

February 18, 2023

**RE: Letter of Reference for Mr. Kurt Wright, P.E., BCEE, PWAM**

To Whom It Might Concern:

I am pleased to provide this letter of reference for Mr. Kurt Wright, P.E., BCEE, PWAM. I have known Mr. Wright since about 2011. I have been impressed with his over 40 years of experience in engineering planning, design, project financing (grantsmanship), advertisement/bidding, contract administration, construction management and startup services for numerous types of projects. Most of his experience is with municipal water and wastewater infrastructure. He established his own professional engineering firm, SDG Engineering, Inc., in 2002 based in Rutherford County, North Carolina.

I had the opportunity to evaluate his performance in 2012 during his initial involvement as a student in the Buried Asset Management Institute-International's (BAMI-I) Certification of Training in Asset Management (CTAM) 100 online course when his experience with Asset Management began in. Due to his intense interest in the subject matter, I requested an opportunity to meet with him. This meeting initiated a strong working relationship and friendship based on mutual trust and respect.

Mr. Wright had entered into a contact at that time to develop an Asset Management Plan (AMP) for Spindale, NC. I was a full professor and program director at the Purdue School of Engineering and Technology in Indianapolis, IN (IUPUI). In addition, I was and still am the chairman of the Board of Directors for BAMI-I. I was the main driver behind the establishment of BAMI-I in 2003 while serving as a senior advisor to the Commissioner of the Department of Watershed Management for the City of Atlanta during Mayor Shirley Franklin's administration.

CTAM 100 was launched in 2010 as an online course to provide decision makers in the water industry with the fundamentals of Asset Management. This course received a strong industry response with requests to develop a follow up course on how to develop an AMP. I was struggling with developing this course at the same time that Mr. Wright was charged with developing an AMP. He came to Indianapolis a couple of times to work with me in developing what became CTAM 200. He subsequently became a member of BAMI-I and continued with assisting with the development of CTAM 300 and 400.

Mr. Wright was the chief author of the AMP for the town of Spindale, NC which was approved by the state of North Carolina in 2013 and was highly acclaimed by the state regulatory review officials as being the best AMP they had reviewed. He received the designation of Professional Water Asset Manager (PWAM) from the BAMI-I in December 2015. He achieved this designation by successfully completing all four asset management training modules CTAM 100, 200, 300 and 400 and successfully completing the relevant asset management experience requirements. So far, BAMI-I has conducted four 4-day CTAM training courses for North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ), Raleigh, NC; RCAP, Columbus, OH; Upper Trinity Regional Water District, Lewisville, TX; City of Atlanta (COA)

Department of Watershed Management (DWM) where Kurt served as the CTAM 200 instructor. Mr. Wright serves as a member of the Board of Directors for BAMI-I as well as BAMI-I's Certification Board. At the time this letter of recommendation was prepared I had retired as full professor of civil engineering at Louisiana Tech University (LA Tech) where I also had served as director of the Trenchless Technology Center (TTC) which I was responsible for establishing in 1989. After retirement, the President of LA Tech appointed me as a Professor Emeritus.

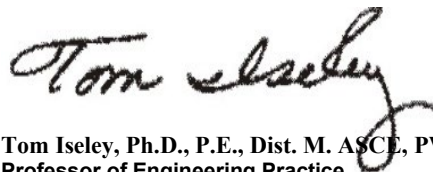
Since 2020 I serve as the Beaver Heavy Construction Distinguished Fellow as a full professor of engineering practice in the Division of Construction Engineering and Management, Department of Civil Engineering at Purdue University.

I feel very qualified to make this recommendation. I have found him to be a hard-working dedicated professional committed to the highest ethical and moral standards. He is always very thorough in his research and assessment and comes prepared for programs and projects we are working on. He is well respected by his co-workers and peers. He has excellent communications skills including technical presentations. He is a mentor and motivator to those who work with him. He is a team player and has the ability to keep the team focused on achieving the designated outcomes.

I recommend without reservation Mr. Kurt Wright, P.E., BCEE, PWAM.

Should you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



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