



NewsWaves



A joint publication of MSAWWA & MWEA

WINTER/SPRING 2017



“Working Together To Protect Montana’s Water Resources”

92nd Meeting of the Montana Section of the American Water Works Association

73rd Meeting of the Montana Water Environment Association

April 18-20, 2017 in Great Falls, Montana

MWEA Preconference: “Solutions For Stormwater Management in Montana”

An Invitation to the Conference from your MSAWWA Chair and MWEA President

Sub-zero temperatures are behind us and spring is just around the corner. So is our annual joint MSAWWA-MWEA Conference and we want to extend an invitation for you to join us at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls! This year’s preconference will be held April 18th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The preconference is sponsored by MWEA and is titled “Solutions For Stormwater Management In Montana”. The joint conference carries forward the recurring theme “Working Together to Protect Montana’s Water Resources” and includes four tracks: Drinking Water, Wastewater Treatment, Stormwater & Wastewater, and Miscellaneous. Each track hosts a variety of presentations and speakers who truly are working to protect our great State’s water resources. Our speakers represent all facets of the industry and include vendors, consultants, utilities, and governmental agencies. This conference offers a unique opportunity to take advantage of the expertise across the field to expand your knowledge and network among experts in the field, from operators to engineers, scientists, regulators, and more. Our board and committee members work hard to put on this conference and feel it provides the best value in the region. Take part in getting up to speed on the latest information in the water industry and network with other industry professionals working to find solutions to similar issues. Continuing Education Credits (CECs) and Professional Development Hours (PDHs) are offered. This Annual Conference is the highlight activity for our organizations, professionally and socially. A successful conference allows us to generate the income we need to continue to offer scholarships, sustain our operations, and promote water resource issues. You don’t want to miss it! On behalf of the MSAWWA and MWEA boards and organizing committees, we look forward to seeing you in Great Falls!

• **Collette Anderson, MSAWWA Chair & Starr Sullivan, MWEA President**

WELCOME TO GREAT FALLS “THE ELECTRIC CITY”

We invite you to join us at the 2017 MSAWWA-MWEA Joint Conference! The Host City Committee has been working diligently to make the conference memorable and enjoyable. We hope you’ll be able to spend some time in our fair City before and after the conference as well.

This year the Preconference is being hosted by MWEA and is sure to be informative. Great Falls has been very aggressive in their engineering, approval and implementation of CIP infrastructure improvements in water, wastewater, distribution and collection systems and are committed to continue this trend into the future.

There are lots of things to do in and around Great Falls: Weather permitting, you can walk the River’s Edge Trail, visit Giant Springs State Park, go sightseeing at the Dams, play golf at one of the municipal courses, or visit the First Peoples Buffalo Jump. If you’d like to stay out of the weather you can visit the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, the CM Russell Museum, Paris Gibson Square Art Museum, the History Museum, the Malmstrom AFB museum or the Children’s museum. And, of course, no trip would be complete without a visit to one of the many stores and restaurants located in the City. Great Falls has something to offer for everyone.

Visitor information maps will be available at the registration desk and City employees attending the conference will be happy to suggest the best places to eat and areas to explore.

• **Your MSAWWA/MWEA 2017 Host City Committee—Wayne Lovelis and Mike Jacobson, Co-Chairs**

Inside:

- **2017 Joint Conference Preliminary Schedule**
- **Joint Conference Registration links**
- **2016-2017 MSAWWA-MWEA Boards**
- **2016-2017 MSAWWA-MWEA Committee Chairs**
- **Direct links to advertisers—just click 'n go!**

NewsWaves is a joint publication of the Montana Section of the American Water Works Association and the Montana Water Environment Association. It is published twice yearly. It is available for viewing or printing on our website at: www.montanawater.org.

We welcome contributions to NewsWaves. For more information, contact:

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Mission of Montana Section AWWA

The Montana Section of American Water Works Association is dedicated to the promotion of public health and welfare in the provision of drinking water of unquestionable quality and sufficient quantity. Montana Section of AWWA will provide the forum and opportunity through which its membership can exchange information, learn of new issues and technologies, educate the public, and enhance the professionalism of workers in all areas of the water industry.




Mission of the Montana Water Environment Association

The Montana Water Environment Association (MWEA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of Montana's water environment. The Association is committed to advancing science and education, disseminating technical information, increasing public understanding and promoting sound public policy in the water quality and water resources field.



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www.montanawater.org
for updated information as the
conference gets closer!
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~Joint Scholarship Fund Raffle~

Thank you to **DOWL, Great West Engineering, Interstate Engineering, HDR Engineering and Morrison-Maierle, Inc.** for their generous donations for this years' raffle to help fund the Donald G. Willems Joint Scholarship. 1st prize is a \$500 gift certificate to Chico Hot Springs Resort; 2nd prize is a \$350 Amazon gift certificate; 3rd prize is a \$150 gift certificate to Scheels; and 4th prize is a Katadyn Hiker Pro water filter (\$100 value). Tickets are available for purchase at the Joint Conference or by contacting Greg Lukasik, Committee Chair, by email at glukasik@greatwesteng.com The drawings will take place at the banquet on Wednesday evening of the Joint Conference. You need not be present to win. Ticket prices are \$5/each or 5 tickets for \$20. Buy your tickets to help fund a scholarship for a deserving student!

Water For People Silent Auction & Raffle

Thank You! Great West Engineering, R.L. Winston Rod Co., and Montana Fly Goods for again donating the fly rod and reel for the Water For People raffle that will take place at the conference. The combo is a Winston Air 9' 6 wt 4 piece fly rod with Nautilus FWX 5/6 reel. Retail value is \$1,220.00. Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased at the Joint Conference or by contacting Carrie Gardner at cgardner@greatwesteng.com. The drawing for the rod/reel will take place at the banquet on Wednesday evening of the Joint Conference. You need not be present to win.

ALSO—Please consider donating an item to the WFP silent raffle—any item, big or small, is appreciated! Contact Robin Matthews-Barnes for more information: info@montanawater.org

**Have you checked out the
MSAWWA-MWEA
joint website lately?**

www.montanawater.org

If not, please do so! Let us know what you think—we are open to comments and suggestions for additional content. Contact Robin Barnes at info@montanawater.org

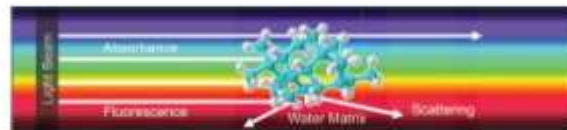
Are You Ordering Books from AWWA?

If so, please place your order through Robin Matthews-Barnes, MSAWWA Executive Secretary. MSAWWA receives credit for your order. The cost is the same to you, but MSAWWA gets a bonus.

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You Asked. We Delivered!

AWWA to upgrade Utility and Service Provider Member benefits in 2017

Starting in 2017, AWWA will enhance membership benefits for Utility and Service Provider Members. These changes provide more tangible value to members in a simplified package. “Members will experience the value they have come to expect, but packaged in a way that reduces confusion while creating more opportunity for involvement.” says AWWA Chief Membership Officer Susan Franceschi.

Specifically, AWWA will replace its current benefit system, Plus Points, with a package of benefits that maximizes the value of the former offering. This change affects Service Provider and Utility members with over 5,000 service connections.

“In the past, these organizations had to choose between receiving two key benefits: AWWA Standards and Individual Membership for employees. Now they will get both!” says AWWA Senior Manager of Membership Melanie Penoyar. The benefits package is scaled to the size of an organization, allowing for an AWWA Standards license and a guaranteed number of Individual Memberships.

Utilities with less than 5,000 service connections will experience the upgrade differently. A low dues rate along with an enhanced version of *Let's Talk Safety 2017* will be provided. In addition, free training opportunities may exist for those servicing populations of 10,000 or less.

These changes are a direct result of feedback from member surveys and interviews, collaboration with Sections, and recommendations from volunteer groups.

All organizational members benefit from a robust suite of special communications, tools and discounts for all employees.

To maximize your benefits or learn more about Utility and Service Provider membership opportunities, please contact AWWA at membership@awwa.org or 303.794.7711.

“ONE AWWA” WATER OPERATOR SCHOLARSHIPS

MSAWWA has teamed with AWWA’s “The Water Equation” Campaign to offer (1) \$1000 or (2) \$500 Water Operator Scholarships. The creation of the “One AWWA” Operator Scholarship addresses the present and future workforce need for operators by providing training and educational funding. It also creates an opportunity for collaboration between the Association and Sections within The Water Equation Campaign. The scholarship award can be used for certification/licensure, two-year water related associate degree, technical school program, professional training program, books and manuals and operator related conferences. Each scholarship recipient will also receive a one-year AWWA Operator membership. An application can be downloaded from the website at:

<http://www.montanawater.org/awards-scholarships/scholarships-available/>.

MONTANA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OPERATOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Montana Water Environment Association (MWEA) has allocated funds to certified operators looking for assistance in paying for continuing education and/or training event costs. Applicants must complete a scholarship application one month ahead of the training session they plan to attend, and awards of up to \$500 can be realized by each applicant. When approved in advance, the award money can be used to pay for the actual training as well as other miscellaneous costs associated with attending. Applicants must be a Montana certified operator or operator in training. Applications are available through the Montana Environmental Training Center (METC) or can be obtained by emailing MWEA Secretary/Treasurer, Rodney Lance at rodney.lance@veolia.com

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Mackenzie	Wiegand	SJWP
Ruthanne	Coffey	No business listed
Brian	Currier	Water Programs at Sacramento
Bradley	Jones	Student
Stephanie	Reynolds	No business listed
Jonathan	Weaver	Great West Engineering, Inc.
Josh	Queen	Goble Sampson Associates, Inc.
Fred	Irby	No business listed
Marisa	Sowles	No business listed
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Arundeeep	Taduri	Student
Olakuwle	Ogunsakin	Student
Christina	Eggensperger	Student
Anna	Nugent	Student
Charles	Shama	Student
Zachary	Smith	Student
Andy	Gordon	Clearas Water Recovery
Cindy	Anders	City of Bozeman WRF
Bob	Murry	City of Bozeman WRF
Carlina	Quintero	Morrison Maierle Inc

Welcome new members!

The names at left are members who have joined MWEA since the last conference. Thank you for being a part of MWEA!



Environment Association

EXCITING ACTIVITIES AT THE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR!

Pub-style Trivia Challenge—Bring your team of 4-5 to the main Exhibitor Area during the Thursday morning break to challenge friends, competitors, and coworkers in a pub style trivia wager of wits. There will be a great prize for members of the winning team!

Rules:

- Teams will be made of 4-5 members.
- Answer sheet will be provided to each team.
- No electronic devices or any type of outside sources are allowed. Teams that are reported using any outside devices will be disqualified.

Taste Test Challenge—The challenge is on! Chico Hot Springs Resort was the big winner in last year's taste test so here is your chance to steal the show and take home the honors! Once again we will be leaving it to the judges to crown an official winner of the 4th Annual *Best Tap Water Taste Test Competition*. Bring your community pride and come support your city in the competition!!! The Taste Test Challenge will take place in the Exhibitor Area during the Thursday morning break. The winning system will compete at the national level at ACE17 in June.

Rules:

- Participant must not have incurred any state or federal drinking water violations (MCL, monitoring, recordkeeping, etc.) during the previous 12 months.
- Samples should be brought in glass containers with the name of the water system clearly identified and delivered to Robin Matthews-Barnes at the front desk by 5 pm on Wednesday of the conference. Please deliver at least 1 gallon of water total (can be in multiple containers).
- Samples will be served at room temperature to help the judges better assess each sample.
- Judging for the People's Choice award will be open to all attendees.
- The official judging panel will be a mix of local public figures and flavor-profile analyzers.
- Samples will be judged on a 10-point scale from Good (1) to Best (10).
- Scores will be tabulated and the winner will be announced immediately following the contest.

NEW!! SYP Poster Competition—The Joint Student & Young Professionals Committee is sponsoring the 2nd annual poster competition at this years' conference. Posters will be displayed throughout the Exhibitor Area during the conference and the winner will be announced at the banquet on Wednesday evening. The winner will receive free registration and travel to ACE2017!

2017 JOINT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Please go to www.montanawater.org/jointconference for more information and to fill out the registration form, or simply click on the link below. You will have a choice to register and pay by check or register and pay by credit or debit card. See the website for more detail. Please contact Robin Matthews-Barnes at Info@montanawater.org with any questions, or if you would like a hard copy of the registration form mailed to you, or emailed directly to you.

[Click here for attendee registration to pay with check](#)

[Click here or attendee registration to pay with debit or credit card](#)

For lodging reservations—please call the Heritage Inn at 406-761-1900 and mention the conference to obtain the conference rate of \$91/night (not including applicable taxes).



MWEA PRECONFERENCE

“Solutions For Stormwater Management In Montana”

Tuesday—April 18, 2017

7:00 am—5:00 pm	Registration desk open
8:00 am—5:00 pm	All day session including lunch
5:00 pm—6:30 pm	Ice-Breaker Sponsored by Exhibitors

Preconference Session—Room location: American	
Moderators: Jason Mercer, Morrison-Maierle	
8:00—9:00	A National Look at Stormwater— Chris French, WEF Director of Stormwater Programs
9:00—9:15	BREAK
9:15—10:00	The New MS4 Permit— Carolina Davies, Senior Permit Writer, MT DEQ
10:00—10:15	BREAK
10:15—10:45	Montana MS4 Guidance Manual— Matt Peterson, HDR Engineering
10:45—11:30	Construction SW Permitting— Chris Romankiewicz, MT DEQ
11:30—12:30	LUNCH (provided)—Room location: Canadian-Britain
12:30—1:15	Examples Of BMPs And LIDs Use In Other States Chris French, WEF Director of Stormwater Programs
1:15—2:00	Optimizing Your Customer’s Dollar: Bozeman’s Data Driven Approach to Asset Management— Kyle Mehrens, City of Bozeman
2:00—2:15	BREAK
2:15—3:00	How Helena Stormwater Management Challenged a Major Infrastructure Project— Ryan Leland, City of Helena
3:00—3:45	Multiple Functions = Multiple Benefits with Municipal Stormwater Infrastructure— Paul Skubinna, City of Great Falls
3:45—4:00	BREAK
4:00—5:00	Roundtable Discussion with Presenters

MSAWWA-MWEA 2017 JOINT CONFERENCE

“Working Together To Protect Montana’s Water Resources”

Wednesday—April 19, 2017

7:00 am—8:00 am	Early Morning Break (Exhibitor Area—Main Ballroom)
7:00 am—5:00 pm	Registration desk open (Lobby)
8:00 am—11:30 am	Morning General Session (Canadian-Britain-American)
11:30am—12:30 pm	Lunch & Awards (Main Ballroom)
12:30pm—5:15 pm	Afternoon Concurrent Sessions (see breakout schedule for locations)
5:30 pm—6:30 pm	Beer and Wine Reception (Exhibitor Area—Main Ballroom)
6:30 pm—8:30 pm	Banquet and Awards (Main Ballroom)
	<u>Water For People Raffle Drawing</u> —donated by Great West Engineering, R.L. Winston Rod Company & Montana Fly Goods—Fly Rod & Reel
	<u>Water For People Silent Auction items dispersed</u>
	<u>Scholarship Fund Raffle Drawing</u> —donated by Interstate Engineering, DOWL, Great West Engineering, HDR Engineering & Morrison-Maierle, Inc.
	1st prize: \$500 gift certificate to Chico Hot Springs
	2nd prize: \$350 Amazon gift certificate
	3rd prize: \$150 gift certificate to Scheels
	4th prize: Katadyn Hiker Pro water filter (\$100 value)
8:30 pm—10 pm	Come and join in the fun—Casino Night! (Canadian-Britain)
	Texas Hole ‘Em is back and there are great prizes to bid on with your earnings as a card shark!

Morning General Session

General Session—Room location: Canadian-Britain-American	
Moderators: Collette Anderson, Great West Engineering & Starr Sullivan, City of Missoula	
8:00—8:15	Welcome and Opening Session Collette Anderson, MSAWWA Chair & Starr Sullivan, MWEA President Bob Kelly, Mayor of Great Falls
8:15—9:30	AWWA & WEF Guest Speakers—General remarks followed by Q&A Aurel Arndt, AWWA Treasurer Karen Kubick, WEF Board of Trustees
9:30—10:30	BREAK—Exhibitor Area (Main Ballroom)
10:30—11:00	Numeric Nutrient Criteria Update—Montana DEQ
11:00—11:30	Challenges and Solutions to Delivering Drinking Water to Communities in Guatemala —Mark Rohweder, MT Professional Chapter Engineers with Borders & Rotary

CEC Information—Approximately 7.75 hours of training will be available for attendance at the preconference & 10 hours of training will be available for attendance at the conference, with a possible additional 2 hours for attendance at the Thursday afternoon facility tours. Actual number of credit hours are awaiting MT DEQ approval. Additional information & CEC forms will be included in your registration packet at the conference.

Wednesday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Drinking Water Sessions—Room location: Canadian Moderator: tbd	
12:30 – 1:15	Lessons Learned in Three Years of Operation— Jill Miller, City of Bozeman WTP
1:15 – 2:00	Drought Management Planning—Not IF, But WHEN— Scott Buecker & Scott Jungwirth, AE2S/Lain Leoniak, City of Bozeman
2:00 – 3:00	BREAK – Exhibitor Area (Main Ballroom)
3:00 – 3:45	Natural Filtration Treatment for GWUDI Systems— Mark Cunnane, Western Groundwater Services, LLC./ Steve Quail, HDR Engineering, Inc.
3:45 – 4:30	Sun Prairie WTP – Treatment of Brackish Water Using Reverse Osmosis— Todd Kuxhaus, Great West Engineering
4:30 – 5:15	Streamlining Water Distribution Systems Field Testing Using Portable Parallel Analysis as a Data Source for Analytics— Craig (Dusty) Williams, Hach

Wastewater Treatment Sessions—Room Location: American Moderator: tbd	
12:30 – 1:15	Deer Lodge – Strategy and Treatment for Nutrients— Nancy Cormier & Rika Lashley, Morrison-Maierle
1:15 – 2:00	Lagoon Rehabilitation Including Cold Weather Nitrification by MBBR— Tom Daugherty, Triplepoint Environmental
2:00 – 3:00	BREAK – Exhibitor Area (Main Ballroom)
3:00 – 3:45	Nutrient Upgrades and More at the Billings Water Reclamation Facility— Craig Habben, HDR Engineering/Jake Ostrander, City of Billings
3:45 – 4:30	Dewatering of Anaerobically Digested BNR Sludge: Maintaining Phosphorus Limits with Magnesium Hydroxide Addition and Creating a Slow-Release Fertilizer— Dan Harmon & Coralynn Revis, HDR Engineering/Herb Bartle, City of Bozeman
4:30 – 5:15	Solving Nutrients: How to Biologically Denitrify (and be Phosphorus Ready)— Todd Latchaw, Nexom .

Stormwater Sessions—Room Location: Britain Moderator: tbd	
12:30 – 1:15	Large Diameter Storm Drain Installation in Downtown Billings— Carl Anderson & Stephanie Seymanski, Morrison-Maierle
1:15 – 2:00	City of Havre Stormwater Facility Improvements— Jonathan Weaver & Amy Deitchler, Great West Engineering
2:00 – 3:00	BREAK – Exhibitor Area (Main Ballroom)
3:00 – 3:45	Keeping Pace with an Evolving Stormwater Industry: A Montana City's Perspective— Kyle Mehrens, City of Bozeman
3:45 – 4:30	Rain, Drains, and Dealing with the Pain: How to get the Most Out of Your Stormwater Master Plan— Lance Lehigh, AE2S
4:30 – 5:15	Cost Effective Strategies to Meet Stringent Water Quality Criteria— Mace Mangold, Woodard & Curran

Wednesday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions Continued

Miscellaneous & Wastewater Sessions—Room Location: Montana-Alberta Moderator: tbd	
12:30 – 1:15	Succession Planning for Aging Infrastructure & Staff— Stacey Hellekson, Woodard & Curran
1:15 – 2:00	New Technologies for Keeping Lagoons Within Compliance— Adam Eccles, Wastewater Compliance Systems
2:00 – 3:00	BREAK – Exhibitor Area (Main Ballroom)
3:00 – 3:45	Green Pumping, The Basics of Pump Station Design— Frank Henderson, isiWEST
3:45 – 4:30	Overview of Pretreatment in Montana— LeAnn Wiegand, Morrison-Maierle
4:30 – 5:15	Asset Management with OpWorks— Jason Sanden, AE2S

MSAWWA-MWEA 2017 JOINT CONFERENCE “Working Together To Protect Montana’s Water Resources”

Thursday—April 20, 2017

- 7:00 am—8:30 am** Early Morning Break (Exhibitor Area—Main Ballroom)
- 7:30 am—8:30 am** Joint MSAWWA-MWEA Membership Meeting and Election of Officers
- 8:00 am—10:00 am** Registration desk open (Lobby)
- 8:30 am—12:30pm** Morning Concurrent Sessions (see breakout schedule for locations)
- 10:00 am—11:00am** Operator Trivia Challenge & Best Tap Water Taste Test (Exhibitor Area)
- 12:30pm—1:30 pm** Lunch & Prize Drawings—Must be present to win from a great selection of Exhibitor sponsored prizes! (Main Ballroom)
- 1:30 pm—3:30 pm** Great Falls Water & Wastewater Facility Tours

Thursday Morning Concurrent Sessions

Drinking Water Sessions—Room location: Canadian Moderator: tbd	
8:30 – 9:15	Is UV a Viable Strategy for Reducing DBPs?— Phyllis Butler Posy, Atlantium Technologies
9:15 – 10:00	Lead Service Lines and What Bozeman is Doing About Them— John Alston, City of Bozeman
10:00 – 11:00	BREAK – Best Tap Water Taste Test and Pub-style Operator Trivia in Exhibitor Area (Main Ballroom)
11:00 – 11:45	Reducing Water Loss – One Montana Community’s Approach— Collette Anderson, Great West Engineering
11:45 – 12:30	Affordable Cellular AMI for Rural and Small Water Systems— Michele Harvey, Badgermeter

Thursday Morning Concurrent Sessions Continued

Wastewater Treatment Sessions—Room location: American Moderator: tbd	
8:30 - 9:15	Havre BNR Upgrades to Meet Projected Numeric Nutrient Standards— Scott Schaefer, AE2S
9:15 – 10:00	Upgrading a Lagoon with SBR Technology for Nutrient Removal- City of Glendive— Bulbul Ahmed, Xylem Inc. (Sanitaire)/Amy Deitchler, Great West Engineering
10:00 – 11:00	BREAK – Best Tap Water Taste Test and Pub-style Operator Trivia in Exhibitor Area (Main Ballroom)
11:00 – 11:45	Converting Abandoned Facilities into Operational Flexibility at a MBR Plant— Jason Mercer & Travis Meyer, Morrison-Maierle
11:45 – 12:30	Fundamentals of Odor and Corrosion Control Practices in Wastewater— Brian Viall, AE2S

Stormwater & Wastewater Sessions—Room location: Britain Moderator: tbd.	
8:30 - 9:15	Residential Design Scenarios For Water Conservation In The Middle Rockies Based On Landscape Performance— Erin Barker & Rebekah Van Wieren, Montana State University
9:15 – 10:00	Solving Nutrient Removal and Water Reuse with Sequencing Batch Reactor and Cloth Media Filtration Technologies— Steve Stanish, Aqua-Aerobic Systems
10:00 – 11:00	BREAK – Best Tap Water Taste Test and Pub-style Operator Trivia in Exhibitor Area (Main Ballroom)
11:00 – 11:45	Ammonia Permits and Lagoons: Montana WWTFs and the Options Available for Beating Limits— Todd Latchaw, Nexom
11:45 – 12:30	Using Process Modeling Software to Verify Cold Weather Nitrification Performance in Lagoon Based Treatment Systems— Tom Birkeland, Lemna Environmental Technologies

Miscellaneous Sessions—Room location: Montana-Alberta Moderator: tbd	
8:30 – 9:15	Off-the-Shelf Wastewater Optimization Systems for Consistent WW Process Control— Roger Sedlacek, Hach
9:15 – 10:00	Choosing the Right Blower for Your WWT Plant— Travis McGarrah, Atlas Copco Compressors, LLC.
10:00 – 11:00	BREAK – Best Tap Water Taste Test and Pub-style Operator Trivia in Exhibitor Area (Main Ballroom)
11:00 – 11:45	A Primer on Pumps— Richard Stryker, Performance Engineering & Consulting
11:45 – 12:30	Designing WW Infrastructure with the Capacity to Pay for Itself, a Civic Engagement— Craig Lindell, Aquapoint 3, LLC.



MA Newsletter Article from WEF Headquarters February 2017

Headline: 2016 Legislative Year in Review

**Deck: Great accomplishments — with more changes in
2017**

By: Steve Dye

*Steve Dye is the legislative director at the Water Environment Federation
(Alexandria, Va.).*

The Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) Government Affairs Department spent a very busy 2016 advancing the WEF agenda before Congress and building a robust grassroots program for the future. Thank you to all WEF members who contributed to our fruitful efforts in 2016. We look forward to your continued participation in 2017.

Here are highlights of the many critical events and policy changes from the past year.

New President, new direction

The year ended with one of the most monumental (and unexpected) political events in the history of the U.S. with the election of Donald J. Trump as President. While what the future of a Trump presidency will mean for our nation is unclear, there are some early, clear indications of how his agenda may affect the water sector.

Mr. Trump spoke on the campaign trail about a massive infrastructure investment package, reforms to the tax code, and curtailing the reach of federal agencies on matters of regulation and oversight. In early December 2016, WEF wrote a letter to the then-President-Elect detailing WEF's priorities and recommendations for our nation's water policies. The key points in the letter were

- advancing smart regulations and policies by using sound science and technical merit,
- accelerating and expanding water infrastructure investment,
- bolstering research and development to find solutions to pressing challenges in water,
- developing high-skill construction and water sector jobs, and
- ensuring local water systems are affordable and robust.

WEF also pledged to provide reliable and expert input to the next administration to help solve the nation's water challenges. The full letter is available at <http://bit.ly/wef-letter-to-trump>.

WEF testifies before Congress on infrastructure funding bill

Despite admirable bipartisan efforts by some key members of Congress, for the last decade Congress has struggled to advance major legislation to expand funding resources for water infrastructure investments. While no far-reaching legislation was passed last year, several significant policies advanced deep into the legislative process, only to be cut from final bills. This set the table for 2017, which is expected to see a sizable infrastructure package. WEF contributed to these efforts on several levels.

In April 2016, WEF testified at a Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee hearing. Rudolph Chow, Baltimore Public Works Director and the new WEF Government Affairs Committee Chair, testified on behalf of WEF (an archived hearing webcast and a transcript of Chow's testimony can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/chow-testifies-to-senate>). The Senate Committee heard the results of an analysis that the committee had requested WEF and the WaterReuse Association (Alexandria, Va.) conduct. The results show the full economic benefits to the economy, job creation, and federal tax revenues from funding the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs.

The data show that

- every dollar of SRF spending results in \$0.93 of federal tax revenue;
- each million dollars in SRF spending produces 16.5 jobs with an average salary of \$60,000/year; and
- every million dollars of SRF spending results in \$2.95 million dollars in output for the U.S. economy.

Following the hearing, the Senate EPW Committee introduced its version of the 2016 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which cited the WEF/WaterReuse report and called on Congress to increase SRF funding significantly. The final WRDA bill included a version of the Senate provision (further detailed below).

2016 Fly-In a success, setting the stage for 2017

WEF's annual Washington, DC, fly-in event in April 2016 drew nearly 200 water professionals from across the nation to carry the message to Capitol Hill about the need for increased funding and support for water infrastructure. In addition to meeting with Congressional offices, attendees participated in regulatory briefings and roundtables with program directors from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other agencies. The fly-in event was part of Water Week organized by WEF and its partners.

Registration is open now for the 2017 National Water Policy Fly-In & Expo on March 21–22. Sign up to join hundreds of other water professionals to advocate before Congress for more funding and sound policies for water and water infrastructure. Registration and details are available at www.waterweek.us/nwfpf.

Congress finishes 2016 with new funding for water infrastructure

As the 2016 calendar year drew to a close, Congress took several actions benefitting water infrastructure investments. A Continuing Resolution that will fund the federal government through late April includes \$20 million to start the Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA). WIFIA is a new loan and loan guarantee program that WEF helped create. EPA estimates that the \$20 million may provide more than \$1 billion in credit assistance and may potentially finance more than \$2 billion in new water infrastructure investments.

Organizations interested in applying for low-interest loans and loan guarantees have until April 10, 2017, to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) to EPA, which issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in the *Federal Register* on Jan. 10, 2017. Further details about WIFIA and the NOFA are available at www.epa.gov/wifia.

In addition, Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the Water Infrastructure Improvements Act for the Nation (WIIN) Act, which includes the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The bill authorizes port, waterway, flood protection projects, and drinking water and wastewater provisions.

While the WRDA authorizes mostly U.S. Corps of Engineer projects and programs, the WIIN Act also features WEF-supported provisions, including a Sense of Congress urging robust funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs. This provision is a result of the Senate version of the WRDA bill previously mentioned.

The WIIN Act contains provisions to assist the city of Flint, Mich., including authorization to allocate \$170 million through the Drinking Water SRF program and grants to reduce lead in drinking water. The bill also includes a Sense of Congress to provide \$20 million to Flint through the WIFIA program.

Sixty million dollars per year also are provided until FY 2021 to help small and disadvantaged communities reduce lead in drinking water at a cost share of 45%. In addition, the bill permits WIFIA loan applicants to finance fees for the loan application process. The bill also changes the WIFIA program to allow applicants to receive credit for any costs and in-kind contributions they incur prior to the loan award.

EPA advances CSO public notification in Great Lakes

In late December, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy signed a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) implementing Section 425 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016. This section requires EPA to work with the Great Lakes to establish public notification requirements for combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges.

"This NPRM addresses signage, notification of local public health departments and other potentially affected public entities, notification to the public entities, notification to the public, and annual notice provisions for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permittees authorized to discharge from a CSO to the Great Lakes Basin," EPA states on its website.

(continued on next page)

Free training coming in 2017!

The Montana Section AWWA in partnership with the Montana Environmental Training Center will again be offering a free small system training workshop in 2017. The 8 hour workshop will be held in Sidney, MT with CEUs available. The workshop is titled "Training and Technical Assistance to Improve Water Quality and Enable Small Public Water Systems to Maintain Compliance with the Safe Water Drinking Act". The workshop is made available through EPA Grant funding awarded to RCAP, and a subagreement with AWWA.

The content will include updated and revised topics from the 2016 workshop such as Coliform Sample Collection, DBP Treatment Strategies, Disinfection Byproducts, Disinfection Overview, Distribution System Infrastructure, Distribution Water Quality, Flushing, Main Breaks and Cross Connections, Regulatory Review, Arsenic Rule Compliance, Nitrate Rule Compliance, Radionuclides Rule Compliance, and Source Water Assessment and Protection, . The workshop will be held in Sidney on Thursday, September 14, 2017. Please feel free to contact Robin Barnes, MSAWWA Exec. Secretary/MWEA Exec. Director at info@montanawater.org for more information. More information will also be posted on the joint website at www.montanawater.org as it becomes available.



SMALL SYSTEM OPERATOR TRAINING:

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the SDWA**



(continued from prior page)

The rule affects NPDES permits within the Great Lakes watershed that include a CSO. The public comment period is open until March 14 (www.regulations.gov at Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2016-0376).

Water Advocates gain a new home

WEF launched a new online grassroots advocacy website last year to support the Water Advocates program. WEF members and water sector professionals can access the website at <http://cqrcengage.com/wef/home> for important legislative and regulatory matters and calls-to-action on issues affecting the water sector.

A number of grassroots tools on the site help WEF members engage with their elected officials. It's easier than ever to become a WEF Water Advocate and receive notifications about legislative and regulatory issues and calls-to-action — visit <http://cqrcengage.com/wef/wateradvocates>.

A recent successful Water Advocates campaign led to nearly 200 emails and letters sent to Congress during final negotiations over the WRDA bill and Continuing Resolution.

With a newly elected President and the start of the 115th Congress, 2017 is shaping up to be a monumental year for the water sector. WEF will continue to push policies, regulations, and support that reflect the interests of its members. Your input and involvement is greatly appreciated as we work to advance the interests of water professionals before policymakers and the public.

The information provided in this article is designed to be educational. It is not intended to provide any type of professional advice including without limitation legal, accounting, or engineering. Your use of the information provided here is voluntary and should be based on your own evaluation and analysis of its accuracy, appropriateness for your use, and any potential risks of using the information. The Water Environment Federation (WEF), author and the publisher of this article assume no liability of any kind with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents and specifically disclaim any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness of use for a particular purpose. Any references included are provided for informational purposes only and do not constitute endorsement of any sources."

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***Thank You To All Of The Exhibitors
that have committed to participate at the 2017 Joint Conference so far
~Your support of the Annual Joint Conference is vital***

- Abel Pump
- Aclara
- Advanced Drainage Systems
- Advanced Pump & Equipment, Inc.
- AE2S, Inc.
- Aerzen
- Ambiente H2O, Inc.
- Bio Clean, a Forterra Company
- BioLynceus
- Coombs Hopkins
- CUES
- DOWL
- DN Tanks
- Engineered Equipment Solutions, Inc.
- Engineering America, Inc.
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- Trojan Technologies
- Underground Solutions
- Urecon Pre-Insulated Pipe
- Water & Environmental Technologies
- Water Technology Group
- WesTech
- Western States Automation
- Yellowstone Waterworks

**2017 Water Matters! Fly-In & Montana Legislation Tracking
~Nate Weisenburger, AE2S Inc.—MSAWWA Legislative Committee Chair**

John Alston, Wayne Lovelis, and Nate Weisenburger are registered to represent the Montana Section of the American Water Works Association at the 2017 Water Matters Fly-In on March 22-23 in Washington, D.C. The idea for the Fly-In originated from the enthusiasm generated by a rally on the steps of the U.S. Capitol building in 2001 when the Annual Conference and Exhibition was held in Washington, DC. Due to the overwhelming success of the event, AWWA has since sponsored the Fly-In annually via financial support from the Water Utility Council to provide a coordinated and consistent message to members of Congress regarding AWWA's legislative issues. Past attendees of the event include Butch Hiller, John Kappes, and Bill DeMeyer.

Water system funding has been a consistent topic during past Fly-In events, with points of discussion usually involving specific appropriations requests for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs. Fly-In participants were also instrumental in the Congressional approval of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), and the focus has transitioned to supporting annual appropriations to allow for the application and issuance of low interest loan funds backed by the United States Treasury. New regulations or revisions to existing regulations continue to be an area of focus for the Water Utility Council. Last year, lead in drinking water was a topic of discussion because of the situation in Flint, Michigan, and it is possible that follow-up on that issue could be on tap this year.

(continued on page 21)

Calling All Student Writers!! Write About Anything Water or Wastewater and Win a \$200 Scholarship

MSAWWA & MWEA produce **Newswaves** twice yearly for the memberships. Our subscribers include professionals in the water and wastewater industries including Montana cities and towns, engineering firms, and suppliers.

We certainly would like to hear from the education community. For each newsletter we encourage submission of student papers of 1000 words or less. If more than one article is submitted, they will be judged and the top pick will be printed in the newsletter. In addition, the student will receive a \$200 scholarship along with a 1 year membership to AWWA or WEF. The next **Newswaves** will be published this coming summer/fall. Articles must be received by August 15, 2017 to be considered. For more information, please contact Robin Matthews-Barnes at 406-546-5496 or by email at: info@montanawater.org

(continued from page 20)

A huge round of appreciation and acknowledgement is extended to Alan Towler, who has been following the Montana Legislative Session, tracking legislation that could have an impact on the water industry, and providing routine updates for distribution to membership. If you are interested in receiving this information, please contact Robin at info@montanawater.org to be added to the email list.

If you have any questions regarding the 2017 Water Matters Fly-In or the ongoing efforts by the Legislative Committee, please do not hesitate to contact Nate Weisenburger by email at nate.weisenburger@ae2s.com or by phone at (406) 268-0626.



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Water Days and Water Weeks

~Rika Lashley, Joint Public Outreach Committee Chair

If you've ever wondered what Water Week was all about, you may have searched the web like I did. I found that I had a menu of water weeks to choose from and here are summaries of some of them. It appears, that especially in the spring there are lots of opportunities to celebrate water and create public awareness about water issues.

There is Water Week 2017 in Washington, DC. This year it is from March 19 – 25 and is organized by a number of water organizations, including NACWA, WEF, WERF, WRF, AWWA, WATEREUSE, USWA, WWEMA, and AMWA. It includes organization of a fly-in and a number of events to "communicate the value of water to environmental protection, to economic development and to job creation – and inspire action." This water week is geared toward affecting change by reaching decision-makers on a national level and "elevating water as a national priority."

(continued on page 29)

Visiting Dignitaries from AWWA & WEF

Attendees of the 2017 Joint Conference will be introduced to **AWWA Treasurer Aurel Arndt** and current **WEF Board of Trustees Member Karen Kubick**. Mr. Arndt and Ms. Kubick will offer their insight at the opening session of the conference on Wednesday morning, April 19th. The MSAWWA and MWEA Boards of Directors are honored to have these guests to contribute to this years' conference. Please help them welcome these visitors to Great Falls and the great State of Montana!

Jon	Henderson	Bozeman Water Department
Chuck	Davis	Morrison-Maierle
William	Flanagan	ISIWest
Janet	Fulmer	Sun Prairie Village County Water & Sewer District
Jordan	Mayer	Interstate Engineering
Eric	Anderson	City of Bozeman Water Department
Kevin	Kundert	Four Corners Water & Sewer District
Jim	Wylie	Diversified Plastics, Inc.
Ben	Lewis	Ambiente H2O, Inc.
Mark	Zitzka	Saddle Mtn Services
McKenzie	Butcher	KLJ
Bailey	Lehenbauer	Great West Engineering
Nick	Clos	No business listed
Richard	Stryker	Performance Engineering & Consulting
James	Bowland	Kennedy/Jenks Consultants
Misti	Stewart	Liquid Engineering Corporation
Scott	Marshall	Student
Antonio	Ranieri	Student
Bradley	Jones	Student
Eric	Hull	Student
Ryan	Cochran	Student
Grant	Myhre	Student
Trent	Magill	Student
Charles	Shama	Student
Kile	Denny	Student
Anna	Nugent	Student
Zachary	Smith	Student
Seth	Jaksha	Student
Dalton	Thick	Student
Olakkunle	Ogunsakin	Student
Arundeeep	Taduri	Student
Nels	Thorsrad	Student
Trystin	Larsen	Student
John	Fisher	No business listed
Chris	Butler	No business listed
Ryan	Pearson	Great West Engineering, Inc.
Todd	Teegarden	Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality

Welcome new members!

The names at left are members who have joined MSAWWA since the last conference. Thank you for being a part of MSAWWA!



STUDENT & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (S&YP) COMMITTEE

for the Montana Section of AWWA & Montana WEA



GET INVOLVED!

WHY JOIN AWWA/WEF?

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ATTEND THE JOINT CONFERENCE

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Where: Best Western Heritage Inn - Great Falls, MT

Activities for Students & YP's to Look Out For:

S&YP Poster Competition: View the 8 entries & see the winner announced at the Banquet

Casino Night: Get a chance to socialize with other Students, YP's, & Committee Members

JOIN THE S&YP COMMITTEE!

- Annual Poster Competition
- College Outreach
- Student Chapters
- Networking
- Social Events
- Leadership & Soft Skills
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Please Support Your Association's Committees

Please remember that the committees cannot survive without member participation. You can sign up to be on a committee at any time during the year, however, the Joint Conference is the ideal time to do so and there will be sign-up sheets in your registration packet. Please consider participation in at least one committee. If you have questions about the committees, please contact the chair of that committee (see next page) to find out more about how you can help.

If you are currently serving on a committee and wish to continue serving, please be sure to sign up at each conference. The slate is wiped clean after each conference, and unless we have the new sign-up form, we do not know if you wish to continue serving.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers!

Below are descriptions of the Committees you can join.....

MSAWWA/MWEA Joint Committees

Cross Connection Control - Work with DEQ to implement the administrative rules for cross-connection control. Assist other groups in providing pertinent education and training.

Exhibitors - Increase exhibitors' involvement in section activities & technical education. Encourage exhibitors' strong presence at the Joint Conference.

Host City - Organize & plan for annual conference, working closely with Executive Secretary. The 2016 conference will be in Great Falls.

Information Management - Provide ongoing guidance for functionality of the joint website including incorporation of social media and preservation of historical documents of MSAWWA and MWEA.

Lifetime Achievement - Select the awardee(s) & present award at annual conference.

Program - Prepare & distribute "Call for Program Abstracts" to solicit interest in program presentations for annual conference. Review abstracts & select/schedule speakers & topics.

Public Outreach - Promote Water Week, Stockholm Junior Water Prize, as well as other educational activities for school age children. Assist in publicizing MSAWWA/MWEA activities.

Scholarship - Select one/two students annually whose course work will lead to employment in the water and/or wastewater fields. The Scholarship is to be used toward the cost of tuition & books & includes a one year student membership for MSAWWA or MWEA.

Student & Young Professionals - The committee is intended to include members less than 35 years in age and who have worked less than 10 years in the industry. The purpose is to encourage involvement of college students and young professionals in either organization and at the Joint Conference.

MSAWWA Committees

Awards - Assist in identifying and awarding water system safety awards. Assist in selecting AWWA Operator Meritorious award recipient.

Education - Promote educational opportunities and provide training and assistance for small systems.

Legislative - Promote continual involvement with AWWA. Be aware of, respond to, and distribute information on changing legislation on both national & state levels. Recommend legislative tracking consultant.

Membership - Increase membership by identifying & contacting potential members. Provide membership benefit materials to recruiting members. Mentor first-time conference attendees.

Water for People - Continue to actively support WFP. Continue fund raising activities at the annual conference.

MWEA Committees

Beneficial Reuse - Obtain nominations & select a system best demonstrating the management of biosolids.

Education - Enhance the professional competency & qualifications of members. Work with program committee to pick topic and solicit/select speakers for 2017 Preconference.

Government Affairs - Obtain & disseminate relevant legislative information. Participate in the legislative & regulatory development processes.

Honors & Awards - Help select awardees & give recognition to individuals & facilities for exemplary performance.

Long Range Planning - Develop & implement the long-range plan that identifies the direction of the association.

Membership - Maintain current members, attract new members, & diversify professionally.

Pretreatment - The pretreatment committee is a forum for discussion of both existing and new pretreatment programs and will provide direction to new programs being implemented. This committee will also serve as a round-table for existing communities with pretreatment programs to discuss problems or regulations.

Stockholm Junior Water Prize - Encourage student participation in water-related projects within regional & state science fairs in Montana. MWEA members participate as judges in regional & state fairs as judges to select a state winner to attend the WEF-SJWP competition.

Stormwater - MWEA has added a stormwater committee recently. The purpose of the committee is to provide support and information to communities, engineers, and operators as they deal with stormwater issues.

2016—2017 Committee Chairs

Below is a list of the members of MSAWWA and MWEA that volunteered to chair each organization's committees following last years' Joint Conference. Volunteers are always welcome, so if you wish to help your association and serve on a committee you may still sign up by contacting the chair of that committee or Robin Matthews-Barnes at Info@montanawater.org or (406) 546-5496.

Joint Committee Chairs

Cross Connection Control

- Barb Coffman (406) 265-3763
barbara.coffman@msun.edu

Exhibitors

- none at this time

Host City

- Mike Jacobson (406) 750-0746
mwjacobson@yahoo.com
- Wayne Lovelis (406) 727-1325
wlovelis@greatfallsmtnet.net

Information Management

- David Carlson (406) 268-0626
david.carlson@ae2s.com

Lifetime Achievement

- Paul LaVigne (406) 444-5321
plavigne@mt.gov

Program

- Amy Deitchler (406) 465-6160
adeitchler@greatwesteng.com

Public Outreach

- Rika Lashley (406) 495-3448
rlashley@m-m.net

Scholarship

- Greg Lukasik (406) 652-5000
glukasik@greatwesteng.com

SYP Committee

- Keeley Barry (406) 268-0626
keely.barry@ae2s.com

MWEA Committee Chairs

Beneficial Reuse

- Terry Campbell (406) 444-7374
tcampbell@mt.gov

Education

- Nancy Cormier (406) 495-3486
ncormier@m-m.net

Government Affairs

- Scott Buecker (406) 570-5184
scott.buecker@ae2s.com

Honors & Awards

- Jeremy Perlinski (406) 495-3447
jperlinski@m-m.net

Long Range Planning

- Not active at this time

Membership

- Mike Jacobson (406) 750-0746
mwjacobson@yahoo.com

Pretreatment

- LeAnn Wiegand (406) 495-3584
lwiegand@m-m.net

Stockholm Jr. Water Prize

- Kristi Kline (406) 945-2043
kjfarm@mtintouch.net

Stormwater

- Lance Lehigh (406) 219-2633
lance.lehigh@ae2s.com

MSAWWA Committee Chairs

Awards

- Collette Anderson (406) 495-6164
ctanderson@greatwesteng.com

Education

- Collette Anderson (406) 495-6164
ctanderson@greatwesteng.com

Legislative

- Nate Weisenburger (406) 268-0626
nate.weisenburger@ae2s.com

Membership

- Logan McInnis (406) 370-8285
logan@mtwater.com

Water For People

- Carrie Gardner (406) 495-6176
cgardner@greatwesteng.com
- John Camden (406) 459-0782
jcamden50@bresnan.net

2016—2017 MSAWWA Board of Directors

National Director

Logan McInnis
(406) 721-5570
logan@mtnwater.com

National Director Elect

Greg Lukasik
(406) 652-5000
glukasik@greatwesteng.com

Past Chair

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(406) 441-1408
millerdl@cdmsmith.com

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wlovelis@greatfallsmt.net

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jalston@bozeman.net

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(406) 268-0626
nate.weisenburger@ae2s.com

2016—2017 MWEA Board of Directors

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(406) 494-6160
adeitchler@greatwesteng.com

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starrs@ci.missoula.mt.us

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jperlinski@m-m.net

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hbartle@bozeman.net

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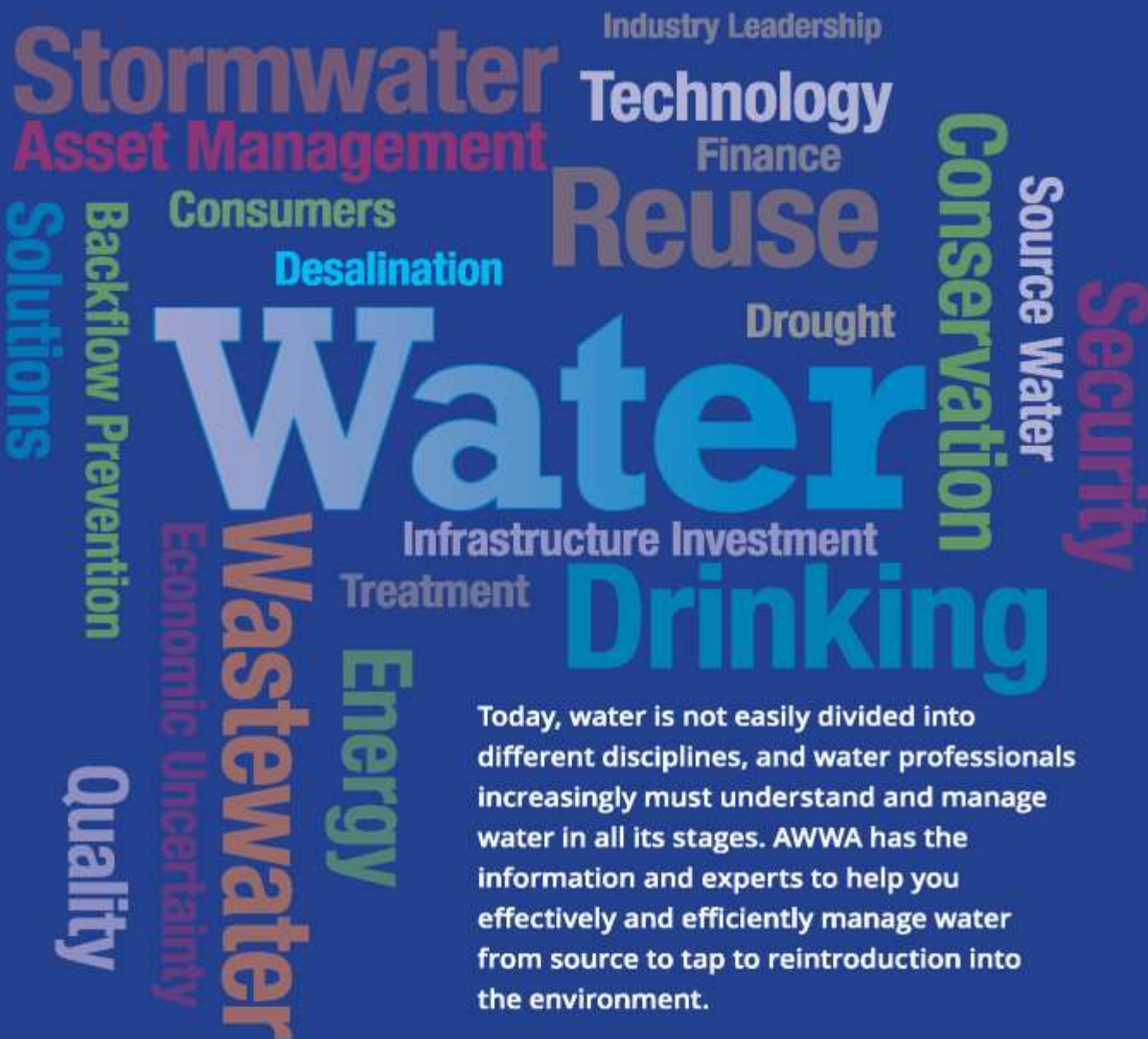
Rodney Lance
(406) 761-7004
rodney.lance@veolia.com

~2017 Joint Directory~

The 2017 Joint Directory was emailed to all MSAWWA and MWEA members recently. If you did not receive the digital copy, or would like a hard copy mailed to you, please email Robin Matthews-Barnes at info@montanawater.org and let her know.

Do You Have Something To Say?

If you have ideas, announcements, articles, or stories you would like to submit for consideration for publication in the next issue of NewsWaves, please email Robin Matthews-Barnes at info@montanawater.org. The next issue will be published late summer/early fall, so keep it in mind!



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Joint Student & Young Professional Update
2017 AWWA/WEF S & YP Summit & New Student Chapter
~Keeley Barry AE2S Inc.—Joint Student & Young Professional Committee Chair

In February, I had the opportunity to attend the 2017 Young Professionals (YP) Chair Training and Summit representing the Montana Section AWWA/WEA Student & Young Professionals (S&YP) Committee. These events provided content tailored to YPs in the water industry.

David LaFrance, AWWA Chief Executive Officer, was a key speaker at the AWWA YP Chair Training. Not only did he share AWWA's 2017 priorities, he also presented to the audience the value of setting a 5-year plan for career goals. Other highlights of the day included presentations on the "AWWA Technical & Education Council" and "Career Fair How To".

The AWWA/WEF YP Summit included an interactive morning with three industry professionals responsible for Emergency Management. The closing presentation on "Talking with the Public about Source Water Protection" paired well with the morning session because the importance of communication between utilities and the community had been highlighted. The presentation on "Emotional Intelligence" was my personal favorite because the goal was to teach YPs how to recognize personality types to improve professional interaction.

I want to thank the MSAWWA and MWEA for their continuous support of the S&YP Committee and for sponsoring me so that I could experience these valuable YP events.

With the hard work of the students and support from their professors and various Montana Section AWWA & WEF members, Montana's first AWWA Student Chapter has been established at Carroll College. It's great to see enthusiasm from the student members about the water industry. The Chapter is off to a great start with several of the students presenting posters in the S&YP Fresh Ideas Poster Competition at the 2017 MSAWWA-MWEA Joint Conference.

If you have questions or would like more information about the S & YP Committee, please contact Keeley at keeley.barry@ae2s.com

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Locally, this week may be used to contact our Senators and Representative – well, maybe not the latter since we don't have one at the moment – and bring water and wastewater issues to their attention.

World Water Week in Stockholm is another chance to remember how important water is. This week happens at the end of August and is organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and is focused on technological solutions rather than political ones. It brings together water and wastewater professionals from all over the world to share the latest in innovation and development to meet pressing water-related challenges. It is also the event when the Stockholm Junior Water Prize is awarded to the finalist of this international challenge for high school-age scientists and inventors. Some of them are currently polishing their papers for submission in the state-level competition here in Montana.

There is also a World Water Day – this year it is on March 22. This event is sponsored by the United Nations to draw attention and inspire action to tackle water issues around the world, especially for those who still live without safe drinking water, spend hours hauling water, and have health impacts from drinking contaminated water.

And then there is Drinking Water Week – sorry MWEA members, this one does not appear to include the post-use side of water. Drinking Water Week is sponsored by AWWA and this year is scheduled for May 7-13. The slogan is "YOUR WATER – to know it is to love it." The purpose of this event is to encourage or give folks a reason to organize local events that increase awareness of drinking water issues. The AWWA website already shows a long list of participants in the event, including cities and towns and utilities and districts, government agencies, and a variety of water organizations from all around the country. Do you know of any in Montana that might be inspired to participate?

There is also a Canadian Water Week in March and I am sure if I searched the web some more, I could find more water weeks and days around the world. I did a search for wastewater week too and got nothing. Must not be glamorous enough to have its own event...

AWWA 2016 Regional Meeting of Section Officers **~By Nate Weisenburger and Jeff Ashley~**

Nate Weisenburger (Secretary-Treasurer) and Jeff Ashley (Chair Elect) represented the Montana Section of AWWA at the Region 5, 2016 Regional Meeting of Section Officers (RMSO) in Honolulu, Hawaii on December 5-6. Region 5 is made of up Sections from Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Hawaii, Alaska, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. One of the goals of the RMSO is for AWWA staff to disseminate information important to the water industry to Section leaders, such as membership, current and pending regulations, philanthropy, and strategic planning. Perhaps the most important benefit of the RMSO is sharing ideas with other Sections. A total of 56 people attended the event.

As expected, the Hawaii Section did a great job of providing an inviting atmosphere to attendees. A field trip was arranged for Sunday night prior to the meeting, where a trolley car took us around downtown Honolulu to see the City Christmas lights. A golf outing, and a tour of the Halawa Shaft Pumping Station were arranged for attendees after the meeting.

Both of the meeting days began with a pilot version of a Regional Membership Summit, which focused on how to enhance the value of membership. The Association has collected data from membership surveys, and staff is actively reviewing the results to find ways to improve offerings to members. Melanie Penoyar (AWWA Senior Manager of Membership) did an excellent job in leading these discussions.

Jon Eaton (AWWA Vice President and Minnesota Section Director) was the moderator for the RMSO. Jon gave a presentation on the Washington, D.C. update. The theme was a lack of public confidence with recent lead issues in Flint, MI. The three major governmental water topics are lead, Legionella and Cyanotoxins.

Steve Dennis (AWWA Vice President and Cal-Nevada Section Director) discussed the Water Equation campaign, a new philanthropic initiative from AWWA. The goal of the campaign is to focus the talents and resources of AWWA to meet the need for pure drinking water and efficient wastewater systems around the world. The following link provides additional information <https://www.awwa.org/donate/about-the-water-equation.aspx>.

The Water Equation **Campaign** Knowledge+Sharing=Transformation



Paula MacIlwaine (AWWA Deputy CEO) discussed membership and the recent changes to individual and organizational memberships. These changes focus on upgraded benefits, responding to member suggestions on how to improve the membership experience. Use the following link for additional information <https://www.awwa.org/membership/2017-membership-benefits-upgrade.aspx>.

Each Section at the meeting was responsible for presenting their experiences with member value, partnerships / collaboration, or Water X (AWWA training and educational resource exchange). Nate and Jeff spoke about the Montana Section's partnerships and collaboration. The Joint MSAWWA / MWEA conference is somewhat unique to our Section, and we discussed the successful pre-conferences and conferences that we put on each spring. Other topics were the recent EPA Grant training events, and the college and university lunch and learns sponsored by the Membership Committee and Student and Young Professionals Committee.

Other Sections presented on their annual conferences, training programs, philanthropic efforts, leadership transition and student and young professional involvement. The Section sharing portion of the RMSO is typically the highlight of the experience for attendees. It is always interesting to hear about the activities of other Sections, and the challenges they face with membership, annual events and specific water issues that impact their region.

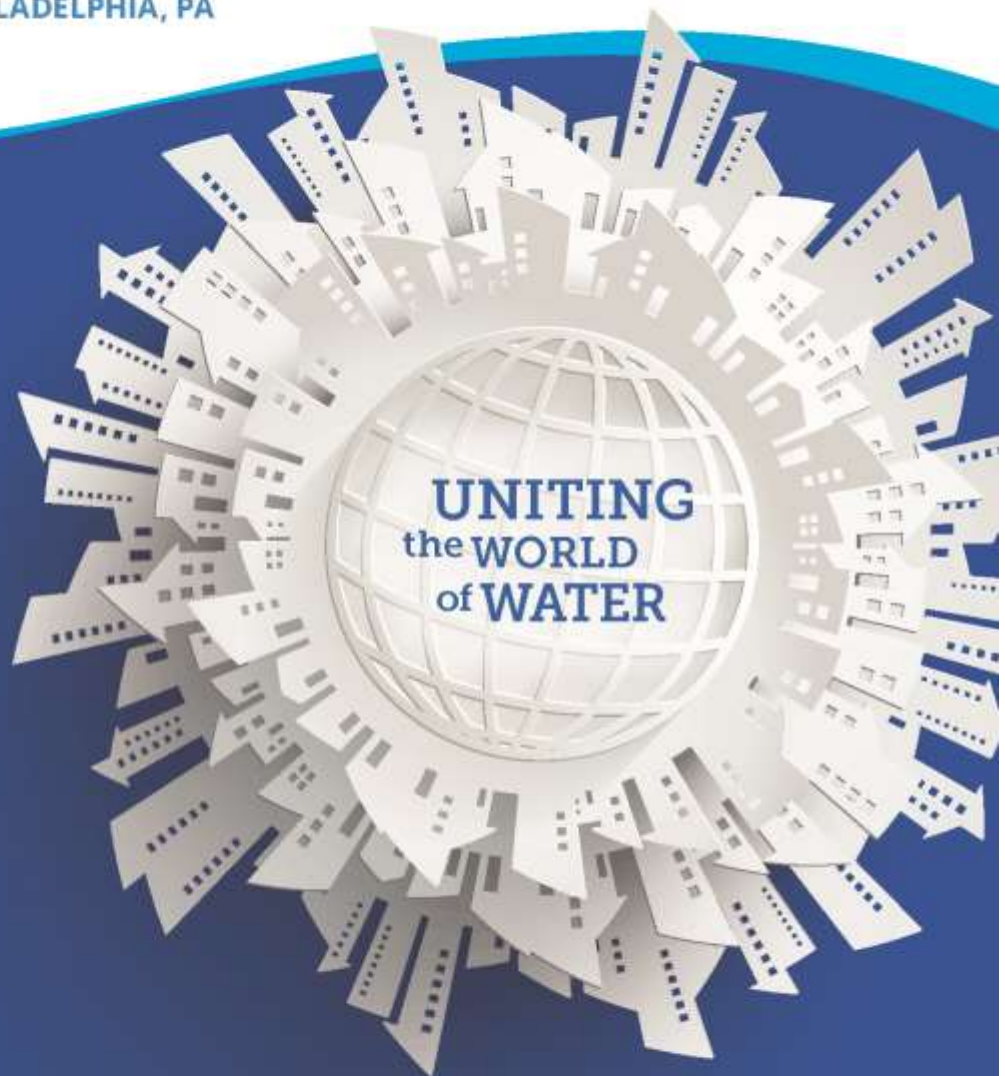
One of the more interesting discussions at the RMSO was the re-organization of regions. The current five region system will be reduced to four. Essentially, Region 4 and 5 will be combined. Montana will now be in Region 4, which includes the current Region 5 members, with the addition of the Rocky Mountain, Intermountain, Arizona, Texas and Mexico Sections.

The annual RMSO is a great opportunity for attendees to meet with AWWA representatives, learn about critical activities and initiatives, and share ideas and experiences with leadership of other Sections. The Montana Section is always well represented at the RMSO as the meeting rotates through Sections. The Montana Section has the pleasure, and the challenge, of hosting the RMSO in 2017. The planned location for the 2017 RMSO is Whitefish. If you have interest in attending or assisting with the 2017 RMSO, contact Robin at info@montanawater.org.



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