

## **Wastewater Operator Excellence – Will Sheffer, City of South Burlington**

The Wastewater Operator Excellence Award recognizes outstanding performance in system maintenance, protecting public health, and achievement beyond normal responsibilities. This year's recipient is Will Sheffer from the City of South Burlington.

Will has been employed by the City of South Burlington, Vermont, for over 20 years in the Water Quality Department and is the Assistant Chief Operator/Lead Mechanic and the “boots on the ground” for repairs/operation at the city's two advanced treatment facilities and 34 pump stations. He is a Grade 5 DM operator with extensive knowledge and is currently mentoring two new operators, in addition to the many has mentored previously. Will was a long-time firefighter and as such is incredibly reliable, being on call 24/7/365 with the ability to get a pump station operating where anyone else would struggle. For example, a new pump station's controller failed and damaged one pump. Will returned the pump station to service using relays. He has saved the city hundreds of thousands of dollars upgrading and replacing old pump stations. He is in charge from start to finish, setting up bypass pumping, meeting with vendors and contractors, coordinating all aspects of the project, and overseeing and assisting with the actual labor needed. Will also is the acting Chief Operator at the city's two tertiary facilities which include micro-filtration, anaerobic digestion, power generation, and UV disinfection. Will is an extremely dedicated/knowledgeable operator and of great value to the city and we congratulate him on this achievement.