



FEDERAL WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATION

An Affiliate of the Water Environment Federation

www.fwqa.org

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER.....by *Tim Schmitt*

It's been a busy year for FWQA, and we've spent a lot of time examining how to improve our core missions, including our scholarship program. We've also started evaluating our bylaws to make sure that they reflect WEF's most current guidance and how FWQA does things. So be on the lookout for future *announcements* updating everyone on these issues. We have had a very successful program this Spring. In March, we had a timely presentation on the Stimulus program by Patricia Sinicropi, Director of Legislative Affairs for NACWA. This was a very informative, particularly relevant to our industry, and well-attended. In April, Jeff Corbin, Virginia Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources, returned from the Governor's office to speak to us about progress in implementing environmental measures in the state of Virginia. Jeff had spoken to us several years ago, and we were happy to have him back. Jeff faced some tough questions from luncheon attendees, but being both a political appointee and a scientist, came through with flying colors! (see additional articles on speakers in this newsletter). We are now entering the home stretch of my presidency, and this summer I'll turn things over to FWQA's president-elect, Adam Krantz, of NACWA. It's been a great year!

FWQA 5S Chapter Installs 3 New Members.....by *Jack Kooyoomjian, Ph.D, pH 7 Influent Integrator*

In a ceremony at one of our recent luncheons three inductees were elevated to the highest ridge of the sludge bed, with all honors, rights, privileges and responsibilities pertaining to this exalted and much-coveted position. Those deserving three were Barry Benroth, Jeff Burkhart, and Tim Schmitt. The honorees received their golden shovel, a sludge memento (burnt biosolids), the history of the Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers, containing many gems of wisdom, including the secret handshake and greeting, the 5S Society universal distress signal, a document containing our chapter's history, tradition, rules and folklore, and select literature pertaining to sludge and biobricks, and a certificate signed by 5S Society members. We welcome the newest members to the chapter. May they wear their golden shovels proudly!

FWQA Launches Upgraded Website.....by *Tim Schmitt*

FWQA has launched a new website at a new address: <http://www.fwqa-dc.org>. The new site is still a work in progress, so bear with us. It replaces our old website. We plan on having much more on the history of FWQA, the history of the 5S Society, and more follow-up on our core programs, including our scholarship program and science fair judging opportunities. We plan to post recent newsletter and presentations of luncheon speakers. The website will be used as a better outreach and communication tool for members. Creative ideas are welcome.

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON - MAY 21, 2009 – NOON - NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

Call now to reserve a seat at this event in honor of our 4 scholarship winners and local area science fair winners. This is your chance to impart your knowledge on young scientists. **Call Shalina (202) 530-5722**

APRIL LUNCHEON SPEAKER COVERS VIRGINIA WATER PERSPECTIVES

...by Jack Kooymjian

Virginia Governor Kaine's *Year of the Environment & Energy* was put in perspective by our featured speaker, Jeff Corbin, Virginia Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources. Back by popular demand, Jeff highlighted the challenges and successes on water quality, the Chesapeake Bay, land conservation, fisheries, and energy and climate. On the issue of land conservation, Jeff touched on the preservation goal of Governor Kaine and concluded that Virginia will achieve the goal of preserving 400,000 acres for land conservation. He highlighted nearly a dozen tangible success stories around the state on significant lands, including historic sites and structures, battlefields, and environmentally culturally significant lands. He informed us of progress on water quality goals, a particular theme of interest to our group, specifically, wastewater upgrades with \$1 billion available in financial assistance, the use of trading, agricultural conservation practices with approximately \$20 million per year to cover five priority practices (cover crops for winter, no-till practices, nutrient management, riparian buffers, and livestock exclusion to block access of livestock to watering systems and streams), and progress on stormwater to enhance the Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. He advised us on progress and challenges with Virginia's fisheries, the oyster decline, and the recent decision to not introduce the non-native oysters into the Chesapeake Bay, and gave us a crab update, too. Jeff updated us on the current strategy of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council, chaired by the governor, to crank up restoration efforts, set a new end date with meaningful time frames, and to facilitate accountability with 2-year milestones. He touched on energy and climate goals and other areas needing more attention, such as dedicated funding and development. The presentation ended too soon for some, as there were many questions of Jeff. This was the second speaking engagement for Jeff with FWQA in several years.

MARCH LUNCHEON – Speaks to *Impacts of the Infrastructure Stimulus Package*

Our March luncheon featured Pat Sinicropi, Director of Legislative Affairs at the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) as luncheon speaker. Pat shed some much-needed light on the economic stimulus package, a very hot topic these days. Pat's expertise also includes other issues critical to the clean water community including long-term clean water infrastructure funding issues, climate change, chemical security, watershed management, and biosolids management. She served four years as legislative counsel to the Water Environment Federation prior to joining NACWA, and represented the Rural Community Assistance Partnership before that. During the Clinton Administration, Pat served as Deputy Director at the President's Council on Sustainable Communities to the USDA's Deputy Secretary. We consider ourselves very lucky to have her as a speaker for FWQA.

HAVE AN IDEA FOR A LUNCHEON SPEAKER?.....Please let us know

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