Congratulations to Josh Hutson on being nominated for the August Spotlight Member. Josh is a Principal Project Manager at Jacobs and has more than 22 years of experience in water and wastewater treatment, including all phases of design and construction projects. He holds an MS in Environmental Engineering from Manhattan College and a Professional Engineering license from both New Jersey and New York. As a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), Josh has managed projects for several municipal water and wastewater utilities, including some of the largest cities in the country. At AWWA NJ, he has been an active member since 1997. In 2004 he was awarded the Section’s Fresh Ideas Award. Josh is a former Chair of the Education & Professional Development Committee and has been an active member of the Technical Program Committee since 2013.

Why did you decide to go into the field of water?

I’ve been fascinated with water for as long as I can remember. It started at a young age with a desire to understand what was living in water. Whenever we would go on a family trip near the water I would spend all day in it, observing or trying to catch what was living there—I thought I wanted to be a marine biologist. Years later, when I discovered that there was such a thing as environmental engineering and could focus on solving water related issues, I knew that’s what I wanted to do.

How did you become a volunteer for AWWA and what motivates you to be active in the Section?

I’ve been part of AWWA since graduate school but didn’t become active in the Section until I became a consulting engineer and Jerry Notte encouraged me to join the Education & Professional Development committee. From right off the bat, I remember being impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the committee members, particularly the committee chair at the time, John Civardi, who you could see genuinely cared about the Section’s mission. Maintaining the lasting relationships with such dedicated and selfless people, plus knowing what you’re doing really matters, drives me to stay active in the Section.

How long have you been an AWWA member and what have you gotten from your membership?

Since 1997. AWWA has given me the opportunity to grow as a professional and develop lifelong relationships. I’ve learned so much being a part of it.

Hobbies and outside interests?

Who’s got time for hobbies these days? There was a time I played golf and other sports but now spend virtually all my free time with my wife, Kate, daughter, Alexandra (11) and son, Owen (8). But wouldn’t have it any other way. Our kids keep us pretty busy. I’ve recently become obsessed with their latest sports endeavors—including my daughter’s basketball and track, and my son’s wrestling and baseball. Who knew it would be even more fun watching and cheering them on than doing it yourself?

What legacy would you like to leave behind?

The old adage: leave the world a (slightly) better place than when you started. Knowing that so many of the projects in which I played a part throughout the years helped keep the water safe to drink, and the environment clean, would be enough for me.