

NACWA has released its 2012 Service Charge Index with data confirming that, for the 11th straight year, the increase in the average cost of wastewater services for a single-family residence has outpaced the rate of inflation.

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Former Navy SEAL, Best-Selling Author to Keynote Cincinnati Summer Conference

A keynote address by former Navy SEAL, founder of *The Mission Continues*, and award-winning and best-selling author, [Eric Greitens](#), will kick-off the Association's 2013 Summer Conference & 43rd Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, July 14-17. Building on discussions during NACWA's successful 2013 Winter Conference, public clean water agency leaders from across the country will gather in Cincinnati this July to discuss *Managing & Financing the Resilient Clean Water Utility*, this year's conference theme.

Greiten's keynote address, *Inspired Leadership through Challenging Times*, will draw on his work as a humanitarian, naval officer, and head of a nonprofit organization that seeks to empower wounded veterans to serve and lead in communities across America. Before 9/11, Greitens worked across the globe to help improve the lives of war-affected children, a subject that became the basis for his doctoral thesis and an award-winning book of photographs and essays. But after the

attacks of September 11, 2001, Greitens chose to serve his country in a different way, joining the Navy and working his way into the elite ranks of the U.S. Special Forces. As a Navy SEAL officer who deployed four times, including to Iraq and Afghanistan, Greitens faced unimaginable leadership challenges. Greitens is now leveraging his experience as a combat veteran to help wounded soldiers returning to the U.S. continue to serve their country. For his work, Eric has received the Presidents Volunteer Service Award and has been honored by Major League Baseball, PEOPLE magazine, Outside Magazine, the National Conference on Citizenship, and was recently named to the 2013 TIME 100, the magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Navy SEALs refer to their training exercises as evolutions, and Greitens is a strong believer that leadership, especially in challenging times, demands continuous improvement and a willingness to evolve through learning and experience. Greitens'

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NACWA Releases Water Resources Utility of the Future... A Call for Federal Action

NACWA released the *Water Resources Utility of the Future... A Call for Federal Action* at its National Environmental Policy Forum in April in Washington, DC. Drawing upon *The Water Resources Utility of the Future... A Blueprint for Action*, developed collaboratively with the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF), this new NACWA publication focuses on ten priority actions that the nation can take to realize a shared vision for the Water Resources Utility of the Future (UOTF).



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Service Charge Index Released, Increases Again Outpace Inflation

NACWA's 2012 *Service Charge Index* is now available. For the eleventh straight year the increase in the average cost of wastewater services for a single-family residence has outpaced the rate of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The 2011-2012 increase is, however, the lowest in more than 10 years, during which average residential charges increased an average of 5.6 percent per year. In 2012, the average service charge increased by 2.8 percent, while inflation rose by 2.1 percent, with the average single family's annual cost for wastewater services topping \$410.

Charges Projected to Reach \$500 in 2016

More than 75 percent of respondents reported having approved or planned rate increases for 2013, averaging about 5 percent. More than half of respondents already have approved or planned rate increases for 2014 through 2016, indicating that many communities are increasingly putting in place long-term spending plans. The

results from the NACWA *Index* survey continue to indicate a steady rise in the average service charge over the next five years, with annual charges topping \$500 by 2016, and approaching \$550 by 2017.

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Regional Data Provide More Complete Picture

Regional level data, which better account for the cost of living and other variables, often provide more accurate benchmarks for utility managers. The minimum and maximum values from each of the ten U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regions provide the range of values

that make up the national average annual service charge of \$410, with median annual charges ranging from a low of \$226 in EPA Region 8 – to a high of \$429 in EPA Region 3.

NACWA has published the *Service Charge Index* annually since 1986. 📊

NACWA Hosts Integrated Planning Workshops, Promotes Pilot Program

With NACWA remains focused on assisting clean water utilities in the implementation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Integrated Planning Framework, while ensuring that they have the information and support they need to tap into the Agency's promise of greater flexibility. As a central component of its ongoing efforts, the Association is hosting, together with the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF), a series of workshops to facilitate implementation of the Framework. NACWA is also urging Congress to support integrated planning by providing funding to support community pilots in the fiscal year (FY) 2014 EPA budget.

Successful IP Workshops Held in Regions 10 and 5

NACWA, ACWA and WEF continued a busy spring season by hosting workshops in Regions 10 and 5. On April 3 more than 80 stakeholders, including NACWA members, EPA staff, and state regulators, met for a Region 10 Workshop in Portland, Ore. – held in collaboration with the Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies. Four weeks later, on May 1, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan utilities voiced experiences with integrated planning and participated in spirited discussions with state regulators and EPA staff at a Region 5 workshop in Indianapolis, Ind. Both workshops focused largely on how some of the most challenging aspects of integrated planning – dealing with more stringent water quality standards and handling sanitary sewer overflows, for example – could be

addressed in the permitting context. Participants' concerns with affordability were also addressed, with EPA staff noting that Clean Air Act (CAA) and other Clean Water Act (CWA) stressors could be con-

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New Financial Capability White Paper Slated for Release

NACWA is poised to release a new white paper that explores the opportunities for more rational financial capability assessment. The Association has long advocated for wholesale revision of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 1997 guidance on financial capability to incorporate a more holistic, prioritization-based approach that looks at a range of indicators to assess the economic and environmental soundness of a particular investment. With the release of its Integrated Planning Framework in June 2012, EPA embraced this type of prioritization for Clean Water Act programs; however, the Framework continues to rely on its outdated 1997 guidance to assess the financial capability of communities to make CWA investments. NACWA's new white paper outlines how adopting a revenue forecasting approach will better enable the type of prioritization envisioned by the Integrated Planning Framework. *The Evolving Landscape for Financial Capability Assessment — Clean Water Act Negotiations and the Opportunities of Integrated Planning* was released at the end of May.

Legal Advocacy Active on Key Issues

NACWA has been busy in the courtroom in recent weeks, advancing the Association's advocacy agenda on a number of crucial legal issues. Additional information on the cases featured here, as well as on all of NACWA's legal activities, can be found in the [Legal Resources](#) section of the Association's website.

Oral Arguments Held in SSI Legal Challenge

Oral arguments were held May 3 before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in NACWA's legal challenge to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) sewage sludge incineration (SSI) rule. As lead petitioner in the case, the Association took on an aggressive role during the arguments, challenging both the legal and technical basis for EPA's recent SSI regulations. NACWA argued that a clear reading of the relevant statutory authority demonstrates congressional intent for SSI units to be regulated under a more flexible regulatory regime than was done by EPA in the final rule. The Association also challenged the technical underpinning of the rule, arguing that the Agency used insufficient data to develop the rule's emissions limits.

NACWA has been actively challenging the SSI rule since early 2011. The recent oral arguments mark the culmination of one of the most aggressive legal advocacy efforts in the Association's history. The utility members of the Association's SSI Advocacy Coalition played

an instrumental role in supporting NACWA's advocacy efforts on this critical issue. A ruling in the case is anticipated within the next few months.

Brief Filed in Mississippi River Nutrients Litigation

NACWA submitted a brief May 10 in litigation over nutrient regulation for the Mississippi River Basin (MRB), supporting EPA's decision to deny an activist petition requesting federal numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) for the entire MRB. The court filing, submitted jointly with other intervenor groups in the litigation, defends EPA's denial of the NNC petition and argues the plaintiffs have failed to demonstrate that federal NNC are necessary for the MRB. Additionally, the brief contends that EPA's petition denial was both procedurally and statutorily valid.

The filing is consistent with previous [positions](#) taken by NACWA and others in the case, encouraging the court to uphold EPA's original denial of the federal NNC petition and dismiss the legal challenge. NACWA had filed additional briefs in the case, including a [stand-alone filing](#) outlining the specific perspective of the municipal wastewater community. The Association is participating in the case to ensure the interests of its members are aggressively represented.

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Advocacy Leadership on Farm Bill Continues

NACWA, along with the [Healthy Waters Coalition](#) (HWC), has resumed its work on Farm Bill reauthorization, advocating for stronger tools to help agricultural producers more effectively manage nutrients to avoid adverse water quality impacts. With the current Farm Bill set to expire on September 30, both the House and the Senate have reaffirmed their commitment to pass a new, 5-year Farm Bill this year.

On May 14, the Senate Agriculture Committee approved S.10, [The Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2013](#), readying the bill for full Senate consideration. S.10 retained HWC-advocated language in the bill's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), which would ensure that nutrient management activities receive priority conservation funding. More importantly, the language allows farmers in partnership agreements to receive five-year contracts and special payments for nutrient management-related activities.



HEALTHY WATERS
COALITION

At the Committee markup, Senator John Boozman (R-AR) and Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) offered an additional amendment to the Farm Bill which proposes two modifications to the RCPP. The first would clarify that municipal water and wastewater entities are eligible partners under the RCPP. The second would put partnerships that execute innovative water quality and water quantity improvement measures on equal footing with a host of other conservation partnerships. The amendment was adopted by the full Committee. These amendments, in addition to the original nutrient language retained in the bill, represent a significant step forward toward more effective nutrient management practices on the farm.

The House Committee on Agriculture reported its Farm Bill package on May 15. While the House bill does not contain the nutrient management-related provisions in the Senate bill, NACWA and the HWC will work to ensure the language in S.10 is ultimately passed into law.

Legal Advocacy

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NACWA Active in Trading Case

NACWA filed an [answer](#) on April 22 in federal litigation over water quality trading programs in the Chesapeake Bay, advancing the Association's efforts to defend trading in a lawsuit with potential national implications. The Association had previously [requested](#), and was granted, intervention in the case to help EPA defend trading as an important tool to achieve water quality improvements through the use of effective, verifiable market-based systems. NACWA's participation in this lawsuit will also push back against the plaintiffs' misguided attack on trading programs, and ensure the perspective of the municipal clean water community is aggressively represented.

The Association also met with EPA in early May to discuss the litigation, as well as the need for a larger coordinated effort to defend water quality trading programs nationwide from potential future litigation. NACWA believes EPA is strongly committed to trading as an important element of water quality improvement, and looks forward to continued work with the Agency to ensure trading programs remain a viable option for interested clean water utilities. 📌



NACWA Pretreatment Workshop a Resounding Success

Over 160 pretreatment professionals convened May 15 - 17 in Portland, Ore. at NACWA's 2013 *National Pretreatment & Pollution Prevention Workshop*. The Workshop, the only one specifically designed for clean water utility pretreatment professionals, featured sessions with key EPA enforcement and regulatory staff, and discussions on emerging trends in pretreatment programs across the country.

The meeting also provided plenty of time for attendees to exchange ideas during two round table sessions (pictured left). All the handouts and presentations from the *Pretreatment Workshop* are available on the Association's [website](#), and NACWA thanks all the participants for making this year's Workshop a success. 📌

Integrated Planning

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sidered when determining prioritization and sequencing of projects within an integrated plan. The Association will continue to work with ACWA, WEF and its Member Agencies to plan workshops in additional regions throughout 2013.

Key House, Senate Members Support Integrated Planning Pilot Program

NACWA continued its advocacy efforts in both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate to gain support for an integrated planning (IP) pilot program to provide funding to communities who wish to draft integrated plans. On April 26, Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) submitted a letter to Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, requesting \$5 million in the Fiscal Year 2014 EPA budget for up to 50 integrated planning pilots in communities across the country. Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) also

signed the letter. Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), who sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee, also submitted a personal appropriations request to the Subcommittee in support of this pilot program.

Earlier in April, a number of members in the House of Representatives also made requests for \$5 million to establish an integrated planning pilot program. Representative Bob Gibbs (R-OH) and Tim Bishop (D-NY), Chair and Ranking Member of the House Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee, submitted a letter of support to Representatives Mike Simpson (R-ID) and Jim Moran (D-VA), Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. Representatives David Joyce (R-OH), Steve Chabot (R-OH) and Tim Ryan (D-OH) all made personal requests for the program, as well.

The House and Senate must now craft their FY14 EPA appropriations bills in the coming months, and NACWA is hopeful an IP pilot program will be included. 📌

NACWA Welcomes New Members

NACWA continues to strengthen its influence as the leading advocate on behalf of the clean water community through a robust and active membership. As membership grows, so does the Association's ability to shape national policy. The Association is proud to welcome one re-joining Member Agency, one new Public Agency and one Corporate Affiliate.

Public Agencies

Harrisburg Authority, PA

Represented by Shannon Williams, Executive Director

NACWA welcomes back the Harrisburg Authority in Harrisburg, PA. The Harrisburg Authority is a water, solid waste, and wastewater system that serves a population of 250,000.

City of Garden City, ID

Represented by Colin Schmidt, Public Works Director

Joining NACWA's ranks in late April, the City of Garden City, ID is a municipal stormwater and drinking water distribution system that serves a population of 10,500.

Corporate Affiliate

Target Productions

Represented by Carlos Nunez, President and Founder

Target Productions is a multi-disciplinary bilingual video production and marketing firm specializing in advertising, creative communications, video production and web services. Notably, the company has worked with utilities on community outreach related to fats, oil and grease messaging campaigns.

All NACWA members are encouraged to make the most of their membership through participation in the Association's active standing committees, robust award programs, or by attending conferences, workshops, and web seminars. Involvement in NACWA membership is organizational — allowing any Member Agency or Affiliate staff at to take advantage of the resources and information NACWA has to offer. If there are additional key members of your staff who would benefit from receiving NACWA correspondence, or participating on NACWA committees, please contact Kelly Brocato, Director of Membership Development at kbrocato@nacwa.org.

Summer Conference

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address on inspired leadership will explore his past evolutions and missions, the lessons that can be gleaned from them, and how utility managers can benefit from a similar philosophical approach in facing the daily challenges of providing clean water services for the nation. His remarks will also focus on team building, overcoming adversity and the power of service.

Sessions to Focus on Managing & Financing Resilient Clean Water Utilities

The Summer Conference's focus on utility resiliency will showcase innovative management approaches now in place at clean water agencies, and explore the challenges of municipal utility financing. Utilities across the country are putting new practices in place to establish more resilient business models and one conference session will examine several case studies. A featured session will provide an overview of the role municipal bonds play in financing clean water infrastructure; bond ratings and what impacts them; alternative bond offerings (e.g., Build America Bonds); and the potential impacts of President Obama's proposed cap on the tax exemption for high water earners. Additionally, numerous NACWA Standing Committees will meet, sharing the latest developments in a wide variety of areas of critical importance to clean water utilities.



Looking forward to seeing you and your clean water colleagues at NACWA's Summer Conference & 43rd Annual Meeting, Managing & Financing the Resilient Clean Water Utility in beautiful Cincinnati, Ohio, July 14 - 17.

Utility of the Future

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UOTF Legislation Being Drafted

In line with these priority actions, NACWA will be crafting stand-alone legislation focused on ensuring incentives for UOTF-type activities, while also removing barriers to the broader adoption of related initiatives and approaches. The Association is also working to identify key leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives to form a Water Technology & Innovations Caucus that would spotlight municipal and private sector UOTF efforts and promote these nationally.

At the same time, NACWA continues to work closely with WEF and WERF to coordinate respective UOTF-related initiatives in the advocacy, communications/outreach and research arenas and will be ensuring their respective members and key audiences are updated regularly of key developments as they occur. ■

NACWA's *Water Resources Utility of the Future...A Call for Federal Action* calls upon Congress, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other key federal agencies to rethink their relationship to the water sector by taking the following steps:

1. Support a Congressional Clean Water Technology & Innovation Caucus that can bring a focus UOTF priority issues.
2. Refocus existing federal grant programs to support UOTF initiatives.
3. Create a program for early stage technology and innovation investment for the water sector similar to programs that exist in the energy sector.
4. Develop, clarify, and expand tax credit and incentive programs that will encourage clean water agencies and their private sector partners to engage in UOTF-related activities, especially in energy conservation and production, water reuse, resource recovery, and green infrastructure.
5. Support statutory changes to the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act that bolster the important role recycled water can play in public health and safety.
6. Support an Executive Order on water reuse/recycling that coordinates federal reuse policies and programs, and stimulates innovation.
7. Develop an intergovernmental partnership to address water sector adaptation and resiliency needs in the face of changing weather patterns.
8. Create and support market-based approaches to efficiently and more equitably address watershed-scale water quality challenges.
9. Ensure that the implementation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Integrated Planning & Permitting Framework fully accounts for UOTF-type activities.
10. Consider and explore a new 21st Century Watershed Act that can drive the water sector toward the emerging UOTF model.



National Environmental Policy Forum Highlights Legislative Efforts

NACWA's 2013 *National Environmental Policy Forum* in April and highlighted the latest legislative, regulatory, and legal developments in Washington, D.C. Attendees heard from key water sector leaders from the Administration and Congress providing a detailed look at the status of NACWA's priority policy issues including financial capability, infrastructure funding, stormwater management, nutrient pollution, integrated planning and a vision for the water resources utility of the future. At NACWA's Capitol Hill Congressional Reception, Senator Boozman (R-AR), Representative Tim Bishop (D-NY), at the podium (left) and Representative Bob Gibbs (R-OH) (looking on) provided remarks on their clean water priorities in Congress.