action is in June!

# 2017 Scoby Award Municipal Leadership Award

The 2017 Winner of the Scoby Award is Luis Aguiar, formerly with Miami Dade WASD who helped transform the utility and served as a regional leader and a recognized voice in the adoption and proliferation of HDPE pipe. Luis also served on PPI's municipal advisory board for many years and helped nurture publications and behaviors. Congratulations Luis.



Alliance Executive Director, Peter Dyke bestowed the inaugural Scoby Award to Luis Aguiar earlier this year for his civic leadership and commitment to best practices in the water industry.

The Scoby Award is an annual award given to a municipal staff member by the Alliance for PE Pipe in recognition of that individual's commitment to acting upon using a more responsible approach to infrastructure renovation. In addition to employing HDPE pipe in their municipality, the individual must influence the industry in a substantive way either with their speaking about their experience, serving the industry on a committee or board or supporting the Alliance's mission. The award is named in honor of Greg Scoby who transformed the City of Palo Alto, CA into an HDPE user for water and wastewater. After many years of product use Palo Alto has now fully experienced the many operational, service and financial benefits of HDPE.

# HDPE Pipe Responsible Infrastructure

## City cuts water loss by 2/3

Lago Vista TX, a 6,500 population suburb of Austin, TX in hill country is converting his community system from traditional bell and spigot systems to HDPE. David Stewart, is the mastermind of that process who has now been recognized by the Texas Water Development Board with two best practice awards. The fascinating story here is that Mr. Stewart has lowered his water loss rate from 36% to 11% in 6 short years! He started first with open cut only and has now expanded to pipe bursting. As his small staff no longer has to fix daily breaks so he has deployed them to the capital side of his operation. Mr. Stewart said to the Alliance recently, "this is our second state wide water conservation award this year!" They won the 2017 Texas



Dave Stewart in Lago Vista lowered his water loss rate from 36% to 11% in 6 short years!

Water Development Board Innovative Water Supply Conservation award and then won the 2017 Save Texas Water Blue Legacy award. While the Texas Water Board cannot tell the recipients of their funds which pipe to use, they sure can acknowledge those cities using best practice strategies.

#### Miami Beach Achieves World Record Drill with HDPE

This user of HDPE is instructional because it saved the city \$4 million and it was the deepest depth, longest distance and largest diameter Horizontal Directional Drill on record. The utility is like so many others, they start with HDPE when they have no other practical choice. Dr. Bruce Mowry City Engineer at City of Miami Beach had a problem with a 1979 concrete force main that ran through the heart of Miami Beach. Failure of the line could cause the line to leak sewage out to South Beach so his team designed a micro tunnel, but bids were budget busting. So they turned to HDPE and saved the city \$4 million! This 54" diameter project created a 4,600 lf force main beneath the streets of Miami Beach at a 40' depth.



Dr. Bruce Mowry (Miami Beach) presided over the largest, longest, and deepest HDPE drill on record.

### **Detroit Suburb Fully Adopts HDPE**

In the heart of automobile country, Livonia is down the road from Flint and has adopted HDPE to a high level. They believe that as little grade disturbance is best for their residents and the HDPE cost advantages permit them to do more miles with less money. Todd Zlincik, PE says, "One of the greatest benefits of PE pipe is its ease to install. The key thing is we have mature neighborhoods and it saves the trees. It's easy to go in, easy to install, and less leaks for future maintenance."



Todd Zlincik, PE (Livonia) says HDPE "is easy to install..." and they see "less leaks for future maintenance."

## Fort Wayne selects HDPE over all other

A standout in the Midwest for HDPE adoption is City Utilities in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Tucked in the northeastern corner of the state the 258,000 population city has experimented with all pipe types over its 190 year history. Originally established as a military "fort" following defeat of the Miami Indians, it became a city in 1794 and was platted in 1824. So given its rich history, the City's water distribution is composed of a variety of pipe materials. With increasing water main break rates, City Utilities knew it must address the problem with proven yet, innovative strategies. City Utilities experimented with HDPE, developed an expertise working with it and used it in a variety of installation methods. Recently, after many years of HDPE trial, City Utilities committed to HDPE at a high level and now uses it for most applications.

## **2017 Alliance Pipe Display**

Many thanks to Bob Gajeske (Gajeske Inc, TX) for creating the 2017 edition of the Alliance pipe display. This thing has already been seen by more than 1,000 people this year! What better way to show how to connect to an HDPE main or to traditional materials.



Bob Gajeske (Gajeske, TX) dedicated significant staff time to developing the 2017 version of the Alliance pipe display. It has a big Following!

### Social Media and the Alliance

Alliance crosses 1,900 follower threshold! The Alliance now has a more robust following online. Posting daily on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn, the Alliance keeps its followers up to speed on latest innovations, event excitement, technical facts and people of the industry. Connect with us!







Like us on Facebook and Twitter to receive the latest updates on @Alliance and win a free Apple iPad!



#### **Alliance Contact**

Peter Dyke
Executive Director
pdyke@pepipe.org

Alliance for PE Pipe 833 N. Fulton Street Tulsa, OK 74115 www.pepipe.org