Water Week 2020
Water Advocacy Update
&
How to Virtually Lobby Congress

Prep Webcast
April 22, 2020
2 – 3:30 PM EST

Special Thanks to the Sponsors!

HDR
BBK
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Marcus G. Faust

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For Generations

WATER FINANCE & MANAGEMENT.

Earth & Water Law BC
SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS AND THE PLANET
Water Week Partners:

- WEF
- Walt Marlowe, WEF Executive Director
- Steve Dye, Director of Legislative Affairs

- NACWA
- Kristina Surfus, Managing Director, Government Affairs
- Jason Isakovic, Director, Legislative Affairs
- David Zielonka, Manager, Media & Communications

- WateReuse
- Greg Fogel, Policy Director

- The Water Research Foundation
- Peter Grevatt, CEO
Call Agenda

- **Overview of the State of Things in DC**

- **Policy and Funding Requests**
  - Coronavirus Priorities for the Water Sector
  - CW SRF Reauthorization and Funding Levels
  - WIFIA
  - National Priorities Water Research Grant Program
  - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Title XVI Program
  - Other Priorities: USDA Rural Development, Workforce, PFAS, Sewer Overflow Control Grants, etc.

- **Water Week Webcast**
- **Water Week Social Media and Public Outreach**
- **Tutorial Doing a Virtual Hill Meeting**

The need for applied research on water topics is great

- There is more than $30 million needed for unfunded research and technology demonstrations annually.

- Because of your support last year, Congress increased funding from $4.1 to $5 million in FY2019.

- Examples of critical water research priorities:
  - Steps to ensure safety and sustainability of water workforce during pandemic
  - Fate, transport and effective treatment strategies for PFAS
  - Concurrent management of lead in drinking water and nutrient removal at wastewater treatment plants
  - Efficient and reliable treatment strategies for potable reuse
  - Effective management of pathogens in storm water
Federal Advocacy Update

Coronavirus Response

- $2.4 trillion in three emergency bills so far.
- Bills to date focused on stimulus to households, loans to businesses, support for medical response, and help for airlines.
- No direct assistance to water sector yet. Limited assistance to municipal government, big only so far.

Federal Advocacy Update

Current Package being Drafted:

- Seeking $1.5 to +$2B for low-income and unemployed ratepayer assistance
- Fix the provision to allow for public employers to receive sick and family leave benefits
- Support ASAE’s request for aid to nonprofit organizations harmed by coronavirus
- 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.
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.
- Please collect your state’s needs lists and send to WEF, NACWA and WateReuse 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.

Federal Advocacy Update – cont.

Status of Other Major Legislation and Issues

- FY21 Appropriations
- 2020 Water Resources Development Act
  - Clean Water SRF Reauthorization, WIFIA Reauthorization
  - Wastewater/Stormwater Resiliency Grants
  - Sewer Overflow Control Grants
  - Workforce programs
  - Alternative Water Source Grants
- PFAS Bills
- Water R&D Legislation
- USBR Title XVI-WIIN Reauthorization
GF2  I added Alternative Water Source Grants to the WRDA list, but we will have to see on Monday whether it’s in the Senate draft or not. Changed TXVI to TXVI-WIIN.
Greg Fogel, 4/16/2020

SD1  Greg - please be prepared to speak about those two items during this slide.
Steve Dye, 4/19/2020
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.

Senate WRDA Draft Bill

Key Provisions Included in Discussion Draft Released on April 21.2020:

- 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.
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)


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


**PFAS Receivers Fact Sheet:** [https://www.wef.org/pfas](https://www.wef.org/pfas)

**Additional resources:** [https://wef.org/biosolids/](https://wef.org/biosolids/)

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Legislation to Reauthorize Title XVI-WIIN Water Reuse Program

Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act, H.R. 1162 (Napolitano)

➢ Reported Out

FUTURE Drought Resiliency Act (Huffman)

➢ Discussion Draft

Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act, S. 1932 (Feinstein, Gardner, McSally, Sinema)

➢ Introduced
Title XVI-WIIN Water Reclamation and Reuse Program

- Only federal funding program dedicated to water recycling
- More than $700M in proposals on waiting list
- Ask: Urge Congress to (1) reauthorize the program, and (2) provide at least $50M in FY 2021
2020 Requests to Congress

- Reauthorize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program and double the current funding level of $1.64 billion for FY2021.
- Reauthorize and fund the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) at an annual level not below its full FY21 authorization of $1.95 billion.
- Reauthorize and provide increased funding for the Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. $55 million in FY2020.
- Reauthorize and provide increased funding for the US EPA Sewer Overflow Control Grant Program. Authorized at $225 Million. Received $28M for first time ever in FY20.
2020 Requests to Congress

- Provide $20 million for the U.S. EPA National Priorities Water Research Grant Program.
- Reauthorize the Title XVI-WIIN Water Reclamation and Reuse Competitive Grants Program at $100 million per year.
- Reauthorize and increase the authorized funding level for the Alternative Water Source Grants Program.
- Support the USDA Rural Development Water & Wastewater Loan and Grant Program by providing $1.6 billion in loans and $600 million in grants.
- Reauthorize U.S. EPA’s Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants at $75 million per year.

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY19 Omnibus</th>
<th>FY20 Final</th>
<th>Pres. FY21</th>
<th>FY21 Asks</th>
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<td>$1.1B</td>
<td>$1.6B x 2</td>
<td>Wastewater &amp; Stormwater Loans</td>
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<td>Grants for CSO, SSO, and SW Infrastructure</td>
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* = Authorized level
Slide 19

GF6  I added Alternative Water Source Grants.
     Greg Fogel, 4/18/2020

Slide 20

GF3  Need to add Title XVI-WIIN. FY19 and FY20 were $20M. PBR was $3M. FY21 ask is $50M.
     Greg Fogel, 4/16/2020
2020 Requests to Congress

➢ Reauthorize and increase funding for the Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Grants Program created in WRDA 2018.
➢ Ensure that local ratepayers and utilities do not bear the costs of remediating PFAS. Further, ensure that policies to analyze and regulate PFAS follow an evidence and risk-based assessment process as established in the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and Clean Water Act (CWA), and that EPA moves as expeditiously as possible in making its regulatory determinations.
➢ Provide $20 million for the U.S. EPA’s National Priorities Water Technical Assistance Program.

2020 Requests to Congress

➢ Help water systems prepare for climate and extreme weather challenges by reauthorizing EPA’s Drinking Water System Resilience and Sustainability Program, and expand eligibility to include all drinking water and wastewater systems nationwide.
➢ Ensure U.S. EPA updates its Affordability Guidance with a methodology that better assesses household affordability and community financial capability to more accurately reflect the true affordability of all water services.
Finding Your Member of Congress
If you don’t already have a relationship with your Members of Congress, visit:
https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members
Follow links to your Senators’ and Representative’s websites. Call their offices to ask how to request a virtual meeting with Member of Congress or staffer handling water infrastructure issues.

Water Week 2020 – Insights from Washington, DC
Complimentary Webinar
Wednesday, April 29, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET
Water Week Webcast Agenda

2:00 – 3:30 PM Eastern

- Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management
  Office of Water, US Environmental Protection Agency

- Jennifer McLain, Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
  Office of Water, US Environmental Protection Agency

- Remarks from Congress:
  - Senator John Boozman (R-AR), Member, Environment & Public Works Committee
  - Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Chairman, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
  - Rep. John Katko (R-NY), Member, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
  - Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA), Water Subcommittee Chair, House Natural Resources Committee, and Member, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

- Updates from Water Week Partner Organizations

Communications Outreach for Water Week

- Op-ed will be pitched to various Hill media outlets
  - Message will highlight critical role of drinking water, clean water utilities during COVID-19, reflect the statistics and asks featured in the Water Week 2020 one-pager
  - Will target Politico, The Hill, Roll Call and Bloomberg Environment
  - Please feel free to repurpose the op-ed and pitch to your local media as well!

- Press Release distributed on April 28
  - Will feature quotes from leadership from Fly-In partners (WEF, Research, Reuse and NACWA)
  - Will be sent to all DC and Beltway press outlets, as well as environmental and energy reporters at national outlets, as well as water trade press
Social Media Outreach for Water Week

- Official Water Week 2020 Hashtag
  - Tag everything you post during Water Week 2020 with #WaterWeek2020
  - Secondary hashtag: #InvestInWater – Please include when appropriate and if you have space

- Social Media Shareables
  - Can be found on Resources page of Water Week 2020 website
  - Infographics featuring statistics found on first page of one-pager
  - Share on your social media channels during Water Week 2020

- Template Social Media Messages
  - Can be found on Resources page of Water Week 2020 website
  - Templated messages you can use to advocate for asks that are most important to your association or utility
  - Share on your social media channels during Water Week 2020

Special Thanks to the Sponsors!

Marcus G. Faust
Questions or Additional Info:

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**WateReuse**
- Greg Fogel, GFogel@watereuse.org

**The Water Research Foundation**
- Peter Grevatt, PGrevatt@waterrf.org

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How to Set-Up Zoom and Schedule a Meeting