

Virtual WEFMAX – August 1, 2024 Breakout Notes

Driving Collaboration and Engagement

Facilitator – Chris Tabor | Scribe – WEF Staff Nick Bardis

Questions:

WEF Core Value Statement: Collaborate for Collective Impact – How does collaboration strengthen WEF?

What are the opportunities for collaboration inside and outside of the water sector?

- Some have challenges re the relationship with AWWA.
- There is NACWA.
- And some Civil Eng organization.
- In VA there are military societies with whom to network and collaborate.
- Challenges? Financial limitations with budgets not allowing for joining other organizations. In NJ Employer can pay sometimes.
- WEF should have some discounts, possibly for dues. Staying a member at MA level was discussed.
- How does this strengthen WEF? Advocacy and awareness to WEF who may not know about WEF and collaboration builds awareness. Karen said WEF is WEFTEC and doesn't understand what WEF is.
- Also biosolids and stormwater help to reach and get the word out.
- If you're a YP, having a mentor can assist them in collaboration efforts.
- **Communication, awareness, different approaches to same problems these org face them.**

Using Whiteboard...

- WEF is in the middle of the Board
- AWWA is added as a collaborative party as well as local legislative efforts.
- Public Community, NACWA, Rural Water (state water), ASCE
- There are MA which connect local/state organizations (NJWEA)
- In VA, we have Municipal Stormwater and Mun. wastewater auth.
- Awareness: need more special awareness with other organizations.

Putting the WE in WEF: Investing in the Potential of Your Membership

Facilitator – Cara Jung | Scribe – WEF Staff Brad Lovett

Has WEF involvement helped with a feeling of belonging in the industry you work in, and/or the colleagues beyond the organization you work for?

31 responses



What are some ways WEF communities can enhance your career?

22 responses



Leadership of the Future

Facilitator – Kristiana Dragash | Scribe – WEF Staff Ama Richardson

Questions:

How does your MA identify and engage future leaders?

a. Those who are already in the water sector

b. Outside the water sector (schools, students, adults)

c. What effects have these programs/efforts to engage future leaders had on your MA?

- Beth Thompson (WEASC) stated that her MA has a YP group that is now really active, and a key component of that is having a YP on every committee at their MA. They have 10 districts and 10 committees—with a YP present on each of these groups/at these levels—not to mention their joint AWWA committees. This level of engagement helps YPs understand that they're a part of something bigger than just their day job.
- Kristiana (FWEA) shared details about her MA's Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) in Florida. The event is a 1.5-day annual retreat that hosts 40-50 people total. The event is paid for by FWEA and allows all of the MA's Chairs, Vice Chairs, and leaders of each FWEA committee and Florida chapter to come together, hear about what's going on in the state, hear about WEF happenings, and provides the opportunity to find potential candidates for leadership succession planning and cross-pollination through the exchange of ideas.
- Asa (PNCWA) serves as Chair of her MA's InFLOW program, now branded as the WAVE program—a more in-depth version of InFLOW. She joined PNCWA through the InFLOW program and shared that her MA adopts the WEF definition of a YP, whereby this demographic is identified as anyone new to the industry or those who are 35 years old or younger. PNCWA was recently awarded a WEF MA Grant to help support the growth of their WAVE program. She also noted the PNCWA SYP Committee helps recruit participants for the WEF Student Design Competition at WEFTEC and also facilitates a Mentorship Program for students and YPs.