



Established 1928

Newsletter

Federal Water Quality Association

An Affiliate of the Water Environment Federation; www.fwqa-dc.org

2015-16 Theme - Sustaining Clean Water: Driving Global Innovation

Anastasio Kicks Off Luncheon Series on Sustaining Clean Water

by K. Jack Kooyoomjian, Ph.D.



On November 18, 2015 at the Elephant & Castle Restaurant, the Federal Water Quality Association (FWQA) hosted Ms. Julia Anastasio, Executive Director of the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA). Ms. Anastasio provided some background on ACWA and discussed innovative practices being used by the states to enhance and sustain water quality.

Joining ACWA in May, 2014 as the new Executive Director and General Counsel, Julia has over 15 years of experience in government law and policy. Earlier in her career, she worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as an Executive Policy Specialist. She then returned to Washington, DC to work for the American Public Works Association (APWA). While at APWA, she focused on environmental sustainability and infrastructure development at the local, state and federal levels and had extensive experience with federal advocacy and administrative law before Congress and the Executive branch agencies. Ms. Anastasio earned her B.A. from Franklin Marshall College, her Masters in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School, and her J.D. from American University.

Julia Anastasio engages audience for FWQA’s first luncheon speaker concerning 2015-16 Theme - Sustaining Clean Water: Driving Global innovation.

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Ms. Anastasio explained that ACWA was founded in 1961, and originally known as the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators as a national, nonpartisan professional organization. Association members are the state, interstate and territorial officials who are responsible for the implementation of surface water protection programs throughout the nation. As the national voice of state and interstate water programs, ACWA strives to

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Science Fairs	Janet Goodwin
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President's Corner

I hope each of you and your families had a safe and happy holiday season. We are in the process of developing our agenda of events for this year. Hopefully you can join us at some of those and listen to excellent speakers and network with your peers. The association tries to identify speakers that can provide insight to the ever evolving challenges we all face in protecting water quality. The success of the Federal Water Quality Association (FWQA) is dependent on the participation and input of our members. We are a volunteer organization and want to develop an agenda of events that is driven by you. To this end it would be appreciated if you could provide feedback to the association on the types of events you want to see scheduled and would attend. You can reach out to me or any other Board member and provide your input. Any and all suggestions concerning the association are welcome.

Another issue we need to address is increasing the participation of our young professionals. This is a challenge across the entire Water Environment Federation and an issue for FWQA as well. Our association's agenda needs to reflect their needs and interest and that requires their membership and participation. If you believe in the mission and future of the association I ask each of you to reach out to a young professional in your organization and bring them to an upcoming event. Hopefully they will elect to join the association, become involved and provide input for future activities. I look forward to seeing you and hopefully some of those young professionals at an upcoming FWQA event.

Greg Mallon

Stay Tuned for Future FWQA Events in 2016!

Luncheon Series - Sustaining Clean Water:
Driving Global Innovation -

February 25 (See announcement Page 3)
April TBD

Blue Plains Plant Tour - Tentative for April
Seminar on World Water Projects - TBD
Awards Luncheon - Tentative for May 19
Embassy Events - TBD

Luncheon Series: February 25th Features Steve Saari

The next luncheon series discussion on "Sustaining Clean Water: Driving Global Innovation" features Steve Saari and will be held on Thursday, February 25th at 11:30 am at the Elephant and Castle.

Steve is the Interim Chief, of the Watershed Protection Division, Planning and Restoration Branch, District of Columbia Department of the Environment (DDOE). Mr. Saari has overseen a wide range of projects at DDOE. These include incentivizing homeowners to upgrade landscaping for improved drainage; stream restoration within the Rock Creek watershed; drafting an urban tree canopy plan for the District; writing DDOE's Watershed Implementation Plan for Rock Creek; and co-authoring the District's plan to restore its portion of the Anacostia River. His work has included installation of low impact development techniques that use stream restoration methods to slow storm water velocities, infiltrate storm water, recharge groundwater, and treat pollutants through chemical and biological processes. Steve has an M.S. in ecology from Pennsylvania State University and has worked in the watershed restoration field for 17 years.

The luncheon will be at Elephant and Castle (1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC). The cost is \$35 (with reservation) and \$40 (walk-in). To make reservations, email [Jim Wheeler](mailto:Jim.Wheeler@fwqa.org) or call Tim Schmitt (202-833-9140) by Friday, February 20th. Only a limited number of walk-ins can be accommodated.

Please join us as Steve discusses some of DC's innovative storm water and watershed restoration approaches.



Attendees eating and listening to featured November luncheon speaker, Julia Anastasio at the Elephant and Castle, Washington DC.

2015-16 Election Results

By Jim Wheeler

The FWQA is pleased to announce the official results of the 2015 Executive Board elections. All candidates were unanimously elected. Here is the new Executive Board that was effective July 1, 2015:

President	Greg Mallon
President Elect	Tim Connor
Vice president	Joe Ford
Secretary	Sharon Nye
Treasurer	Jim Wheeler
WEF Director	Tim Schmitt
Past President	Charles Glass

Four additional at large members were appointed by the incoming president to make up the full FWQA Executive Board:

Janet Goodwin
Mary B. Klein
John Kosco
K. Jack Kooyoomjian

WANTED: Volunteer Judges for Spring Science Fairs

FWQA supports budding scientists and engineers by judging at Regional Science Fairs in the DC metropolitan area each year. We are always looking for volunteers to help judge. Judging typically involves taking 4 hours of your time on a Saturday to attend the Science Fair and judge the projects. FWQA provides awards and recognition of Science Fair participants and it is a great way to encourage young people to stay interested in science and engineering pursuits. Science Fairs take place in March and for most of the fairs you would be paired with experienced judges. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Janet Goodwin at janetkaygoodwin@gmail.com to select which jurisdictions are most convenient for you. We judge counties surrounding the District as well as D.C. itself.

Kick Off Luncheon (continued from page 1)

protect and restore watersheds to achieve “clean water everywhere for everyone.” The Association strives to maintain a vibrant national organization that is the national voice for State clean water program concerns, interests, and priorities, and facilitates technical and policy innovation among national and State water programs promoting best practices.

Julia noted that states are working with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to develop their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). These approaches employ state-of-the-art cost-effective technology and techniques for addressing point and non-point sources, on-site systems, and storm water management best practices. She also provided an update on how the states have implemented the Chesapeake Bay initiative under Executive Order 13508.

In elaborating on the initiative and the “Waters of the U.S.” rule, Ms. Anastasio advised the FWQA participants that the ACWA members are actually cautiously waiting for the litigation to settle before they move forward with implementation plans and policy in this area. She touched on ephemeral streams being a part of the new policy shift and how states can play a helpful role between the U.S. EPA and the regulated community. She touched upon the EPA blueprint and the requirements for the stormwater testing and evaluation program to verify flows. She thought that the ideal role of the states would be to bring a national testing program to the regulated community.

She observed that the United States Department of Agriculture and U.S. EPA nutrient recycling and recovery pilot programs for animal wastes needs to eventually be scaled up to the bigger farms. There is the continuing challenge and opportunity to be innovative regarding source water protection strategies. For instance, a source water protection program and clearinghouse for non-304A Clean Water Act (CWA) pollutants would be especially helpful. The toxics inventory has identified CWA pollutants, and the clearinghouse would have permit holders putting data into a web-driven clearinghouse. This is being developed in the coming months.

ACWA is also active in the water quality trading national network. A toolkit is being developed for baseline analysis focused on water quality trading. It will take perhaps from 5 to 10 states to test this out. She gave examples of activities where, for instance, Arkansas has the need to develop a testing program. There are existing programs in Pennsylvania and in Washington, DC. Market approaches and trading concepts need to be developed in a collaborative manner.

Ms. Anastasio touched on the U.S. EPA’s E-reporting rule which is technology-focused. She acknowledged that there is definitely the need to modernize the existing state systems. In some states, this will be very difficult to accomplish, primarily because of the lack of funding resources. E-Reporting is a part of the U.S. EPA’s next generation compliance initiatives, and this effort will ultimately provide for increasing transparency and provide better access to compliance data. There is also the US EPA’s continuous monitoring initiative, and this program balances time to analyze data and collect and report findings. The ACWA members have to think about these in more detail as they engage to implement this technology. The state of Ohio is making good use of real-time technology in their programs, and currently have all their permits in a nested real-time database. They can find out quickly where things have gone awry, for instance, and can quickly note malfunctions, such as the scrubber not working in the air program.

A lively question and answer session followed. Questions dealt with the State Revolving Fund (SRF) appropriation; the CWA 404 Permit Program and whether it could be taken over by the states; nutrients and reuse in the western states conversations, such as in Texas; what are the most innovative states; cyber security issues; goal setting; and Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) progress in reducing pollutant loads. While much more could be discussed on the states and other initiatives, the participants thanked her for her insights.



The 2015 Legislative Year in Review: Last year brought victories for WEF and water agencies *By Steve Dye, WEF Government Affairs*

The final months of 2015 were busy for the Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) government affairs efforts in Congress. Several major funding priorities for WEF and water were accomplished, and several significant policy goals were enacted into law.



Final FY16 Omnibus Appropriations Bill Restores Funding

In mid-December, the U.S. Congress reached a final agreement for the fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget for the federal government, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016. The bill provides \$1.067 trillion in base funding, which includes \$73.7 billion for overseas contingency operations, \$7.1 billion in disaster aid, \$1.5 billion for program integrity, and \$700 million in emergency funding. Read the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 at <https://rules.house.gov/bill/114/hr-2029-sa>.

Funding to all federal agencies is included in the bill, and it retains or increases the funding amounts for the agencies from FY 2015. The bill holds the U.S. Environmental Protection (EPA) at the FY 2015 enacted level of \$8.139 billion. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund is funded at \$1.394 billion and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund is funded at \$863 million, restoring severe cuts proposed in 2015 in the draft House and Senate committee bills. The bill did not include funding for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans and loan guarantees, but it did include language directing EPA to continue to use administrative monies to establish the program.

The bill was free of many of the policy riders that had been hotly debated in Congress, including any restrictions on EPA in proceeding with the implementation of the Clean Water Rule and the Clean Power Rule.

In 2016, WEF will be advocating before Congress and the Administration for full funding for the SRF programs, as well as funding for the WIFIA program to provide low interest loans for infrastructure projects.

Rider That Banned CSO and Wet Weather Bypassing Excluded

Also, in the FY16 Omnibus bill, a major effort to strip an unfunded mandate was successful. The Senate version of the appropriations bill that funds EPA included a rider that would have forbidden wet weather bypassing and combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in the Great Lakes watershed. The compromise language in the final bill will require some additional reporting for CSO events only, but it makes no changes to the Clean Water Act requirements or additional fines.

The Senate's FY16 appropriations bill contained a policy rider ([Sec. 428 of S. 1645](#)) requiring all combined
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2015 Legislative Year in Review (continued from page 5)

sewer overflows (CSO) in the Great Lakes watershed to be eliminated, including overflows discharged in compliance with a CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) or consent decrees. The rider would have also required water resource recovery facilities (WRRFs) to eliminate discharges of blended effluent that otherwise meet standards established in a WRRF's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit during peak wet weather events.

A recently completed survey of Great Lakes WRRFs estimated the cost-of-compliance to the policy rider exceeded \$72 billion in the region. A coalition of cities, counties, and associations is aggressively lobbying Congress in opposition to this policy rider because it has the potential to be extremely costly, requiring massive infrastructure expansion, ratepayer increases, and reopening of consent decrees and/or LTCPs. More than 45 letters were sent to Congress from public agencies and organizations opposed to the policy rider, including WEF; the Water Environment Associations of Indiana, Michigan, New England, New York, and Ohio; and WEF members at agencies throughout the Great Lakes region.

Save the Date: WaterWeek 2016

WEF invites everyone to attend the National Water Policy Forum, Fly-In, and Expo on April 11-13, in Washington, D.C. Save the date and plan on joining your colleagues from around the nation to participate in the 2 1/2 day meeting, which will feature congressional speakers, policy briefings, visits to Capitol Hill, and roundtable dialogues with key policymakers and experts on important regulatory and policy matters. The Forum, Fly-In, and Expo are hosted by WEF, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF), and the WaterReuse Association. It will take place during WaterWeek 2016 (April 10-15). Registration and more details about the event will be coming shortly. The WEF Government Affairs Committee will also hold a full committee meeting on the morning of April 11 for committee members. We hope to see you there!

Since 2011 Steve Dye has served as Legislative Director for the Water Environment Federation (WEF). In his government relations role Steve represents the Federation before Congress, monitors key legislation and federal policies, develops and executes legislative strategies and proposals, and maintains WEF's excellent reputations before public and private interests in the water sector. He also leads WEF's Water Advocates Program, a grassroots program designed to mobilize and train WEF members to advocate before federal, state, and local officials.

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National Capital Environmental Scholarship Fund

The Federal Water Quality Association (FWQA) is a member association of the Water Environment Federation (WEF). WEF is a world leader in water quality and environmental stewardship.

The WEF established the National Capital Environmental Scholarship Fund in 1991. The scholarship fund provides funding to local graduating high school seniors in the Washington, DC metropolitan area that will be attending colleges or universities with an environmental, water resources, or other related curriculum.

The merit scholarships are awarded based on the applicant's academic achievements and essay demonstration, the applicant's commitment to environmental stewardship at school, at home, and in the community.

Since the inception of the scholarship program, the fund has awarded over 80 scholarships, totaling more than \$75,000.

The goal of the scholarship program is to support and encourage students to pursue careers in the water industry, and to become young professionals with the knowledge to tackle the future global challenges of protecting public health and the environment.

We need your help to make this happen. The scholarship fund runs solely on donations from corporations, members, and individuals. You can make a pledge by filling out the information on the following page and mailing it to the FWQA.

The FWQA is a technical/educational professional organization and is designated by the IRS as a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible and you will receive an invoice and an IRS W9 form for your records.

If you need more information about the FWQA scholarship fund: please contact Jim Wheeler, FWQA Treasurer, at viriniawheels@aol.com.

To make your pledge to the National Capital Environmental Scholarship Fund - Please provide the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Pledge level (check appropriate box):

Sponsor - \$2,000*

Platinum Level - \$1,500

Gold level - \$1,000

Silver Level - \$500

Bronze Level - \$100

Other (please specify) _____

All donors will be listed on the FWQA web site, included in all FWQA newsletters, and recognized at the scholarship awards luncheon. *Sponsors will also be invited to participate in the scholarship selection process and will be invited to attend the scholarship awards luncheon to present the scholarship to the selected recipient.

National Capital Environmental Scholarship Fund

Federal Water Quality Association

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