WEF Collaboration – Moderated Panel

Collaboration Between State Lines

Kristin Johansen, PE, CWP
Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association
Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
Chili or Chile? Red or Green?

Chugwater Chili Cook-off: Wyoming's spiciest hometown event

Why This New Mexico Chile Has an International Cult Following
Impossible to mass produce, the Chimayo chile is so precious that a counterfeit market has emerged.

FOOD FIGHT

COLORADO
PUEBLO CHILE
$1.1 Million

NEW MEXICO
HATCH CHILE
$44.6 Million
Question: How do MAs effectively bridge differences between states to work together, engage members, and achieve common missions and goals?
Differences Between State Memberships

• Geographic – Location, environmental factors
• Population/ Demographics – Where do most members live?
• Resources – Financial, expertise, volunteers, technology
• Regulatory – Each state has unique regulatory framework
• Cultural – Communication styles, views on water resources, language, traditions, etc.
• Other?
Collaboration Fundamentals

1. Identify common ground
2. Focus on the big picture and the why
3. Check assumptions at the door
4. Be committed to results, rather than specific solutions
5. Be curious
6. Ask more, assert less
7. Inclusivity is key
8. Listen
RMWEA Perspective

- Develop a mission statement
- Prioritize inclusivity
- Share resources
- Be willing to ask and listen
- Engage students & YPs
- Assign liaisons
RMWEA Lessons Learned

• Don’t force collaboration
• Decentralized engagement works
• Consider partnership opportunities
• Respect differences
• “Gumbo diplomacy”
Questions?

Contact:
Kristin Johansen, PE, CWP
kjohansen@abcwua.org
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION
Panel Discussion Time

MA Collaboration and Partnerships
HOD Nominating Committee Update

Leanne Scott
Lunch

- Change tables
- Find your assigned mentor/mentee
- Review Action Plan worksheets
WEF Panel

• Why was collaboration selected as a Core Value? – Howard Carter (WEF)

• Collaboration and Inclusion – 5S – Jeff Berlin for Nikita Lingenfelter

• Leadership Development Institute Collaboration – Craig Williams (IWEA)

• WEF SYPC – Ama Richardson (WEF)

• DE&I Network Call – Donnell Duncan (Speaker of the House)
WEF Strategic Plan

Our Mission
Inspiring the water community in pursuit of human and environmental well-being

Our Vision
Life free of water challenges

Our Three-Year Outcome Statement
Amplify the stories of water to grow, strengthen, and diversify the water community

Our Strategic Goals

Goal 1: Attract and develop a diverse and passionate water workforce
Goal 2: Cultivate a purpose-driven community to sustainably solve water challenges for all
Goal 3: Lead the transformation to the Circular Water Economy

Our Core Values

+ Lead boldly with purpose and agility
+ Focus on our customers through empathy and service
+ Collaborate for collective impact
+ Integrate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in all we do
Our Core Values

Lead boldly with purpose and agility

Collaborate for collective impact

Focus on our customers through empathy and service

Integrate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in all we do
Collaboration and Inclusion – 5S
Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers – 5S

- A professional acknowledgement of your contributions to the industry and the organization
- Something closer to fraternity hazing
Our Core Values

Lead boldly with purpose and agility

Collaborate for collective impact

Focus on our customers through empathy and service

Integrate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in all we do
Key Thoughts on 5S

• This is a ceremony to bestow an honor
• No matter how old a tradition is, we can question and reassess
• Be cognizant of how a person might feel if they are singled out
• Compare our honoring ceremonies to our core values

• Is it time to update your ceremony?
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
CULTIVATING LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE OF WATER

IWEA
INDIANA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
IWEA LDI Curriculum Overview

Module 1  Self-Leadership – understanding and leading ourselves
Module 2  Leadership – influencing others
Module 3  Teamwork – principles for leading and building teams
Module 4  Organizational Planning – clarifying the purpose of your team/organization
Module 5  Human Resources – techniques and terms related to leading people
Module 6  Internal and Interpersonal Communication – connecting techniques and tactics
Module 7  External Communication – communication to the community
Module 8  Finance and Business – foundational principles of finance for leaders
Module 9  Developing Leaders & Succession – principles for developing leaders
Module 10  Course Summary and Presentations
## IWEA LDI Curriculum Overview

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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Questions
WEF STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMUNITY (SYPC) - COLLABORATION

Ama Richardson
WEF
Sr. Manager, Association Engagement (Young Professionals)
AGENDA

National Water Policy Fly-In

WEF/AWWA YP Summit
The mission of WEF’s Students and Young Professionals Community (SYPC) is to encourage and facilitate student and young professional involvement in WEF and Member Associations through professional development and leadership opportunities. The SYPC is made up of students, young professionals, academics, and water quality professionals.
WEF/AWWA YP Summit

Mission

• Attendees learn about emerging issues in our industry and connect with a diverse group of water industry peers.

• Program challenges attendees to think critically about our industry (present and future) and to establish lasting connections with peers.

Collaboration

• Co-hosted by WEF and AWWA each year.

• WEF hosts the Summit in even years, while AWWA hosts in odd years.

• Both organizations (staff and YPs) work collaboratively to ensure a successful event.

• Established in 2005 at WEFMAX in D.C. 50 attendees participated.

• Approximately 230 attendees at the 2023 Summit in Sacramento.

Attendees

• YPs from all types of vocational backgrounds attend YP Summit:
  • utility operators
  • engineering consultants
  • vendor representatives
  • municipal employees
  • representatives from both research and permitting agencies
  • finance consultants
  • water industry professionals from administration and field work to project management and design.
National Water Policy Fly-In

Mission

• An excellent opportunity for YPs (and all WEF members) to participate in the highest levels of policy advocacy before Congress and the Administration.

• Attendees build professional connections with water professionals from across the nation also attending the National Water Policy Fly-In.

Collaboration

• Co-hosted by WEF, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the Water Research Foundation, and the WateReuse Association.

• The Fly-In is part of Water Week, during which hundreds of water professionals from across the nation will come to Washington, D.C.

• Program began in 2018.

Attendees

• WEF is the only organization that provides scholarships to its YP members to attend.

• There were 7 YP scholarship recipients in 2018.

• In 2023, 20+ YPs applied for the WEF scholarship.

• Testimonials
WEF Collaboration – DE&I Network Call

By Donnell Duncan
WEF House of Delegates
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION
Panel Discussion Time

WEF Collaboration
BREAK
Modified World Café Method

Call to Action: Brainstorm ideas to resolve identified hurdles

- Demo and split into groups – 5 minutes
- Each group gets time to provide solutions for each hurdle – 6 minutes
- Move to next topic and provide solutions – 1 minute
- Table host report outs – 2 minutes each
Next Steps – Action Plan
Day 1
Wrap - Up