



## From the Director's Chair —

### EXPLORING AN ALTERED STATE OF MIND

... *"and now, for something completely different"* <sup>1</sup>

On occasion, as I travel home from a trip, I use writing to help restore my sanity and perspective. At times, writing cleanses the mind of tattered thoughts that have lingered about in need of a purpose. At other times, I reflect on issues that have surrounded me, touched me, or occasionally, involved me. On many occasions, this expresses itself in poetry, as I am drawn to its cadence.

A concerted effort has been made to bypass anything out of the mainstream (I'm fascinated with cosmology) or anything that might have a political overtone. After all, my intent is to entertain, not to confuse or offend.

#### Breakout

Time to measure, time to cut,  
Time to get out of this rut.  
Time too precious – time to go.  
Time to breakout – this I know.

I've heard the empty talk.  
There's no future here for me.  
A breach too wide to fill the gap -  
I need to be set free.  
We tried to build on shifting ground,  
We dared to make it stand.  
It all collapsed around our feet  
Despite our firm command.

Our symmetry is broken,  
The line is cut in two.  
The words have all been spoken,  
We each now get our due.  
Bad investments, ill-timed gains,  
A cross-linked breach of trust.  
Time to tighten up the reins -  
We went from boom to bust.

It wasn't you, it wasn't me -  
T'was the crossing of our souls.  
Now it's time to cross the bridge,  
And now we pay the tolls.  
I beg all to learn the lesson:  
Life is bigger than ourselves.  
Prioritize each other,  
Or collapse within yourselves.

#### The Path

The path we take, the truths we seek  
define our sense of being.  
But it surely is our differences  
that open our eyes to seeing.  
Common ground and common sense  
builds the bridge to bind us.  
What is uniquely ours  
then crosses that bridge to find us.  
What makes a friend and ally,  
from threads of goodwill weaved?  
Time and confidences shared  
with common bonds achieved.

#### Wrestling with the Fates

Born with little – times were tough,  
But mom made sure we had enough.  
Loving care and good nutrition,  
Plus an optimistic disposition.  
She fed our bodies, minds and souls.  
These are the gifts that one extols.

To not set standards is not to live.  
Judge by what we do and give.  
Rest comes easy to an empty mind -  
That's not me, I'm not that kind.  
Rest also comes to the pure of heart -  
That's not me, wasn't from the start.

Sublimating to unwind,  
Troubled by a restless mind.  
I seek asylum, I need to rest -  
My mind decides on one more test.  
I wrestle with the day's events -  
To question actions and intents?

Half asleep, but not comfortably -  
Eerie sights surround, suffuse me.  
Half a log and half just ashes -  
Muted sparks and colored splashes.  
The day replayed in spectral visions;  
Some things well done and some revisions.

Friends supported, reasoned calls,  
Courage enough to move some walls.  
Some unwise actions marred the day;  
That's when I hear my mother say,  
"Count your blessings, for when you wake  
You'll see you give more than you take." ■

**Express yourself as is your way,  
We each have worthy things to say.  
Whether in public or confidential,  
Sharing our thoughts is consequential.**

<sup>1</sup>From the BBC Series "Monty Python's Flying Circus"

# READY FOR THE NEXT STORM?

ALTHOUGH NOAA IS PREDICTING A NEAR- OR BELOW-NORMAL ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON, 8-13 NAMED STORMS, INCLUDING 3-6 HURRICANES, ARE PROBABLE.

For smaller watersheds, intense thunderstorms present greater risks. They are far more numerous than tropical storms and offer very limited warning of their arrival and intensity.

## IT TAKES JUST ONE STORM TO CAUSE A DISASTER

In preparing for those severe summer storms, one might take the time to locate the old, faithful flashlight and make sure the batteries still work.

This is also an excellent occasion to find your emergency action plan (EAP) and dust it off, too. Your EAP is a "living document" requiring routine attention to ensure it stays current. Remember the maps, too! Have there been significant changes in the areas downstream of the dam? Are there new bridges, housing developments, or schools? Keeping your inundation maps up to date is just as important as the body of your EAP. So, just like that flashlight, take a few minutes to ensure your EAP is ready to aid you during bad weather.

Want to take it up a notch? Why not schedule an EAP exercise? One of the easiest exercises is an annual phone drill. Set a date and time to notify all individuals or agencies in your notification flow charts in advance, as this will give them an opportunity to pull out (or find) their copy of the EAP and take a look at it. Have the individuals and agencies follow through the EAP notification flow charts just as you would during an emergency event.

Track the progress during the exercise and follow up with any concerns or complications noted during the drill. ■

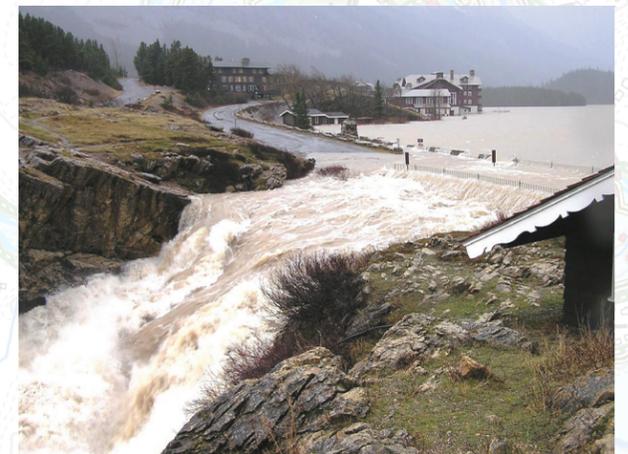
## DO A TABLETOP EXERCISE FOR YOUR EAP

Those with key roles come together to practice situations when you have to activate your EAP.

Think of it as having all your neighbors helping to get prepared for weathering the storm. Everyone gets to review and discuss their role in an emergency event as well as understand what other members are doing. Work through mock emergency scenarios and discuss how each entity can aid the others. ■



## PRACTICING NOW WILL MAKE THE REAL THING EASIER TO HANDLE



Photos: Google Images

Water Wire archive and reference materials are available at:  
<http://www.schnabel-eng.com/category/water-wire/>

## WELCOME TO SCHNABEL!

**Thomas E. Hepler, PE**, recently joined our Greensboro, NC office. Tom, formerly with the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Waterways and Concrete Dams Group, brings over 35 years of experience in hydraulic and structural engineering designs for concrete dams and appurtenant structures to our team of dam engineering experts.



He served as a Technical Specialist, Team Leader, Principal Designer, Senior Engineer, and Technical Reviewer for dam safety inspections, dam modifications, dam removals, and spillway modifications for numerous projects throughout the country. Tom is an active member of USSD, ASCE, and ASDSO, and currently serves on USSD's Committee on Concrete Dams and Committee on Dam Decommissioning (as past Chair). He received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree from the University of Missouri-Rolla. Tom can be reached at 336-274-9456 or at [thepler@schnabel-eng.com](mailto:thepler@schnabel-eng.com). ■

## WHO'S BEING PROMOTED!

**Joseph S. Monroe, PE**, to Principal. For more than 20 years, Joe has been heavily involved in the design and construction of new dams, as well as the rehabilitation of existing dams. His depth of experience in design includes geotechnical explorations and engineering evaluations for both earthfill dams and concrete gravity dams, hydraulic and structural design of spillways, and preparation of bidding and construction documents. In addition to design related functions, Joe has also provided construction administration duties during the implementation of the design for which he had responsible charge.



Joe is an Engineer of Record for Georgia's Safe Dams Program, specializing in geotechnical engineering, hydrology and hydraulics, and civil engineering. He currently serves as Branch Leader for our Alpharetta, GA, office and can be reached at 770-781-8088 or via email at [jmonroe@schnabel-eng.com](mailto:jmonroe@schnabel-eng.com). ■

Schnabel is pleased to announce that **Dave Campbell, PE, D.WRE**, Director of Dam Engineering, is the inaugural recipient of the **American Academy of Water Resources Engineers (AAWRE) Outstanding Practitioner in Water Resources Engineering Award**.

The annual award was established to recognize a Diplomat who has demonstrated a significant contributions to environmental or water resources engineering through engineering practice.

Read more at <http://goo.gl/COUkVs>