

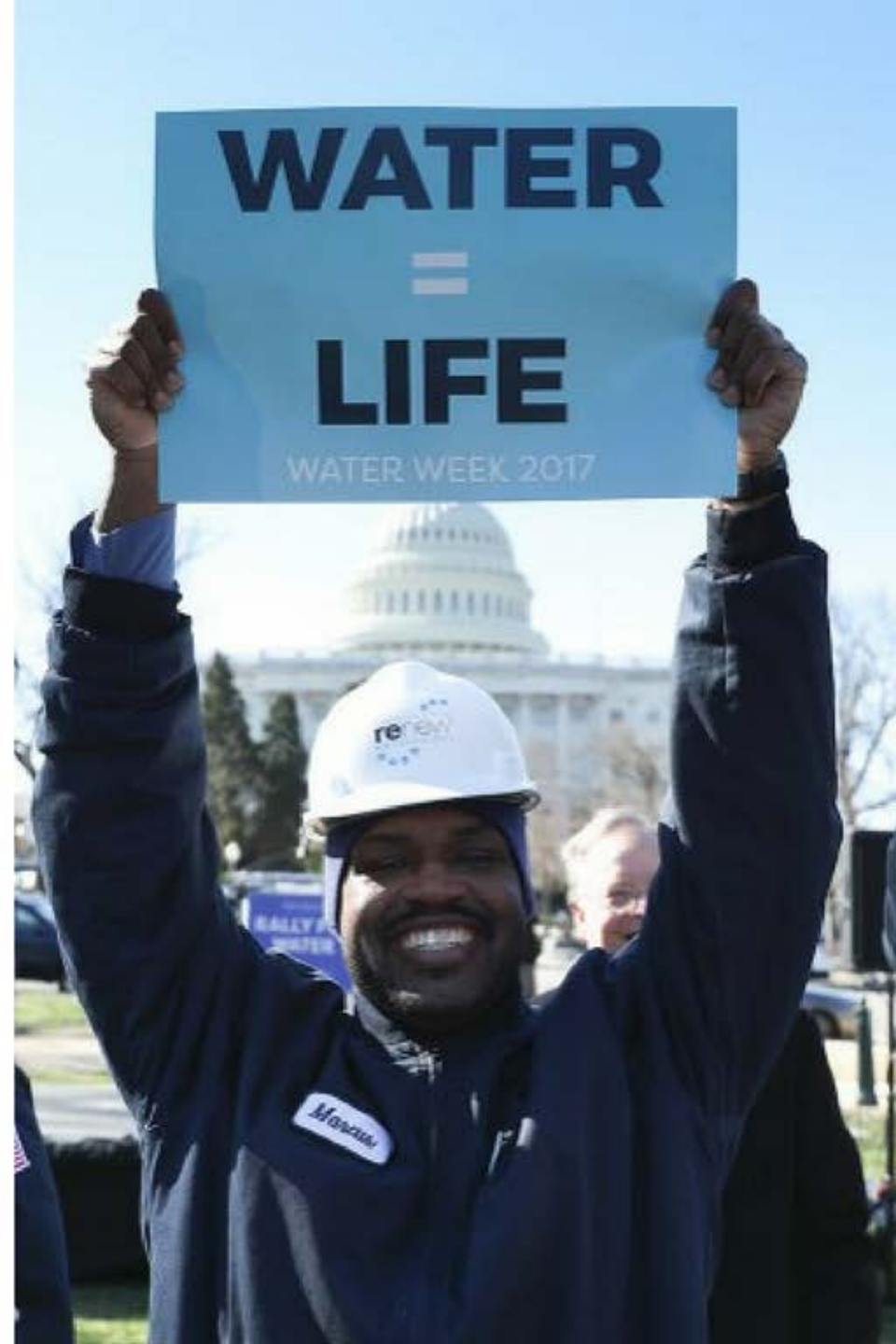
# **NACWA/WESTCAS COLLABORATION UPDATE & NEXT STEPS**

**Emily Remmel**  
**Director, Regulatory Affairs**  
**National Association of Clean Water Agencies**

**Thursday, October 26, 2017**

# WHO ARE WE?

**NACWA works in Washington DC to create a regulatory, legislative, and legal environment that allows clean water agencies and stormwater agencies to innovate and thrive.**







# COLLABORATION

H.K. GARDNER & H. IBARRA. HOW TO CAPTURE VALUE FROM COLLABORATION, ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE SKEPTICAL ABOUT IT. HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW. MAY 02, 2017.

# THE ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOP

**25th Annual WESTCAS  
Conference**

**June 22, 2017  
San Diego, California**



# ELEMENTS OF THE WORKSHOP

- 3 Hours
- 5 Topics
- 5 Discussion Leaders
- 35 Minutes to Think Big
- 5 Minute Recap





# WORKSHOP TOPICS & LEADERS

Topic 1: Regulatory Improvement, CWA Reform Opportunities

**LEADER: JIM KUDLINKSI**

Topic 2: Affordability, Funding, & Financing

**LEADER: JAYNE STROMMER**

Topic 3: Climate Change & Resiliency

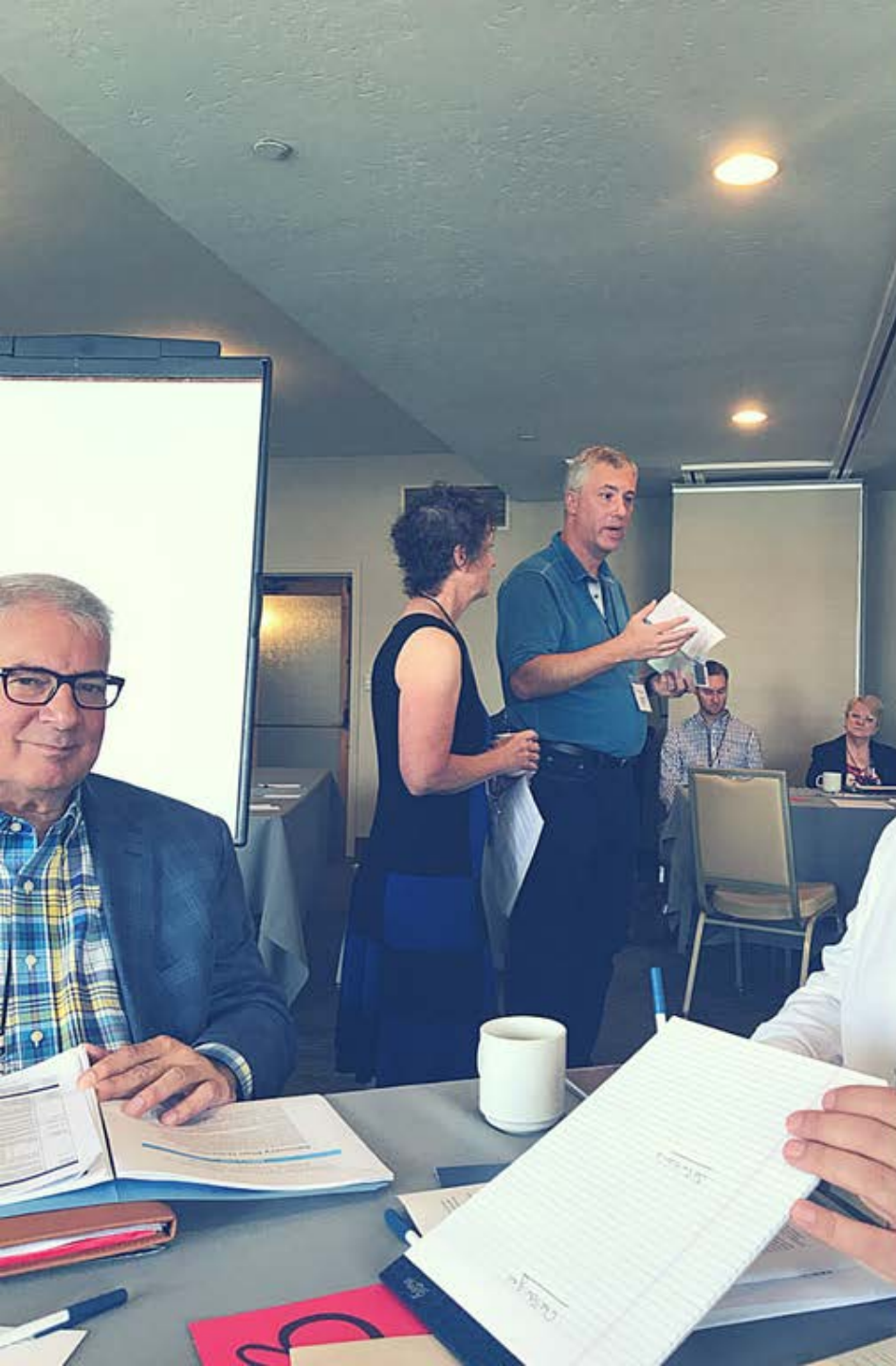
**LEADER: ADEL HAGEKHALIL**

Topic 4: Water Quality & Water Quantity Nexus

**LEADER: ERIC SAPIRSTEIN**

Topic 5: Utility of the Future & Technology

**LEADER: LISA HOLLANDER**





Challenges	Solutions
Climate Resiliency	
drought	Diversification
supply	Flexibility in regs
weather extremes	Holistic NEB approach
flooding	Integrated Planning
↑ Temps	Water Conservation
energy/water nexus	Infrastructure Investment
Fires	Financing Innovation
Competing Regs.	Communicate value of H <sub>2</sub> O
workforce / basic infrastructure / env. challenges	Regional Planning/Collaboration
	FOCUSED DIRECTIVES / COAL

- new planning process for water world today.
- direct, treat, discharge antiquated.
- reuse, reuse.....
- Research funding needed - Fed.

- Full cost pricing
  - Conservation programs - move cost for less water TX
  - Fixed vs variable costs → "full cost" varies
  - Flat rate structures → no variable cost → problem TX
  - Can't charge more than it costs to produce → IL
  - Raising rates → customers hook up outside area

④ Water Quality/Quantity Nexus	
Challenges	Solutions
- Conservation improves supply but decreases quality	- Regulatory flexibility
- Meeting competing goals	- Water Rights flexibility
- Recycled water and stream flow downstream use	- Technology advancements
- Standards for the sake of regulatory productivity rather than achieving real benefits	- Better research to identify real problems that drive rather than hypothetical/calculated risks
- Silo regulatory approaches	- Regs flexibility
- Drinking Water v. Wastewater v. Stream	- Hazardous waste exemptions for evaporation basins
- Brine management	- "Designer" treatment approaches - match treatment level to the use, at the use

Challenges	Solutions
- Making Non-Point Sources responsible	- Improved Field Tax
- Tailwater maintains downstream uses	- More flexible Water Right Laws
- CWA permits for CDM (404 implementation)	- More streamlined general permits (global v. individual)
- TMDL's effectiveness	- Update approach, more focus on NP source loads
- Climate Change alters natural stream conditions	- Incremental permitting (CA approach for Ag discharges)
- Using CWA to regulate stream quantity	- Need financing programs for NP Source Controls
- Separating CWA from Groundwater Controls	- Nutrient trading
- Guidance versus Regulation	- Use GW Management Requirements instead
	- Ensure Regulators don't use guidance to usurp reg

Hydro modification - FLOW,  
Not subject to CWA.



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Competing Regs	Communicate value of H2O
workforce / basic infrastructure	Regional Planning / Collaboration
	FOCUSED DIRECTIVES / COAL

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# 30+ PAGES



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# THE CONCEPT PAPER

A summary of the **initial discussions** and a start to formulating an advocacy agenda. It is intended to ultimately **evolve** into a more thorough **statement of NACWA's priorities** on arid state and water quantity issues.

Incorporating Arid State &  
Water Quantity Priorities in  
NACWA's Advocacy Agenda

A CONCEPT PAPER

PRESENTED BY:

NACWA

IN COLLABORATION WITH:





# REG IMPROVEMENT & CWA REFORM

## MODERNIZE THE CWA

- All discharges of water need to be regulated, not just point sources
- Longer permit terms for permittees
- Allow regulatory flexibility

## CONSIDER NET ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT

- Stricter regulations are costly and do not necessarily lead to greater water quality improvement or protection of human health

## REDEFINE WOTUS

- Consider the unique hydrology of the arid west (e.g. ephemeral & intermittent streams)
- Consider southeast where groundwater influences surface water

# AFFORDABILITY, FUNDING, & FINANCING

## ADVOCATE THE "TRUE VALUE" OF WATER

- The water sector must take every step to communicate the true value of water to the greater public

## CREATE INNOVATIVE FUNDING OPS

- Federal grant programs are dwindling, states should make every effort to create alternative, innovative funding mechanisms.

## SUPPORT AFFORDABILITY LEGISLATION

- "Safe and affordable drinking water fee" on the water sector to help disadvantaged communities
- Ensure not just another fee/tax that raises rates.



# CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCY

## EMBRACE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY

- Unpredictable nature of water availability and demand
- Need flexibility that corresponds to seasonal precipitation or immediate water quantity realities

## PRIORITIZE INTEGRATED PLANNING

- Mechanism greatly supported by water sector but needs more funding and priority
- Unites core issues (e.g, sustainability, EJ, community, affordability)

## INVEST IN WATER STORAGE TECHNIQUES

- Water reuse, recycling, desalination, aquifer injection, subsurface percolation etc.
- Research and technology

# **WATER QUALITY & WATER QUANTITY NEXUS**

## **PROMOTE WATER REUSE & RECYCLING**

- Could reduce withdrawals, increase conservation, and provide avenue for direct potable reuse
- Must find balance between reduced stream flow and downstream users

## **ELIMINATE WATER SECTOR SILOS**

- Promote policies for cross-collaboration by breaking down regulatory barriers of the clean water sector (e.g., wastewater, drinking water, stormwater)

## **ADVANCE MORE PRACTICABLE WQS & TESTING METHODS**

- Often water quality standards are too restrictive for certain parameters (e.g., chloride, sulfate, conductivity) and very costly to remove



# UTILITY OF THE FUTURE & TECHNOLOGY

## EXPAND REVENUE STREAMS

- Energy generation and resource recovery are a reality with today's advanced technology

## FOSTER COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING

- As technology advances, the water sector must have training and educational programs in place to engage employees

## UNITE THE WATER SECTOR

- As potable and non-potable reuse gain greater public attraction, there is a need to mitigate regulatory and policy silos.

# NACWA LEADERSHIP MEETING

October 24-25, 2017  
Salt Lake City, Utah





# **MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN SLC**

- **CWA IS OUTDATED FOR 21ST CENTURY NEEDS**
- **COMMUNITY BENEFITS; NOT ONLY COMPLIANCE**
- **NET ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT**
- **NO FEDERAL AGENCY ADVOCATE**
- **NEED EVERYONE AT THE TABLE**
- **SCIENCE, SCIENCE, SCIENCE!**

**WHAT ELSE?**



**WHAT DO Y'ALL THINK?**

# **Join the NACWA family. Join the discussion.**

**Small and medium sized wastewater &  
stormwater utilities serving populations  
less than 75,000**

**\$750 to \$1,000/year**





# THANK YOU WESTCAS!

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