



MSD

Louisville and Jefferson County
Metropolitan Sewer District

Update

News about activities and developments at MSD

May 24, 2002

Special Issue

"Never has there been a dull moment" An interview with Gordon R. Garner

Update: What do you consider your greatest accomplishment at MSD?

Garner: The single greatest accomplishment is our cultural change to be a customer focused public agency. Most of our significant projects and programs—the Dixie Highway Corridor sewers, the countywide drainage program and others—came about because of two things: one, we learned how to listen to our customers and, two, we learned to work as a team to do what was needed. Our diverse workforce and our commitment to our DiverseWorks initiatives have more to do with our success than most people realize. I am particularly proud of how we did what we did, not just the end results. Others come to mind—LOJIC, the alternative solids process at Morris Forman, creation of regional wastewater treatment plants, sewer expansion. Big list.



far that I can truthfully say I don't have a big disappointment. Community and MSD Board support for our initiatives has been constant and strong. We have accelerated our program three times! In many areas, we are a national model of how to do things right.

There are little disappointments: too many MSD vehicles in our customer parking lot; the still not built employee-built fountain at the corner of Sixth and Liberty; all of our projects take longer to do than I want them to take.

I guess the BIGGEST thing is that we never got a model watershed plan for Beargrass Creek that involved "all the players"—city, county, state, and environmental and neighborhood groups. I haven't given up and still hope that after I leave the new approach we are trying now will get us there. Building consensus is the way of the future to make water quality decisions that get results.

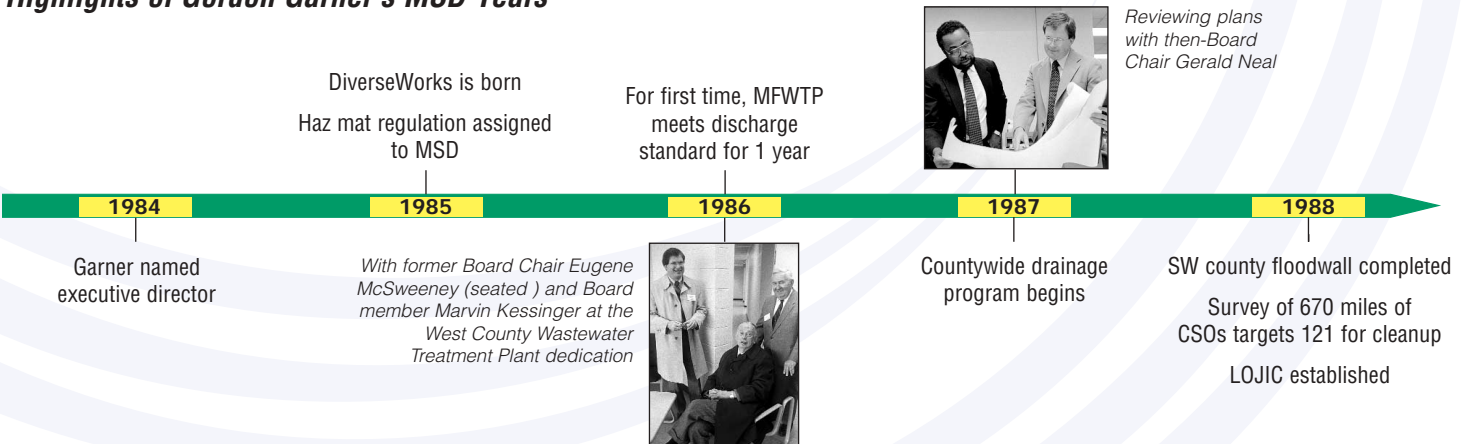
Update: What would you consider your biggest disappointment?

Garner: For the most part, my expectations about what I could accomplish at MSD have been exceeded so

Update: What would do differently? What would you

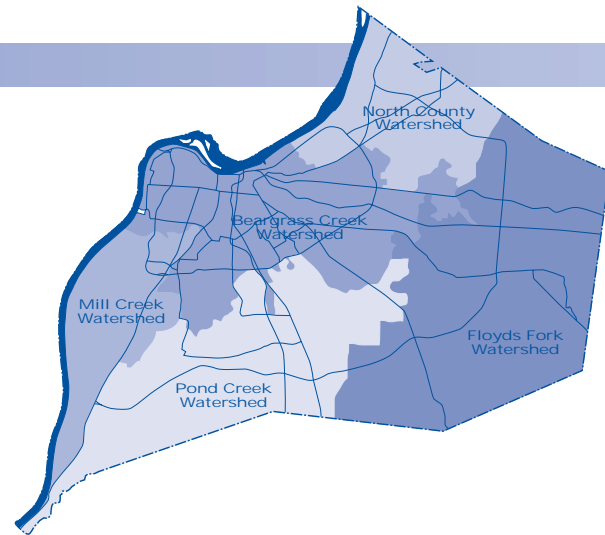
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Customer First: Clean Water, Green Environment, Growing Community Highlights of Gordon Garner's MSD Years



Accomplishments by Area

Under Gordon Garner's leadership, MSD began managing capital construction and system maintenance through area teams assigned to specific geographic or project areas. The approach has streamlined planning, enabled drainage improvements to be included during sewer construction, encouraged collaboration with other utility and agency projects, and improved response to customer service requests. Notable accomplishments since 1984 follow by area team.



Beargrass Creek

- With U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, initiated three-phase flood control project to protect more than 300 structures and reduce annual flood damages by more than \$2 million
- Removed most inefficient neighborhood wastewater treatment plants along Beargrass Creek from service
- Formalized partnerships with local officials to fund and prioritize projects



Dedicating a pretreatment process at DuPont Dow Elastomers in 2001 (from left to right): Board Chair Reba Doutrick, DDE Plant Manager David Pigion, Garner, Pretreatment Inspector Sue Green and DDE employee Danny Gatlin

Floyds Fork/North County

- Extended sewer service to City of Indian Hills
- Completed Action Plan and negotiated agreements to take over Prospect sewer system, extend sewer service to much of Oldham County
- Received first permanent conservation easement granted to MSD, a nine-acre tract along Goose Creek
- Constructed Whipps Mill Road Flood Control Facility in partnership with City of Lyndon

- Initiated construction of sewer infrastructure in Middletown, Pope Lick area

Mill Creek

- Initiated 100-mile sewer expansion

- along Dixie Highway corridor, connecting more than 16,000 properties to sewers from 1996 through 2001
- Opened first satellite office on Dixie Highway to aid new customers with sewer assessments in Mill Creek Area sewer expansion
- Built four-mile greenway trail along southwest flood levee

Pond Creek

- Extended sanitary sewer service to the Heritage Creek development to serve many of the 1600 families displaced by airport expansion
- Initiated Pond Creek restoration project with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, providing flood protection, channel improvements and wetlands development
- Completed construction of Melco and Vulcan Quarry detention basins, protecting properties near Fishpool Creek, airport complex from flash flooding

(continued on back page)

1989 J-town sewer system, 3,800 customers acquired

1990 Hosting public works professionals from Japan

1991 Observing a presentation
Floodwall extension planned for Presbyterian Church, USA headquarters

1992

1993 With Board Chair Reba Doutrick during media briefing for Ohio River Sweep

Interview with Gordon Garner

(continued from front page)

do exactly the same all over again?

Garner: There are a few hiring decisions I came to regret! I would have been more aggressive about becoming a customer-focused organization. Maybe I would have given up wearing ties sooner!

Update: Is there any "undone" work you'd like to see finished?

Garner: As I mentioned, creating a model watershed plan for Beargrass Creek tops the list.

Implementing the long-term plan for Combined Sewer Overflows. Expanding facilities to meet community economic development needs. Creek restoration, especially the Pond Creek Watershed Redevelopment Plan. About a \$100 million in drainage projects. Eliminating the most egregious Sanitary Sewer Overflows. Continuing our team-led productivity and service improvements. There's lots of work in our business. Never has there been a dull moment.

Update: Why retire now?

Garner: All of us need to look at what we are doing from time to time. I have been challenged in recent years by events and made a New Year's resolution to try to get some order in my life and "be in charge." When I looked at all the facts, retirement became the only real option to the kind of future I saw for myself. I will be active and do lots of things, mostly here in Louisville. I am in an enviable position in my life. I don't know exactly what I will do (despite rumors to the contrary). I am trying not

to make too many commitments too soon! I'm considering starting a Web site, www.heisretired.com, but think any real interest in it will be short-lived. Many of my peers have said that I am their role model for retirement!

Update: After working most of your life, what are you going to do on June 2nd and beyond?

Garner: In the short term, indulging my passion for golf, dealing with a backlog of "projects" and travel (a trip to Ireland is coming soon). I'll be thinking, reading and writing at least three papers on things I've been mulling over for some time. Already my June schedule is much more booked than I would like!

Update: Positive things have happened in the past 18 years. What's your secret for achieving this level of success?

Garner: Personally I did very little. Hundreds of MSD employees past and present, engineering firms, contractors

and countless others all had a part in what has happened the last 18 years. I can't go anywhere without meeting someone who has been a part of what we have accomplished.

Our work is invisible to most people, but we have people doing what it takes 24/7. It's much harder and more complicated work than most people imagine. But it is absolutely essential work in order for a city to survive and prosper. Yet, it is taken for granted by nine out of 10 of our customers.

If I have a special talent at all it's that I am always looking at least five years ahead, asking what we'll need to be doing then and encouraging others to move in that direction.



Launching the Beargrass Creek Restoration effort in August 2001



Breaking ground for Cedar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant with then County Commissioner Irv Maze, Judge Executive David Armstrong, MSD Board Chair Sandra Metts, contractor Mike Hall, and Floyds Fork Task Force member Tina Halbig

MSD moves to new, environmentally friendly headquarters at 7th & Liberty

Floodwall system passes first test as 12 inches of rain falls, Ohio River reaches seventh-highest level on record; MSD praised for flood response

1994 1995 1996 1997 1998

MSD joins county emergency snow-clearing program
1st of its kind partnership signed with US Army Corps of Engineers

Cedar Creek WTP completed
First Holiday Cultural Extravaganza held
Workforce Diversity Council named



At MSD's new 7th and Liberty location with then-Board Chair Sandra Metts

MSD named U.S. EPA's "Green Lights Government Partner of the Year"
Customer First vision adopted



MSD

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Metropolitan Sewer District

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Accomplishments by Area

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Wet Weather/Water Quality

- Initiated comprehensive sewer rehabilitation program to reduce stormwater inflow into sewer lines
- Began ongoing partnership with U.S. Geological Survey to collect and monitor quality of stream water in Jefferson County
- Initiated construction of two stormwater basins on Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center property
- Completed of low-cost in-line wastewater/stormwater storage system with innovative inflatable gate capable of holding 2.5 million gallons. Project is recognized by U.S. EPA among nation's most cost-effective and successful CSO abatement measures and included in report to Congress

Morris Forman WTP

- Planned and implemented regional approach to wastewater treatment to remove inefficient neighborhood plants from service
- Built and expanded West County plant to serve 71,000 people in western Jefferson County
- Expanded Cedar Creek plant to serve growing Fern Creek area
- Constructed Floyd Forks plant as energy-efficient, visitor friendly facility; plant named Kentucky APWA 2001 project of year
- Initiated telemetry system to allow remote monitoring and control of all MSD facilities
- Participation in U.S. EPA program to measure environmental performance of industrial pretreatment of wastewater before discharge

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Compost

What's been said about Gordon Garner

"Gordon has always been a tremendous resource for AMSA and MSD. His knowledge and insight are irreplaceable. The wastewater community will miss him. We wish him the best."

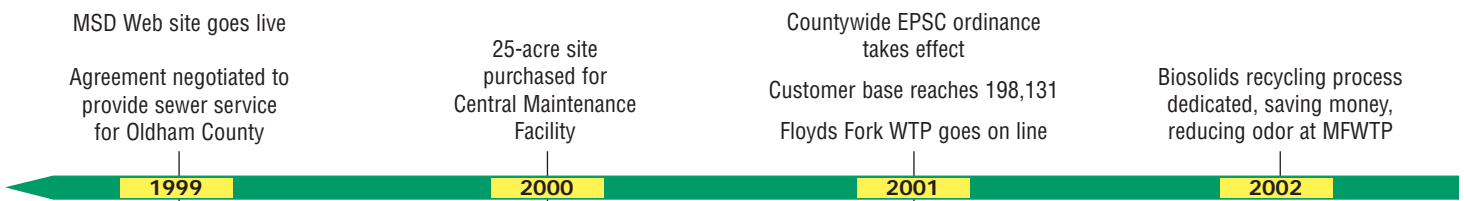
—Ken Kirk
Executive Director, AMSA

"Gordon's true brilliance as a leader was to never articulate the how, but to provide vision about the why and articulate the possibilities. I suspect that Gordon's most enduring legacy will be his contribution to improving the nation's ability to address the water quality challenges relating to stormwater."

—Glenn Reinhardt
Executive Director, Water Environment
Research Foundation

"Gordon has been a force in shaping our nation's water policy. His commitment to water quality protection and his creative, inclusive problem-solving approach were critical to the development of the U.S. CSO policy in effect today. In the world of water, Gordon's a star!"

—Lajuana Wilcher
Former Assistant for Water, U.S. EPA



180 employees take early retirement incentive and 4,000+ years of experience

NAWBO selects Garner National Corporate Partner of the Year

JRC ends protests at MFWTP
Long-term strategic business plan adopted



At the South Fork Beargrass Creek Flood Protection Project signing ceremony, from L to R: Jefferson County B District Commissioner Dolores Delahanty, Louisville Alderman Barbara Gregg and Third District Congresswoman Anne Northup