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SUCCESSFUL MARCH EVENT WITH VIRGINIA ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By K. Jack Kooyoomjian, Ph.D., Chair, FWQA Government Affairs Committee, and Sharon Nye, Chair, FWQA Scholarship Committee



Left to Right: Kevin DeBell, President Elect; guest; Jeff Burkhart, Vice President; Dr. Mary Belefski, President; Speaker, Jeff Corbin, Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources, State of Virginia; Dr. Jack Kooyoomjian, FWQA Board.

On March 30, 2006 at the Pier 7 Restaurant along the shores of the scenic Washington Channel in Washington, DC, a large crowd composed of FWQA members and guests got to hear a first-hand account of the goals and objectives for improving Virginia's waters, preserving open space and improving fisheries management over the coming 4 years. **Mr. Jeff Corbin, the newly appointed Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources for the State of Virginia**, spoke on the topic **"The Next 4 Years: A Focused Approach to Improving the Health of Virginia's Waters."** Assistant Secretary Corbin was appointed by Governor Kaine in January of 2006. Prior to this appointment, for 10 years he was the Virginia Deputy Director and Senior Scientist for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), where he worked on a broad array of pollution issues, ranging from water quality impacts from sewage treatment plants and industrial discharges to impacts from agricultural and livestock activities. While only in the office since January, he gave an assessment of the challenges ahead, pointing toward the 2010 deadlines embodied in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

In This Issue:

Successful March Event With Virginia Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources <i>by K. Jack Kooyoomjian and Sharon Nye</i>	1
President's Corner <i>by Mary Belefski</i>	2
5-S Leadership Change <i>by Edward H. Bryan</i>	3
Calendar of Events	4
Annual Awards Luncheon	4
Opportunity to Buy FWQA Shirts!	4
Directors Report <i>by Jim Wheeler</i>	5

Continued on Page 3

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Newsletter Editors

Melissa DeSantis:
melissa.desantis@tetrattech-ffx.com

Helen Siverling:
helen.siverling@tetrattech-ffx.com

President's Corner

by Mary Belefski

Partnerships Plus! This Spring, our theme for the year "Partnerships – Tackling Critical Water Issues" has fully blossomed! Thanks to the coordinated efforts of members Jeff Burkhart and Jack Kooyoomjian, we had top-notch luncheon discussions in February and March on WEF's "Water for Life" and on Virginia's Governor Kaine's plans for water quality (see articles in this issue). On April 27, member (and president-elect) Kevin DeBell has arranged for an exciting discussion on "EPA's Blending Policy: A Product of Partnership." This luncheon will feature speakers from the Natural Resources Defense Council and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, so make your reservations now to catch what should be a lively discussion. To top off our luncheon series and fiscal year, our final luncheon will be to acknowledge our scholarship and science fair winners on May 25 at the National Press Club. The luncheon also provides us with the opportunity to thank our wonderful scholarship golf tournament sponsors who help make the awards possible. By far this is the most exciting event of the year for me, when we recognize the great accomplishments of our future water resource professionals.

I'm hoping many of our members will take the time to come and meet and greet our award winners (see article for details).

As this newsletter goes to press, member Jan Goodwin has rallied members to wrap up judging at local science fairs and member Sharon Nye is just starting the process of reviewing scholarship nominations. As you can see, our FWQA group has a lot of contributors, but can always welcome more! I am hoping many of our members, especially new members, will become more active in helping to plan and conduct our activities. Now is the time to also come forward if you would like to nominate someone (or even yourself!) for next year's Board. Contact me or anyone on the Board if you are interested in nominations, have any ideas, or if you're interested in helping with any FWQA events or activities.

Finally, to celebrate the year's accomplishments, we will be having our second annual picnic. This year, member Walt Brodtman has agreed to host the event set for June 10 in the Virginia Northern Neck area. Hold the date and stay tuned for details. We also are continuing our effort to promote our Association and to raise dollars for our scholarship fund, we continue to offer logo shirts for sale. They make great presents while at the same time help our fundraising efforts. See the order blank in this issue.

Continued from Successful March Event, page 1

He focused on the FWQA's current theme of **"Partnerships - Tackling Critical Water Issues,"** touching on the fact that the Chesapeake Bay agreements have been in place for 20 years, that there has been a focus in the past on voluntary efforts, that there clearly has to be ongoing working partnerships between the states, and that the report pertaining to impaired waters identifies many challenges. His philosophy is that environmental protection is a core function of government. He touched on the "old way" of doing business with several agreements focusing on voluntary efforts and cooperative partnerships, whereas the "new way" of doing business will likely focus more explicitly on how to deal with impaired waters in the Bay and rivers, implementing the various legal mandates, the State cleanup standards, and perhaps more regulations as we deal with a questioning citizenry.

Assistant Secretary Corbin noted that 1/3 of the Virginia waters fall outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. He outlined the funding needs, the need to a dedicated funding source, and identified challenges ahead such as to address small plants that expand, non-point sources, as well as plans for implementing nutrient trading in Virginia and how it is likely to work. With respect to nutrient-trading, he noted that the easy part is the trading and the difficult part is establishing the proper off-sets. He acknowledged that 92% of agricultural land in Virginia needs

some reduction of nutrients. He also stressed that there is a need to focus on building new partnerships, and begin aggressively to implement a handful of practices that give the biggest return for the dollars spent.

Assistant Secretary Corbin stressed that now is a time for Virginia to get focused and be accountable. He noted, for instance that Virginia does not monitor 80% of the impaired waters, and that there should be measurable and attainable objectives and clean-up strategies. He provided details in Virginia's plan on polluted stream miles to be removed, pounds of pollution to be reduced, how monitoring should be working, and how people can get involved and be vocal. He volunteered to come back in four years to tell everyone what took place. A lively question and answer session followed. The FWQA attendees and guests thought it might also be a good idea to get a "Mid-Term Assessment" in 2 years, as well as a reflective "Re-cap and Summary Assessment"

at the end of four years, and Assistant Secretary Corbin appeared to be very amenable to return to the FWQA to report on the State's progress with Virginia's waters.



Mr. Jeff Corbin, the newly appointed Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources for the State of Virginia, speaking on the topic of "The Next 4 Years: A Focused Approach to Improving the Health of Virginia's Waters."

5-S Leadership Change

by Edward H. Bryan, Influent Integrator Emeritus

Dr. Jack Kooyoomjian assumed leadership of the FWQA Chapter of the Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers (5-S) as its Influent Integrator on February 23, 2006 at the FWQA luncheon. He was presented the hard hat labeled pH7 by Edward H. Bryan who had served as the Chapter's

Influent Integrator since its being chartered on November 15, 1986. The hard hat labeled pH 7 has been traditionally worn by the Influent Integrator during induction ceremonies of new 5-S members exhibiting neutrality on all issues considered by the members.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 27: Luncheon -
"EPA's Blending Policy:
A Product of Partnership"

May 25: Luncheon –
Scholarship and Science
Fair Winners (see
announcement below)

June 10: Second Annual
Picnic! Hosted by
Walt Brodtman in the
Virginia Northern Neck



Show your Colors at the FWQA June Picnic!

Get your very own FWQA shirt. The shirts are light gray-blue polo-style shirts with the FWQA logo on the front as modeled by the FWQA Shirt gang above

Shirt sizes are M, L, and XL, and a limited number of S and XXL (please check for availability). Indicate size when you place your order.

Shirts are \$27 each –
with a portion going to the Scholarship Fund!

To order, send a check to
FWQA, P.O. Box 14303, Washington, DC 20044-4303
made payable to FWQA. Please include a phone number or e-mail address so that we can arrange for delivery of the item, either by mail or at one of our upcoming events.



*The February Luncheon
featured topic on
Partnerships:
"Water is Life"*

For more info go to:
www.wef.org

**ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON
TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SCHOLARSHIP AND SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS!**

**THURSDAY, MAY 25TH 2006
AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB**

**THE GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE CONGRESSMAN SHERWOOD HOEHLERT (R-NY),
CHAIR OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE.**

For reservations, contact Edward Gerety at 202-833-2672 or
by e-mail at egerety@nacwa.org no later than Monday, May 22nd, 2006.
Cost for the luncheon is \$35.00.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Jim Wheeler

It was my privilege to represent the FWQA at this year's WEF meetings in Washington, DC, on October 29 and November 2, 2005. The Board took action on several important issues. For more information on any of the issues, contact Jim Wheeler at (202) 564-0662 or at wheeler.james@epa.gov.

1. HOUSE OF DELEGATES

(formerly the Board of Directors): Under approved changes to the WEF By Laws, the Executive Board now the "Board of Trustees" has responsibility for day to day operations, budget execution, and control of all fiduciary matters, while the House of Delegates still has approval of overall planning. This change has no impact on the By Laws of the FWQA or the other member associations.

2. OPERATING BUDGET

APPROVED: The House of Delegates approved a proposed Year 2006 Operation Budget including projected operating income of \$17,804,799 (up \$392,58 from last year's revised budget, plus additional income from grants of \$404,850 from last year), for a total income of \$19,710,699 (down \$12,261 from last year's revised budget). The proposed budget includes operating expenses of \$17,063,872 plus grant related expense of \$1,649,100 for a total of \$18,712,972 in expenses. This leaves a total income of \$997,727 (up slightly from \$112,207 projected for last year). However, in accordance with WEF Bylaws 1% of the total income (excluding grants with WEF cost sharing) is

committed to the reserve fund. For this year the transfer to the reserve is \$178,000, leaving a net income of \$819,727. The increase in total operating income from 2005 to 2006 is approximately 4.5%. This slight increase in income is driven by higher membership fees, higher WEFTEC attendance, increase in WEFTEC fees, and an increase in publication sales.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS ON STRENGTH OF THE ORGANIZATION: Mr. Bill Bertera, Executive Director of the WEF, reported that the health of the Federation is excellent. WEF has about 2,500 active volunteers and 102 (down from last year) staff working in some 20 program areas. Current membership is up slightly at about 39,000, down from a high of more than 42,000 in 1997-1998. Revenue from the decline in membership will be offset by the dues increase passed by the House of Delegates last year and effective January 2006. The revenue from sale of printed technical publications is down, but sales of CDs and electronic publications in on a record pace and expected to top \$1 million in 2005, and income from registration and exhibit space at WEFTECH '04 reached \$10 million. The final attendance for WEFTEC '05 was 18,139 with 1011 exhibitors (record 990 exhibitors and 18,980 for Chicago 2002). The higher than expected attendance was led by a significant increase in international visitors.

4. HOUSE APPROVES BOARD OF TRUSTEES: The House of Delegates approved the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for new officers and

management committee members. The WEF Officers for next year include: President, J. Michael Reed; President Elect, Mohamed Dahab; Vice President, Adam Zabinski; Treasurer, Mike Godfery; and Immediate Past President, Lynn Orphan.

5. WEF EXPANDS

PARTNERSHIPS: WEF will continue support for the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP). The prize is awarded annually for outstanding research by a high school student at the international competition in Stockholm, Sweden. The SJWP is co-sponsored by The WEF, ITT Industries International, The Coca Cola Company, and the Swedish Government. FWQA extends their hearty and sincere congratulations to their own sponsored student, Genevieve Allen, for her project entitled "Pesticides & Ghost Shrimp: A Lethal Combination." Kathryn Vanderwheel, Portland, Oregon was selected to represent the U.S. at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. Her paper was entitled "Removal of Arsenic from Drinking Water by Water Hyacinths." Her research was selected from a pool of over 40 state SJWP winners at the national competition in Denver, Colorado, June 10-12. The international winners were Pontso Moletsane, Motobele Motshodi, and Sechaba Ramabenyane of South Africa. Their paper and invention was a Nocturnal Hydro Minimizer. The device allows irrigation only when evaporation losses are low.

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**National Association of
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1816 Jefferson Place
Washington, DC 20036
(202)833-4651

George W. Schlossnagle, PhD., P.E.

Environmental Engineering
29 Riverside Drive, Suite 401
Cocoa, FL 32922-8212
gschlossnagle@ohcnet.com
Office: 321-637-1049
Cell: 321-960-0134

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Federal Water Quality Association

P.O. Box 14303
Washington, DC 20044-4303