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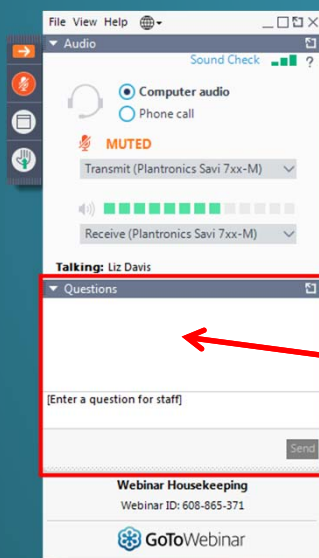
**Linking Member Associations with  
Important Federal Policies and Local Trends**

Wednesday May 6, 2020  
1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

 Water Environment  
Federation  
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2

## How to Participate Today



- **Audio Modes**
  - Listen using Mic & Speakers
  - Or, select “Use Telephone” and dial the conference (please remember long distance phone charges apply).
- **Submit your questions using the Questions pane.**
- **A recording will be available for replay shortly after this webcast.**

3

## Today's Agenda

- Introduction - Brandon Koltz
- Federal Update & Water Week Observations - Steve Dye
- Central States WEA – Rachel Lee
- New York WEA - Matt Millea
- Michigan WEA - Keith McCormack
- Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association - Caitlin Dwyer
- Q&A - Julie Nahrgang

4

# Federal Update & Water Week Observations

Steve Dye



5



## WaterWeek Partners: Joint Water Policy Priorities Document

<https://www.waterweek.us/>

<https://bit.ly/ww2020-priorities>



















WATER WEEK 2020 | INSERT NAME OF ORG

APRIL 2020



6

# Federal Advocacy Update

## Next Coronavirus Relief Package:

- Seeking \$1.5 to +\$4B for low-income and unemployed ratepayer assistance
- Fix the provision to allow for public employers to receive sick and family leave benefits
- Grants or low-interest loans to utilities for lost revenues to support operations and maintenance.
  - *Estimated \$15.1B & \$12.5B in drinking water and wastewater lost revenues, respectively.*



7

# Coronavirus Response Requests from the Water Sector

## Economic Stimulus Package Priorities:

Economic Stimulus Package expected in a couple months

- Developing national list of water infrastructure projects that are ready to build except lack funding.
- Such as the Project Priority List from the Clean Water SRF Intended Use Plan (IUP), plus similar projects that were not submitted to the IUP, including Title XVI-WIIN water reuse projects with completed feasibility studies.
  - CIFA found \$73 billion in needs
- Please collect your state's needs lists and send to WEF, NACWA and WaterReuse staff.
- Be prepared to send letters to Congress urging support for water infrastructure funding in package. Talk about it during virtual Hill meetings.

Funds through SRFs, USDA, WIFIA, Title XVI, AWIA grants, etc.



8

## Senate WRDA Draft Bill

**Mark-up schedule for May 6, 2020. Key Provisions Included in Discussion Draft:**

- Clean Water SRF Reauthorization
  - \$2B for FY21, \$2.5B for FY22, \$3B for FY23
- WIFIA Reauthorization at \$50M/yr. for FY21 & FY22
- Clean Water SRF Uses
  - Additional subsidization, such as grants, negative interest loans and loan forgiveness, or to buy, refinance or purchase debt
  - Funds can be used to design and engineer wastewater treatment systems
- Workforce Grant Program Reauthorized to \$2M
- Energy Efficiency and Energy Generation Grants
- Sewer Overflow Control Grant Program Reauthorized at \$250M/yr., FY21&22
- New Resiliency and Service Connection Grants, \$5M/yr. and \$20M/yr.



9

## Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019 (H.R. 1497)

**Reported out of Committee in October with strong clean water investments. The key provisions of the bill include (FY20 – 24):**

- Clean Water SRF reauthorized at \$16B/5 years
- 1% CW SRF set-aside for wastewater workforce development assistance to utilities of \$140M/5 years.
- State management assistance at \$1.295B/5 years
- Watershed pilot projects at \$110M/5 years
- Redefines "alternative water source projects" as wastewater, stormwater, or by treating wastewater or stormwater and authorizes \$150M/5 years
- Extends authorization for grant assistance for CSO, SSO and stormwater projects for \$1.125B/5 years.



10

| Program                              | FY19 Omnibus | FY20 Final | Pres. FY21 | FY21 Asks  | Function                                   |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| Clean Water SRF                      | \$1.7B       | \$1.6B     | \$1.1B     | \$1.6B x 2 | Wastewater & Stormwater Loans              |
| Drinking Water SRF                   | \$1.2B       | \$1.1B     | \$863M     | \$1.95B*   | Drinking Water Loans                       |
| WIFIA                                | \$68M        | \$55M      | \$25M      | >\$55M*    | All Water Infrastructure Loans             |
| USDA Loans & Grants                  | \$2.02B      | \$1.45B    | \$1.1B     | \$1.6B     | Rural Communities Loans and Grants         |
| Title XVI-WINN                       | \$20M        | \$20M      | \$3M       | \$50M      | Western US Water Recycling and Reuse       |
| Water Workforce Grants               |              | \$1M       | \$1M       | >\$1M*     | Workforce Development Grant                |
| AWIA – Sewer Overflow Control Grants |              | \$28M      | \$61M      | \$225M*    | Grants for CSO, SSO, and SW Infrastructure |
| National Priorities Water Research   | \$5M         | \$6M       |            | \$20M      | Grants for Water Research                  |

\* = Authorized level



11

## PFAS Update – Federal Only

**US EPA** – Proposed Determination to OMB for PFOA and PFOS *“following through on its commitment in the Action Plan to evaluate PFOA and PFOS under the Safe Drinking Water Act.”* (Dec. 3)

**2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)** – CWA and CERCLA not included.

**2020 NDAA** – Another push for PFAS provision

**H.R. 535, The PFAS Action Act of 2019** – Passed House in Jan. ‘20. Senate not expected to act.

**PFAS Receivers Fact Sheet:** <https://www.wef.org/pfas>

**Additional resources:** <https://wef.org/biosolids/>



12



# CSWEA – WI Section COVID-19 Response

## Legislative Advocacy

Wisconsin

Minnesota

Illinois

## Operations Round Table



Rachel M. Lee, P.E.

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# CSWEA – WI Section COVID-19 Response

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## Legislative Advocacy

- CSWEA – Call for Projects Survey – 118 responses
- Each state used Project Priority Lists and survey responses to develop a list of needs
- Sent letters to state legislators – Senators and Representatives
- Collaborated with other agencies
  - MEG
  - IAWA



15

## Identified Great Need

| State        | Clean Water Projects |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Illinois     | \$1.9 Billion        |
| Minnesota    | \$1.7 Billion        |
| Wisconsin    | \$1.7 Billion        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$5.3 Billion</b> |



16



## Legislative Letters - Key Points

- Near-Term Projects
- Pandemic Safe (Social Distancing)
- Essential Services – Clean Water
- Economy, Economy, Economy

17

## State by State Implementation

| State     | Partnered with Local Advocacy Group | Sent Letters to Legislators | Hired a Lobbyist |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Wisconsin | ✓                                   | ✓                           |                  |
| Minnesota |                                     | ✓                           |                  |
| Illinois  | ✓                                   | ✓                           | ✓                |

18

## Legislative Action – Next Steps

- Working on a webinar with legislative reps and the lobbyist.
- Continue to advocate with the Phase V funding.

19

## Operations Round Table

Weekly Zoom call

Agenda

- Review of Past Accomplishments
  - Social Distancing
  - Regulatory Conversations
  - Supply Chain
  - Unique Operations Challenges
  - Resources
- Round Table
  - DNR Update
  - All Topics, some questions already have been identified

20

# Operations Round Table

## Weekly Zoom call

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main window displays a slide titled "Round Table" with the following bullet points:

- Has your facility determined a date to “unwind” the COVID-19 response measures?
- Are supplies holding out? Is delivery timely?
- Has anyone developed a mask policy and are the masks being provided?
- Comments on return to work policy following recovery from virus.
- Anything on your mind related to the current state of facility operations.

On the right side of the Zoom window, there is a vertical strip showing the video feeds of the participants. At the bottom of the Zoom window, the standard controls bar is visible, including a play button and a timer showing 47:06.

21

# Operations

## Topics

- Social Distancing and Risk Mitigation
- Supply Chain
- Unique Operations Challenges
- Regulatory Compliance
- Resources



Credit: westech-inc.com

22

# Emergency Preparedness Plan

## City of Racine Wastewater Facility

- Had plan in place for quick implementation
- Made a few updates based on current situation
- Recommends all have plans in place

| TABLE OF CONTENTS   |
|---|
| Overview and Manual Summary   |
| Section 1: Labor Relations – Emergency Administration                           |
| Section 2: Essential Functions, Lines of Succession and Delegation of Authority |
| Section 3: Closure of Schools and Daycare Facilities                            |
| Section 4: Alternative Work Schedules   |
| Section 5: Contingent Workforce   |
| Section 6: Telecommuting  |
| Section 7: Volunteer Services   |
| Section 8: Rescission of Approved Vacation Leave and Compensatory Time Off      |
| Section 9: Sending Ill Employees Home   |
| Section 10: Family Medical Leave and Sick Leave                                 |
| Section 11: Return to Work Authorization  |
| Section 12: Facility Closure / Reduction in Force                               |
| Section 13: Discipline – Conduct Including Unauthorized Absences                |
| Section 14: Communication and Consistent Messaging                              |
| Section 15: Crisis Counseling   |
| Section 16: Contracted Vendors  |
| Attachment A: Pandemic Phases   |
| Attachment B: Summary of the Community Mitigation Strategy by Pandemic Severity |

23

## Questions?

Thank you!  
rlee@lai-ltd.com

24

## New York Water Environment Association



**Government Affairs Committee, Chair**



25

## New York Water Environment Association



26

New York Water Environment Association  
Government Affairs Committee:

## 34 Active Members: Geographically Diverse



- Utility Executives
- Retired State Officials
- Consulting Engineers
- Legal Counsel

\$80 Billion Combined  
Funding Need



27

### Our PLAYBOOK:

#### Engage With Partners in Environmental Community (Clean Water Coalition)

- Support when we are in alignment
- Reserve Comment when appropriate for NYWEA to hold back

#### Bi-Weekly Legislative Calls with partner associations:

- Cost Share Legislative Aide
- Track notable legislation (list vetted and approved by the group)



28

## Recent Legislative/GA Victories

2015 – Water Infrastructure Improvement Act \$200 million (Doubled in 2016)

*Under the terms of this new program, a municipality in general may receive a WIIA grant for up to 25% of an eligible wastewater project cost, with an award cap of \$5 million per year.*

*For a drinking water project, the state can cover up to 60% of municipalities' costs, with an award cap of \$3 million over five years. Municipalities may combine this grant funding with other state and federal loans, ensuring that up-front costs are not prohibitive.*

2016 – Environmental Protection Fund Increase - \$300 million annually  
Includes State's Water Quality Improvement Program managed by NYS DEC



29

## 2017 – A Good Year! \$2.5 Billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act

*The new state act, which spans five years, will among other things provide:*

- *\$1.5 billion in grants for water infrastructure improvements,*
- *\$75 million in rebates to help homeowners replace septic systems, and*
- *\$110 million to protect land in watersheds.*
- *Fund advanced treatment and filtration systems to treat and remove both regulated and unregulated contaminants found in drinking water;*
- *Upgrades aging distribution and treatment systems, including replacement of lead service lines in low-income communities;*
- *Connects contaminated private drinking water wells to regulated public drinking water systems.*



30



## \$3 Billion Restore Mother Nature Bond Act

- \$1 Billion for restoration and flood risk reduction (Bridges and Culverts could be included),
- \$700 Million for Climate Change Mitigation,
- Including \$350M for Green Buildings
- \$550 Million for Open Space Land Conservation and Recreation,
- \$550 Million for Water Quality Improvement and Resilient Infrastructure  
Including \$100M for municipal stormwater grants, and
- \$200 Million for Capital Projects (Preserve, enhance, and restore...)

CHITTENANGO FALLS STATE PARK | CAZENOVIA



31

## Coronavirus Response

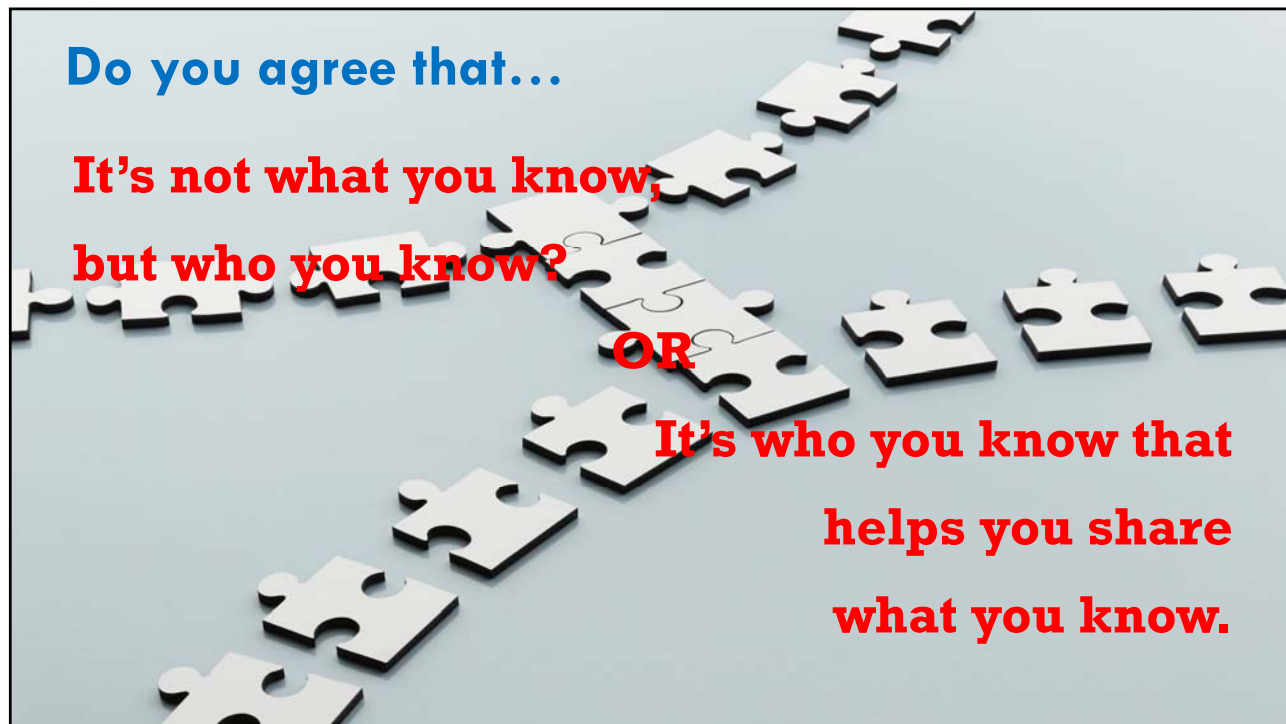
**Close Coordination With Member Associations**

**Leveraging Partnerships with State and Local Officials  
(Member Survey)**

**Lessons Learned from 2009**



32



33

## Michigan Water Environment Association

### • Agenda

- Overview of MWEA and GAC organization
- Critical Issues in Michigan
- Regulatory Outreach
- Legislative Outreach



### Speakers:

Keith McCormack, PE, GAC Chair,  
Retired Principal at HRC, Bloomfield  
Hills



Elaine Venema, PE, GAC Vice Chair,  
PM/Associate at Fleis &  
VandenBrink, Grand Rapids

34

## Michigan WEA

- Organized in 1925
- 2,026 total members, 25 Committees, Annual Conf in June, Joint Expo in Feb with MI-AWWA, over 100 in-person educational events, > 12 seminars & workshops, budget of \$1 million
- GAC has 20 regular members



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## Critical Issues and Initiatives in Michigan

- PFAS
- Stormwater Utilities
- Asset Management
- Lead & Copper in Drinking Water
- Funding Infrastructure
- CMOM



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## Regulatory Outreach

- Hold Quarterly meetings with the WRD of EGLE which has led to:
  - Financial support for an annual watershed group conference
  - Grant to promote Utilities of the Future
  - Participation on policy and rule making
  - Advance notice of upcoming developments
  - Greater participation by staff in MWEA events



37

## Legislative Outreach

- Hired a legislative lobbying group jointly with MI-AWWA
- Has provided guidance on the legislative process and direct access to elected officials - greatly enhanced our stature
- Greater visibility in supporting legislation
- Held an Advocacy Day in March



38

## Relationship with Midwest Strategy Group

- Has made a more solid connection with the Michigan Section of AWWA
- Establishing ties with other like-minded groups
- Learning the process of networking, consensus building and legislation



39

## Advocacy Day in Lansing

- Jointly with MI-AWWA
- Met with over 20 legislators or their staff
- Discussed key legislation and water topics
  - Infrastructure funding
  - Affordability
- Informal reception afterwards to continue building rapport



40



## Advocacy Day in Lansing

- Meetings with the legislators arranged by Midwest Strategy
- Many legislators recognized us from last year's Advocacy Day
- Created a one-page flyer with summary of our organization and important issues
- Using those meetings to seek bill sponsor support for legislation we are proposing



41

The Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA) is a non-profit organization made up of over 2000 professionals and practitioners who work with Michigan's water environment

OUR MISSION

- Provide bold leadership
- Champion innovation
- Connect water professionals
- Leverage knowledge to support clean and safe water

OUR VISION

The MWEA will be a recognized authority on and advocate for Michigan's water resources

OUR CRITICAL OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Embrace innovation in the water sector
2. Enrich the expertise of Michigan water professionals
3. Increase the awareness of the value of water
4. Sustain the organization

Leadership  
Passion  
Stewardship  
Integrity  
Collaboration

### Policy Priorities

#### Stormwater Utility

Clarifies a local government's authority to raise and spend user fees to manage stormwater infrastructure. Lack of clarity in current law creates the opportunity for lawsuits and issues in replacing stormwater systems.

#### Municipal Liability Reform

Limits municipal liability for extreme rainfall events or acts of God. Current law allows for costly lawsuits against communities which ultimately divert dollars away from fixing stormwater infrastructure.

#### Revenue

Identifies and provides dedicated revenue to maintain underground infrastructure required to service Michigan residents. Much of our underground infrastructure is past or near the end of its lifespan and funding is needed to repair or replace.

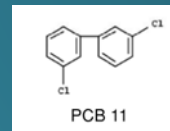
#### Water Quality

Addresses known and emerging contaminants in our water through sound science and working to craft meaningful regulation on this issue. We strive to be a national leader in managing water quality.

Questions?  
Contact: [mwea@mi-wea.org](mailto:mwea@mi-wea.org)  
[www.mi-wea.org](http://www.mi-wea.org)

42

## Washington Special Topics Water Quality Variances for PCBs in the Spokane River



5 NPDES dischargers have applied for Water Quality Standard Variances for PCBs in the Spokane River – *the first variance applications in the history of EPA Region 10.*

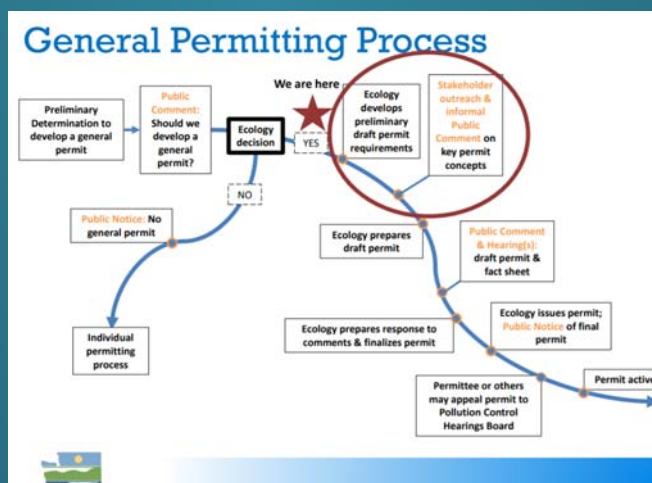
- Membrane technology is unable to meet the current Washington State human health water quality standard of 7 parts per quadrillion for Total PCBs.
- Variances establish discharger-specific, performance-based standards, and are coupled with Pollutant Minimization Plans to reduce PCBs in the watershed. Variances will be reviewed each 5 years.

**Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force** – a community-based task force has developed a Comprehensive Plan to reduce sources of PCBs to the River.

43

## Washington Special Topics Puget Sound Nutrients General Permit

- [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/DesktopDefault.aspx?alias=1962&pa\\_geid=37106](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/DesktopDefault.aspx?alias=1962&pa_geid=37106)



44



## Washington Special Topics Puget Sound Nutrients General Permit

### General Permit Timeline



45

## Washington Special Topics

### PFAS

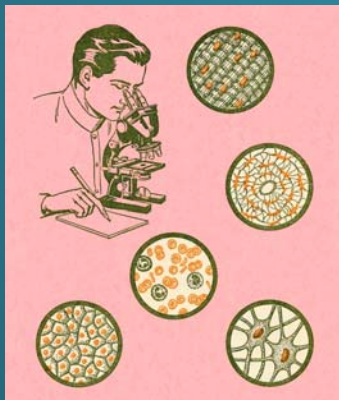


Photo credit: macleans.ca

### Right of Way

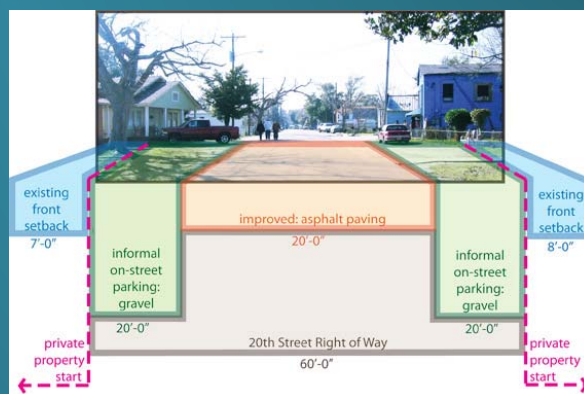


Photo credit: Mississippi State University

46

# Top Regulatory Issues in Oregon

## Clean Water Services



47

## Outline

- COVID-19
- Temperature
- Water Quality Criteria and TMDLs
  - Hg, Copper, Aluminum
- Integrated Planning, Water Reuse
- Infrastructure Funding



48

## COVID-19

- Staffing, health and safety
- Compliance
- Revenue
- Regulatory relief



Willamette Week

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## Temperature

- Unique to Oregon and the PNW
- Litigation
- Repeating years of work



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## Water Quality Criteria

- New criteria
- Aluminum being promulgated
- Ability to achieve
- Innovative solution (integrated planning)

51

## Infrastructure Funding

- Stormwater funding
- SRF funding
- Integrated planning

52

# Questions