CANCELLING YOUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
THIS QUARTER’S JOURNAL
WHY DO WE CALL THIS THE BEST CONFERENCE WE NEVER HAD?

• A GENERAL FROM THE PENTAGON WAS TO BE THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER
• TECHNICAL PROGRAM ROBUST
• EXHIBIT HALL – SOLD OUT (227)
• COMPETITIONS – LARGEST IN OUR HISTORY AND RECOGNIZING BOBBY WILLIAMS (10 OPERATIONS CHALLENGE, 4 METER MADNESS, 4 PIPE TAPPING, 5 HYDRANT HYSTERIA)
• REPRESENTATIVES FROM AWWA AND WEF ATTENDING
• ALL-TIME REGISTRATION RECORD AT 1,700
• AWARDS PACKED, VAN PACKED, READY TO GO!
EXHIBIT HALL
SCEC - ENVIRONMENTAL JEOPARDY
A YEAR IN THE “WATER LIFE”
TIMELINE

• CONFERENCE TO BEGIN MARCH 14, 2020
• WE MADE THE FINAL DECISION TO CANCEL THE MORNING OF MARCH 13
• HAD THAT WEEK DAILY CHECKED GUIDANCE FROM CDC AND STATE HEALTH AGENCY, ALL HAD BEEN “MEET WITH CAUTION” UNTIL MARCH 13
• HAD PERSONAL CONVERSATION WITH HEAD OF COVID-19 RESPONSE FRIDAY
• GOVERNOR ORDERS RESTAURANTS DINE-IN CLOSED MARCH 17, AND ORDERS NON-ESSENTIAL WORKERS TO STAY HOME MARCH 19
IMPACTS OF CANCELLING

- Financial – Our largest source of income and cancellation insurance does not cover an epidemic or pandemic. Hotel and exhibit hall stated full amount of contracts due, as did our entertainment contractor.
- Annual meetings for SCAWWA and WEASC – Officer rotation on hold.
- Competitions so teams can advance to national competitions.
- Continuing education hours – Needing for licensing deadline but not available.
- Networking, client dinners, and other associated social events.
UPDATE ON RECOVERY

• FINANCIAL – WE ASKED SPONSORS, EXHIBITORS, AND ATTENDEES IF THEY WANTED TO DONATE TO THE ASSOCIATION OR GET A REFUND. SPONSORS 43% DONATED, ATTENDEES 33% DONATED, AND EXHIBITORS 12% DONATED. WITH GENEROUS DONATIONS, HOPE TO “BREAK EVEN”

• HOST MOTEL GAVE REFUNDS TO ATTENDEES, LET US OUT OF CONTRACT WITH NO PENALTY

• PAID $7,800 TO OUR EXHIBIT HALL DECORATOR AS THEY HAD ACTUAL COSTS

• CREATED THREE VIRTUAL COURSES FOR ENGINEERING PDH’S USING SOME TECHNICAL SESSION PRESENTATIONS

• HAVE GIVEN SOME OF OUR AWARDS VIRTUALLY

• GEARING UP FOR VIRTUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS, ETC.

• LOOKING FORWARD TO VACCINE AND AN IN-PERSON EVENT MARCH 2021

• WEFMAX IN CHARLESTON SCHEDULED FOR MAY CANCELLED, NOW MAY 2022
LESSONS LEARNED

• NEW FM LANGUAGE FOR ALL CONTRACTS GOING FORWARD (WILL TAKE YEARS TO HELP)
• CANCELLATION INSURANCE WILL NO LONGER OFFER COVERAGE FOR PANDEMICS
• CONSIDER LIMITING OUTSIDE EVENT CONTRACTS (ENTERTAINMENT, DINNERS, ETC.)
• CAN HOLD WEASC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING VIRTUALLY
• NEED VIRTUAL TRAINING CAPABILITIES (LIKE YESTERDAY MAN)
CONTACTS

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