

# Best Tasting Water in Alabama

WHO HAS THE BEST TASTING WATER IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA?

By George Marodis, Source Water Specialist

On March 20th through March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 the Alabama Rural Water Association hosted its 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Training Conference in Mobile, Alabama, at the Mobile Convention Center.

On Tuesday, March 22 “The Water Taste Test Competition began.” Public water utilities from the entire State of Alabama were encouraged to submit samples of their water for the competition. Interested utilities qualified and submitted water samples for the competition. Only utilities that do not have any chemical or monitoring violations can qualify for the Taste Test Competition. The water was judged on taste, clarity and odor.

After the preliminary judging, the water system competitors were reduced to the following six finalists.

**Leeds Water Works Board**  
**Lowndes County Water Authority**  
**Perdido Bay Water, Sewer & FPA**  
**West Etowah County Water Authority**  
**Dothan Utilities**  
**Mobile County Water, Sewer & FPA**



Brandon McBride, Administrator of USDA Rural Utility Service

The winner of the 2016 Taste Test competition was the **Mobile County Water, Sewer and Fire Protection Authority (MCWSFPA)**, located in Theodore, Alabama in Mobile County. The Mobile County Water, Sewer and Fire Protection Authority is one of the largest rural water systems in the State of Alabama. The MCWSFPA has the capacity to produce over 7 million gallons of drinking water per day which serves 13,000+ custom-



Judging the water from L to R, Al Jones with the Appalachian Regional Commission; Suzi Mersmann with the Covington County Soil and Water Conservation Office and Nikki Carey Nicholson with Congressman Bradley Byrnes Office



The final judging continued during the Rural Water Country Luncheon where over 500 attendees gathered to await the judge's selection.

ers in southern Mobile County. Since 1965, Mobile County Water, Sewer & FPA has been serving the Theodore, Tillman's Corner, Fowl River and Coden communities with 8 wells, 6 elevated storage tanks and a total storage capacity of 3,950,000 gallons of water with approximately 225 miles of water mains.

Having the best tasting drinking water in Alabama is the result of hard work and proper management, and that's exactly what you will find at the Mobile County Water, Sewer & FPA.



L to R, Kathy Horne, Executive Director, ARWA; Scott Freeman, Line Locator, MCWSFPA; David Dunning, Equipment Operator, MCWSFPA; and Robby Davis, Maintenance Supervisor, MCWSFPA

**The MCWSFPA is managed by:**

**Michael Burdine, Chairman**

**Stephen Tillman, Vice Chairman**

**Preston Smith, Treasurer**

**Jim White, Secretary**

**George Callahan, Member**

By winning the "Taste Test" at the ARWA Conference, a representative from the Mobile County Water Sewer & FPA will receive a round trip ticket to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Drinking Water Contest scheduled to take place in February, 2017.



L to R, Kathy Horne, Executive Director, ARWA; Sally Hathcock, Office Manager WECWA; Barbie Cleveland, Accounts Manager, WECWA; James Golden, Board Member, WECWA; Matthew Pierce, Operator, WECWA; Nathan Moore, Operator, WECWA

The runner up in the "Taste Test Competition" and last year's winner was the **West Etowah County Water Authority** which is located in Attala, Alabama in Etowah County. West Etowah County Water supplies drinking water to approximately 2,300 households. West Etowah County Water produces water from one well and one spring. West Etowah has seven storage tanks with enough storage capacity to

hold 910,000 gallons of water. If a representative of the taste test winner cannot make the trip to Washington, D.C., then a representative from the runner up utility will be given the opportunity to participate at the national level. Congratulations to the West Etowah County Water Authority.