

# Wastewater Engineer Calls Hattiesburg City Council “Dumb and Dumber Political Leaders.”

A 2012 email obtained by the Hattiesburg Patriot depicts an engineer with Air Diffusion technologies at his wits end having to deal the Hattiesburg City Council’s irresponsible wastewater decisions. The city council refused free bottom air for the north lagoon in favor of much more expensive, less effective surface “paddle boat” aerators, which were known to be largely ineffective in lagoons deeper than 4 feet. Hattiesburg’s lagoons are 10 feet deep. The bottom aeration could be paid for with the electrical savings. The Engineer, John Hilde, with Air Diffusion Systems, says in a 1.15.2012 email,



*“ I am so frustrated with the lack of cooperation in Hattiesburg city Council that I have washed my hands of Dumb and Dumber political leaders. They all need to study energy and accounting! What they (City Council) are doing is inexcusable and the people need to be told the truth.”*

1,210 – 388 = 822 HP or \$595,407 saved per year.... Or almost \$600,000 per year  
That's not half the story, the brush aerators need a lot of service and do NOT Guarantee any treatment.  
The brush aerators will never compete with fine bubble aeration provide the bidding process is honest

I am so frustrated with the lack of cooperation in Hattiesburg city council, that I have washed my hands of Dumb and Dumber political leaders. They all need to study energy and accounting! They all need to go out to the lagoon and SMELL the difference.

What they are doing is inexcusable and the people need to be told the truth.

Yours Truly,  
John

CLICK to ENLARGE. Members of the 2012 City Council: Kim Bradley, Carter

Carroll, Dave Ware, Deborah Delgado, and  
Henry Naylor

During an expansion of the city's lagoon system, members of the city council voted to purchase top surface aeration that was known to be ineffective at breaking down sludge at the bottom of the lagoon. Surface "paddle boat aerators" use a tremendous amount of electricity; much more so than bottom air bubblers. Cost savings from electrical and maintenance expenses would have paid for the correct aeration.

Another letter obtained by the Hattiesburg Patriot and dated August 16th, 2011 is from wastewater expert Stephen Mitchell. Mitchell has worked on correcting aeration issues in the south lagoon where bottom diffusion air was installed. In a letter to the Mayor and city council, Mitchell warned them about repeating the expensive mistakes of the past of installing the inadequate surface "paddleboat" aerators in the north lagoon. Paddle boat style aerators use twice the electricity and are less effective than bottom air diffusion. Mitchell commented in a letter to the Mayor and City Council:

*"Why would the city want to repeat the previous mistakes by installing horizontal rotor aerators in the new North lagoon System, that created issues in both systems?"*

*"Why would the city want these issues to come to the forefront during the next few years and, also, appreciably increase the power consumption?"*

*"What would the citizens think of the city wasting \$283,000.00 per year, not to mention the capital expenditure for another system that has already proven inefficient."*

*"I would think the citizens would be concerned about using an aeration system, that has failed in the past, and increased power consumption."*



CLICK to ENLARGE. Members of the 2012 City Council ignored wastewater experts to repeat the same mistakes of the past. Now they want to spend \$140 Million Dollars on a system Hattiesburg residents don't need.

Mr. Mitchell's full letter along with bio engineer John Hilde's email is below. If you see a Google error, either refresh the page or click the download link and it will populate the window.

<http://www.mississippimedianetwork.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/94/files/2014/05/AirDiffusionTechnologies.pdf>