

***“A Recollection -- or Two or Three: The Origin and Early Days of the Chicago Industrial Water, Waste & Sewage Group (CIWW&SG)”***

(Originally written for the 40 year anniversary of IWWSG)

By E. Ted Erickson (1902-1994)

It was hot in Chicago! It was late in August 1948 and the American Chemical Society (ACS) was holding its semi-annual (Fall) national meeting at the Stevens Hotel (now the Hilton Towers). It was even hotter in the meeting room in which the ACS members of the Division of Water and Sewage listened to very dull and boring speakers. A speaker would read his paper, sit down to mild, polite applause, and then another speaker would appear and so on -- for three days!

As I recollect, some of us ACS members gathered after one of the sessions, wondering why we were exposed to the reading of papers (the selection of which none of us had any control) without any discussion of the issues. We thought the discussions of these papers would be the most interesting part of the meeting! It was through this exchange of such ideas and a desire to correct the deplorable condition that the CIWWSG was born (now 67) years ago.

Go to [www.iwwsg.org](http://www.iwwsg.org) for “the rest of the story”!!

The **Distinguished Environmental Professional Award**, named in honor of founder E. Ted Erickson, was established by the IWWSG in 2000 to recognize an individual who has made a significant contribution(s) in the environmental area, especially at the local and regional levels. The award is granted based on recognition of the recipient’s community service advancing IWWSG’s goals, leadership / service to environmental professional organizations, including the IWWSG, and contributions to the field of environmental laws / compliance / management / education.

## Industrial Water, Waste & Sewage Group

E. Ted Erickson

**Distinguished Environmental  
Professional Award**

# 2019 Recipient



## Deborah C. Stone

Chief Sustainability Officer and Director  
Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES)  
Cook County, Illinois

## Deborah C. Stone

Deborah was appointed as Cook County's first Sustainability Officer in 2011 and is Director of the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES), which regulates air emissions, demolitions, asbestos removal, open burns and solid waste facilities, monitors air quality as part of the U.S. EPA air quality monitoring network, and works with local communities to clean up and redevelop brownfields. Projects include an award-winning program fostering reuse of building demolition debris, and helping create the County's solid waste facility and liquid hazardous waste regulatory programs. Brownfields work in the West suburbs by DES resulted in least 200 jobs, and DES is now beginning brownfield assessments in the South Suburbs, receiving the highest dollar amount of U.S. EPA brownfield grants in the nation in 2018. DES makes county operations and communities more sustainable and resilient.

As Deputy Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, she oversaw the State's first regional water supply plan for Northeast Illinois and for the Mahomet Aquifer region, and spearheaded Conservation Congress, a working partnership of hundreds of recreation and natural resources constituents that advised the Department. She oversaw the Office of Water Resources, including regulatory permit programs and capital projects, especially dam removal projects undertaken in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the office of Capital Planning and Grants; and the Office of Realty and Environmental Planning. At IDNR, she simultaneously held the position of Director of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, working to help public and private landowners across the state apply the strongest level of legal protection to our rare remaining remnants of high quality habitat.

She currently sits on the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, a gubernatorial appointment. She teaches Urban and Environmental Economics in the undergraduate Public Policy Department of DePaul University, and originated a course at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Masters of Urban Planning Program called Recycling Cities, focused on the environmental and economic impacts of the flow of materials through the built environment.

She has an M.A. in Public Policy from the University of Chicago, and a BA with double major in Sociology and Philosophy from Beloit College. She is a Fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago, and was the recipient of the Illinois Environmental Council's Environmental Leadership Award in 2017.

## IWWSG

E. Ted Erickson

### "Distinguished Environmental Professional Award"

Past Recipients

- May 2000 **Thomas McSwiggin, Illinois EPA**
- May 2000 **James T. Harrington, McGuire Woods LLP**
- May 2001 **Richard Lanyon, MWRD**
- May 2002 **James B. Parks, Illinois EPA**
- May 2003 **Ron Flegal, Illinois Pollution Control Board**
- May 2006 **Fred G. Krikau, Acme Steel Company / Interlake**
- May 2007 **Cecil Lue-Hing, D.Sc., MWRD**
- May 2008 **Toby Frevert, Illinois EPA**
- May 2009 **Alan Jirik, Corn Products International**
- May 2010 **Suzanne Malec-McKenna,  
Chicago Department of Environment**
- May 2011 **Howard Chinn, Illinois Attorney General's Office**
- March 2012 **Robert (Bob) S. Elvert, ExxonMobil Corporation**
- March 2013 **Lee Botts, Great Lakes Environmentalist**
- March 2014 **G. Tanner Girard, Ph.D.,  
Illinois Pollution Control Board**
- March 2015 **Marcia Willhite, Illinois EPA**
- March 2015 **Bill Compton, Caterpillar Inc.**
- March 2016 **Jean B. "Susie" Schreiber, Chair,  
Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group**
- March 2016 **Bharat Mathur, USEPA & IEPA**
- March 2017 **Mark Bouman, Ph.D.,  
The Field Museum / Chicago State University**
- Nov 2017 **Tom Granato, Ph.D., MWRD**