

## Nomination of Clayton McGlenn (Mac) Richardson, MS, PE NEWEA Biosolids Management Achievement Award

August 1, 2016

Mac Richardson has long been a leader in wastewater solids management, known throughout New England and beyond, focusing on the best possible environmental, social, and economic outcomes, using his vision, extensive knowledge, strong communications skills, and good humor to advocate for and complete numerous significant projects. In 1988, he joined the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority (LAWPCA), soon becoming Superintendent. There he has led the creation of one of the most stable, resilient, and publicly-supported biosolids management programs anywhere in North America; it includes energy recovery from biosolids, Class B land application, and biosolids composting.

Early on, Mac recognized the importance of diversifying biosolids management options: it “gives him flexibility in controlling the flow of biosolids.... facility operators can easily keep up with the routine maintenance.... the dual process operation saves him money and helps generate consistently high quality products.” He recognized the importance of good neighbor policies: “by avoiding land application of Class B biosolids during days when residents are more likely to be outdoors, they have eliminated almost all odor complaints” (NEBRA, 2001: *Saving Soil*).



Beginning in 2008, Mac took his and LAWPCA’s commitment to best practices to the highest level in the biosolids profession by voluntarily instituting a National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) Environmental Management System (EMS). LAWPCA received Gold-Level recognition in 2010. A few years later, having realized all the benefits they could from the system, Mac and his staff let go of the certification process. They continue to utilize the best parts of the EMS in daily operations.



In 2011, LAWPCA broke ground on new anaerobic digestion and associated biogas energy systems, becoming the first municipal AD system in the state. For this, LAWPCA was recognized in 2014 with a Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence.

Mac’s knowledge, experience, and leadership have served our profession in numerous roles. For the Maine WEA, he has been President, newsletter editor, Residuals Management Committee member, and long-time member (and current Chair) of the Communications Committee. He is also currently the Maine State

Director to NEWEA and a member of the NEWEA Residuals Management Committee.

Mac was instrumental in the formation of NEBRA: he signed the NEBRA Articles of Agreement in 1997, served on the initial Interim Board, and remained a Board member through 2000. Since NEBRA's beginning, Mac has made sure that LAWPCA is a full and active member in NEBRA, participating in committee work and supporting other LAWPCA staff in NEBRA roles. He currently serves on the NEBRA Research Committee.

In 2015, Mac reflected on "25 Years in the Biosolids," sharing core lessons he has learned:

- "Multiple outlets and back up plans are needed;
- "Public Outreach and Employee Communication are critical;
- "Biosolids & Organics are too valuable to waste; and
- What is our mission? – Protect the Environment!"

Mac continues to advocate for practical, environmentally-sound biosolids recycling. He mentors able staff at LAWPCA, ensuring the organization's stable future. He regularly shares his experiences with composting and anaerobic digestion at conferences, workshops, and webinars. His enthusiasm for the next possible advance is unlimited; currently, LAWPCA is delving into co-digestion, bringing in high-strength wastes to increase biogas and energy production while helping the community manage these challenging "wastes."

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