New York Water Environment Association Presents Uhl T. Mann Awards to Kiah Miller of NYCDEP, Douglas Haussel of Suffolk County DPW, and Jeffrey Bryant of Yonkers Joint WRRF

Syracuse – The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA), a statewide organization of water quality management professionals, has awarded Kiah Miller, Douglas Haussel, and Jeffrey Bryant with 2019 Uhl T. Mann Awards for excellence in treatment plant operations and maintenance. During NYWEA’s 92nd Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, February 5, NYWEA President Robert Wither presented the award to Miller, Haussel, and Bryant. Miller received the award for excellence in wastewater maintenance at a facility handling flow of greater than 50 million gallons daily (MGD), Haussel received the award for excellence in operations at a facility from 10-50 MGD, and Bryant received the award for excellence in operations at a facility over 50 MGD.

Kiah Miller is a dedicated and conscientious wastewater operator who has over 27 years with New York City Department of Environmental Protection and is certified as a Grade 4A Public Sewage Plant Operator. Mr. Miller spent most of his career working at the North River WRRP where he currently is the Plant Chief. As the Plant Superintendent, Mr. Miller is responsible for all maintenance at the entire facility. This includes preventative maintenance (PM) and corrective maintenance (CM) as well as modifications. He has made great efforts to update and revise PMs for the plant. He works very closely with plant operators, machinists, electricians, and instrumentation technicians to overhaul and maintain all plant equipment. Through his excellent management, there has been less down time of equipment and an overall increase in productivity levels. Mr. Miller takes on maintenance challenges that he can do with in-house

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staff. Many of these jobs would have normally been done under job order contracts. Performing maintenance with in-house staff saves the NYC money and also increases the morale of the plant staff. Some of these jobs were rehabilitation of the secondary screen conveyor, installation of new grease gate actuators, and the installation of new service water pumps.

Douglas Haussel has been employed by Suffolk County Department of Public Works (SCDPW) at Suffolk County Sewer District 3 (SD3), Bergen Point WWTP in West Babylon, NY since 1980. He advanced through the ranks to Director of Operations and Maintenance in 2017. For the past 8 years, SD3 has been undergoing upgrades through various contracts requiring Doug to coordinate with engineers, construction managers and contractors. His excellent managerial and technical skills have allowed him to address numerous operational/construction issues by working closely with his staff and engineers and contractors to maintain plant operations while meeting permit. Doug puts a high priority on plant performance and protecting the environmental and ensures that the plant is fully operational and capable of meeting permit conditions. The plants do not meet their permits without a successful preventative maintenance program which Doug oversees. Doug also participates in public relations regarding the Suffolk wastewater initiatives. This includes providing information for or presenting at meetings or hearings, providing information to consultants to develop programs or projects and providing site tours to residents, environmental groups and others. He also encourages his operations crew to participate in the operations challenge team, Brown Tide, deepening their engagement with their profession. As the person responsible for safety at the plants, Doug takes this responsibility very seriously. He requires all staff to follow the County safety program, and coordinates with the County Safety officers. There have been no major accidents at any of the facilities under his watch.

Jeffrey Bryant has been the Plant Superintendent at Yonkers Joint WRRF since March 2014. He is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the 120 MGD water resource recovery facility and all staff assigned to the facility. The responsibilities include meeting SPDES permit limits, personnel matters including hiring and addressing disciplinary matters. Jeff also provides input to the annual budget on various levels of personnel, utilities, chemicals, repairs and

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maintenance and capital improvement projects. In addition, he reviews plans and specifications; attend construction project meetings and is the primary contact for maintenance of plant operations during construction. He reviews chemical and process results for plant processes and sets direction for treatment to meet SPDES requirements, and also oversees the preventative and corrective maintenance of all plant facilities. Since Superstorm Sandy in 2012 the Yonkers Joint facility has undergone 7 construction projects to return the facility to pre-storm condition. Jeff was instrumental in supporting the construction teams with numerous shutdowns for construction activities and placing systems on line as construction was completed. Jeff continues to be the main contact for construction coordination and shutdowns for current upgrades to the grit removal system, DAF thickener and polymer building and ADG Engine project. Jeff has also been involved in biosolids dewatering process improvements as well as, the operation of a new anaerobic digester gas generator. Jeff conducts informal tool box talks with supervisors and operators. The training includes the process goal, observations to make, safety issues around the process and answers questions. He also developed and implemented plant specific tests which are given verbally to new operations employees in order to assess what has been learned and what training is still required.

About NYWEA: Founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a nonprofit educational organization, NYWEA has 2,700 members statewide and hosts several technical conferences each year for environmental engineers, scientists, public officials and others who work in water and wastewater quality management. In addition, NYWEA sponsors a scholarship program, publishes Clear Waters, a quarterly educational magazine, and administers the wastewater operator certification program. NYWEA also supports humanitarian clean water projects. Headquartered in Syracuse, NYWEA has seven regional chapters, 14 college student chapters and is a Member Association of the international Water Environment Federation. For more information, visit www.nywea.org.

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