

2013-2014 | YEAR • AT • A • GLANCE

# THE Power OF ASSOCIATION

ADVOCACY

COLLABORATION

LEADERSHIP

RECOGNITION

**NACWA**

National Association of Clean Water Agencies



# THE Power OF LEADERSHIP

WE ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT the NACWA Year-At-A-Glance — *The Power of Association*. At NACWA, the power of association is fueled by leadership — the leadership of members who volunteer their time and talents, and the leadership of the Association's committed staff. Together we serve as not only formidable advocates for the clean water community — but also a visionary force in the changing paradigm for water quality in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This past year has seen NACWA's advocacy play a role in the Water Resources Reform & Development Act (WRRDA) — and its invaluable extension of Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan repayment up to 30 years (*see page 4*). NACWA also demonstrated the power of association in the new Farm Bill, maintaining maintained water quality and agricultural nutrient management provisions — and establishing a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (*see page 5*). The new *Consent Decree Handbook* and *e-Library* offered the most comprehensive collection of municipal wet weather consent decrees and enforcement orders available anywhere (*see page 5*).

Our work on affordability and integrated planning has allowed utilities to prioritize compliance and access greater flexibility (*see pages 6-8*). A 'war on wipes' was declared and resulted in a *Toilets Are Not Trashcans!* campaign that is certain to protect the pipes, pumps, plants, and personnel at clean water agencies (*see page 6*). And our defense of stormwater fees has provided a huge return on investment for our members (*see pages 8-9*).

Water sector leadership was also in the spotlight when NACWA joined with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF), to bring hundreds of clean water professionals to Washington, D.C. to advance our shared priorities as part of the inaugural *Water Week* (*see page 10*).

The power of leadership could not be more present than in the *Water Resources of the Future* initiative. Working both independently, and collaboratively with WEF and WERF, NACWA has followed the release of the multi-disciplinary *Blueprint for Action*, and advocacy-focused *Call for Federal Action*, with the establish-

ment of a growing *Congressional Clean Water Caucus*. And we've continued to examine the vibrant future of utilities with the recent release of *Today's Clean Water Utility: Delivering Value to Ratepayers, Communities, & the Nation* (*see page 9*). So comprehensive, relevant, and far-reaching is the *Water Resources Utility of the Future* initiative that NACWA was recently awarded a 2014 *Power of A Gold Award* celebrating this innovative program and its positive impact (*see page 16*).

Few organizations can offer a return on investment comparable to NACWA's. Whether it's the estimated \$300 million in savings that resulted when NACWA joined others to compel a federal court to strike down EPA's use of a 'flow TMDL' for stormwater; the change in WRRDA from 20 to 30 years for loan repayment; or saving clean water utilities tens of billions of dollars annually by securing a strong denial of a petition to include nutrient removal as part of secondary treatment requirements — membership in NACWA truly delivers.

NACWA is each utility individually, realizing the power of many, speaking with one voice to ensure affordable solutions with the greatest environmental benefit. In other words, through the leadership of its members and staff, NACWA embodies the *power of association*.

A stylized blue ink signature of Julius Ciaccia.

**JULIUS CIACCIA**

*President 2013-2014*

Executive Director, Northeast Ohio  
Regional Sewer District, OH

A stylized blue ink signature of Ken Kirk.

**KEN KIRK**

*Executive Director*


# THE Power OF ADVOCACY & ANALYSIS

NOWHERE IS THE POWER OF ASSOCIATION MORE APPARENT *than in NACWA's active and diverse advocacy agenda. As the voice of clean water agencies on Capitol Hill, with federal agencies, and in the Nation's courtrooms, the Association is dedicated to proactive engagement in policy and legislation that affect clean water utilities — from conceptualization to implementation — and to defending your interests in precedent-setting legal cases. Advocacy on behalf of our members is coupled with critical legislative, regulatory and legal analysis that gets to the heart of how ongoing and anticipated actions at the federal level will not only protect the environment, but also affect the bottom line and daily operations of the Association's Member Agencies — saving our members valuable staff time and money. Throughout the year Alerts, white papers, tools, and indexes enhance this analysis with actionable information for both the Association and its members. Supported by the knowledge, passion, and experience of its members — and a robust Targeted Action Fund (TAF) — NACWA is non-stop advocacy and invaluable analysis at its best.*

This year, NACWA demonstrated the **POWER OF ADVOCACY & ANALYSIS** by...


■ **Successfully advocating to extend Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan repayment up to 30 years.**

NACWA aggressively advocated for key provisions in *The Water Resources Reform & Development Act* (WRRDA) signed into law on June 10, 2014. Intense advocacy by NACWA and the Water Infrastructure Network resulted in significant modifications to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund provisions in WRRDA including extension of the loan repayment period to up to 30 years — a huge benefit to NACWA Member Agencies and clean water utilities nationwide. The law also codifies additional subsidization provisions enabling economically dis-


trressed communities to receive more affordable financing, and incentivizes: 1) investments in energy efficiency, water efficiency and reuse; 2) partnerships between municipal wastewater utilities and upstream property owners; and 3) wastewater utilities' ability to undertake practices to ensure increased resiliency against man-made and/or natural disasters. The law also includes a new investment tool for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects known as the *Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Authority*. These hard-won changes, taken together, acknowledge and support movement toward the *Water Resources Utility of the Future*. 

■ **Ensuring that fuels produced at clean water utilities are deemed renewable.**


NACWA was aggressive in its advocacy to qualify wastewater-derived transportation fuels as cellulosic biofuels in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Renewable Fuel Standards. The Agency announced in a final rule on July 2, 2014 that biogas will qualify as a cellulosic biofuel, along with landfill gas, providing a potential new source of revenue for clean water agencies that produce transportation fuels from biogas. Importantly, this decision helps to achieve the goal of the collaborative *Water Resources Utility of the Future*

initiative to have EPA and other federal agencies fully recognize that fuels produced at clean water utilities are renewable. 

■ **Securing opportunities for innovative nutrient management solutions.**

The Association successfully advocated for key language in the new Farm Bill — signed into law on February 7, 2014 — that maintains water quality and agricultural nutrient management provisions and establishes the *Regional Conservation Partnership Program*. The new program specifically identifies municipal water and wastewater utilities as eligible entities to form regional partnerships with farmers, and provides an excellent opportunity for utilities to implement innovative nutrient management solutions with agricultural nonpoint sources to improve local water quality. 

- **Inspiring the creation of a utility of the future-focused Congressional Clean Water Caucus.** NACWA Inspired and encouraged the creation of a new Congressional Clean Water Caucus to explore technology and innovation. Officially established in November, 2013 by Representatives John Duncan (R-TN) and Timothy Bishop (D-NY), the bipartisan Caucus was called for in NACWA's *Water Resources Utility of the Future...A Call for Federal Action*, and will bring focus to

utility of the future priority issues and advance cutting-edge technologies and innovative techniques and approaches in the water sector. 

siliency; aging infrastructure; energy efficiency and production; water reuse and reclamation; resource recovery; and, green infrastructure. The *Consent*

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*President Obama Signs Water Resources Bill into Law, Overhauls the Clean Water State Revolving Fund in Line with Utility of the Future Priorities*

NACWA CLEAN WATER ADVOCATE


■ **Creating the *Consent Decree Handbook & e-Library*, an invaluable resource on enforcement issues.**

The Association developed two key advocacy tools for the municipal clean water community to address wet weather enforcement issues: a completely revised *Consent Decree Handbook*, *Wet Weather Consent Decrees:*

*Negotiation Strategies to Maximize Flexibility & Environmental Benefit*, along with an updated and redesigned *Consent Decree e-Library*. The Handbook explores new challenges and considerations, coming into play since its prior release in 2009, related to integrated planning; affordability; climate change and re-

*Decree e-Library* offers the most comprehensive online collection of full municipal wet weather consent decree and enforcement orders, searchable by Environmental Protection Agency region, state, or search term. These two resources, offered to Association members free of charge, provide

unparalleled information, analysis, and strategies on wet weather enforcement issues.

Taken together, NACWA's updated *Consent Decree Handbook* and new *e-Library* serve as the leading resource for the municipal clean water community on enforcement issues. 




■ **Seeking greater clarity and flexibility in EPA's *Financial Capability Assessment Framework*.**

The Association provided substantive comments on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Draft Financial Capability Assessment Framework* letter. NACWA focused its comments on the need for better clarity in implementation once the *Framework* is finalized. NACWA urged EPA to position the *Framework* as the Agency's current thinking on the subject, with the 1997 guidance simply providing additional detail on the assessment, and that EPA further revise the *Framework* to make it clearer that utilities can use alternative financial capability assessment approaches.


■ **Launching its *Toilets Are Not Trashcans!* campaign to protect utility pipes, pumps, plants, and personnel.**

In response to increasing problems from wipes and other non-dispersible products that are flushed into the sewer system, NACWA launched its *Toilets Are Not Trashcans!* campaign to protect utility pipes, pumps, plants, and personnel. With the goal of improving product stewardship, the Association engaged the Water Environment Federation, the American Public Works Association,


and INDIA (the association of the nonwoven fabrics industry) on issues related to flushability and product labeling for wipes. NACWA led these organizations in forming a technical workgroup to examine INDIA's flushability guidelines and code of practice for using the "do not flush" logo on certain products. In addition to wipes and other non-dispersible products, NACWA's campaign is also focusing on product additives — such as triclosan, plastic microbeads, and pharmaceuticals — that may be harmful to the wastewater treatment process and/or water quality. 

■ **Securing a legal win that preserves the holistic watershed approach.**

In September 2013 a federal district court issued a resounding legal victory for NACWA and its municipal partners in *American Farm Bureau v. EPA*, endorsing the Association's position in support of a watershed approach to achieve water quality improvements. The court upheld the inclusion of nonpoint sources as part of the final Chesapeake Bay total maximum daily load (TMDL), endorsing a holistic watershed approach that requires pollution reduction from all sources of impairment. NACWA continued its involvement in the case in April, 2014 by filing a brief in an appeal of the decision, defending the lower court ruling upholding the TMDL and its

inclusion of nonpoint source allocations. The Association also helped to organize a second brief from a group of six major U.S. cities — New York City, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco — supporting NACWA's position. 


■ **Making a compelling case that affirmed the primary role of states in setting water quality criteria.**

The Association won an important court battle in *Gulf Restoration Network, et.al. v. EPA* over the issue of federal numeric nutrient criteria (NNC) in the Mississippi River Basin (MRB). The case arose from a challenge by environmental organizations to the Environmental Protection Agency's 2011 denial of the organizations' 2008 petition to establish federal NNC and nutrient total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for all waters nationwide where such criteria have not been developed or, alternatively, to establish — at a minimum — such criteria and TMDLs for all waters in the MRB and Gulf of Mexico. NACWA intervened in the case to push back against federal NNC and represent the interests of the municipal clean water community. Importantly for NACWA's members, the court's ruling gave EPA wide discretion in making future determinations for federal criteria and affirmed the primary role of states in setting water quality standards. 





■ **Providing invaluable information to support members and inform advocacy.**

NACWA researched and released the 2013 *Cost of Clean Water Index*, the Association's annual analysis of utility service charges. The 2013 *Index* confirmed a steady rise in the average service charge, with projections showing an increase of about 5 percent per year over the next five years. Average annual charges are expected to top \$500 by 2016 — and \$568 by 2018. Regional level data is included in the *Index* to better account for the cost of living and other variables, resulting in more accurate benchmarks for utilities. The *Index*, and the Association's triennial *Financial Survey*, due out next year, provide invaluable information to inform the Association's advocacy efforts on affordability and a host of other issues. 

■ **Testifying on the affordability challenges faced by communities nationwide.**


NACWA testified before the House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment at their hearing, *Integrated Planning & Permitting Framework: An Opportunity for EPA to Provide Communities with Flexibility to Make Smart Investments in Water*

NACWA Member Agency City of Springfield, Mo. and Supporting Affiliate the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) provided testimony before the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment at a hearing on integrated planning. Steve Meyer (second from right), the City of Springfield's Director of Environmental Services testified on NACWA's behalf and NEIWPCC Executive Director Ron Poltak (far right) represented the perspective of state clean water administrators.

*Quality*. The Association's testimony centered on the affordability challenges faced by the City of Springfield, Mo., and their efforts to develop an integrated plan in order to more affordably manage their wastewater and stormwater requirements under the Clean Water Act.

■ **Releasing a key report highlighting the billions of dollars in savings and return on investment from innovative projects at the Nation's clean water agencies.**

The Association's July, 2014 report, *Today's Clean Water Utility — Delivering*

offers a valuable tool for NACWA and its Member Agencies to tell the Utility of the Future story, supported by economic and financial data. 

■ **Defending water quality trading programs as an important tool to achieve water quality improvements.**


The Association joined together with a broad coalition of municipal and trading interests to intervene in *Food and Water Watch, et.al. v. EPA* in defense of water quality trading programs as an important tool to achieve water quality improvements through the use of effective, verifi-

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*For the twelfth straight year the increase in the average cost of wastewater services for a single-family residence has outpaced the rate of inflation.*

**2013 NACWA COST OF CLEAN WATER INDEX**

*Value to the Ratepayer, Community, & Nation*, highlights the billions of dollars in savings and return on investment from innovative projects at the Nation's clean water agencies. The *Water Resources Utility of the Future* can separate, extract, reuse and generate valuable water, energy, nutrients and other commodities from wastewater while using utility assets in innovative ways to reduce costs, increase revenue, and strengthen the local and national economies. This new report

able market-based systems. A federal district court in Washington, D.C., issued a ruling, on December 13, 2013, dismissing the legal challenge to the water quality trading provisions in the Environmental Protection Agency's final total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay, thereby preserving a vital tool to achieve water quality improvements in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and nationwide. 

■ **Protecting Member Agency interests by challenging both statutory and technical issues in EPA’s sewage sludge incinerator regulations.**


NACWA challenged, in a U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) sewage sludge incinerator (SSI) regulations. On August 20, 2013, the Court issued a decision in *NACWA vs. EPA*. In its decision, the court sided with the Agency on the statutory argument but agreed with NACWA on the majority of the Association’s technical arguments — remanding a number of technical issues back to EPA for additional consideration. The remand of the rule marked a partial victory for NACWA and its members affected by the SSI regulations. NACWA filed an administrative petition with EPA, on May 27, 2014, requesting a stay and reconsideration of the SSI Rule. The petition argues that a stay and reconsideration are necessary to prevent clean water agencies from making irreversible investments while the SSI rule is on remand and to effectively address the concerns with the rule raised by the D.C. Circuit in NACWA’s legal challenge.

■ **Arguing in support of the “domestic sewage exclusion” (DSE) to prevent the regulation of sludge as a solid waste.**

Continuing its strong advocacy on sewage sludge incinerator (SSI) issues, NACWA filed a brief on April 28, 2014 in litigation over the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) final *Non-Hazardous Secondary Materials Rule* (NHSM Rule). This rule classified sewage sludge when combusted as a solid waste and provided a regulatory foundation for the Agency’s SSI Rule. NACWA’s filing in *Solvay USA Inc., et al. v EPA* argues that existing federal solid waste laws have an explicit “domestic sewage exclusion” (DSE) that prevents the regulation of sludge as a solid waste. NACWA’s advocacy related to the NHSM Rule and SSI Rule is supported by the Association’s SSI Advocacy Coalition.

■ **Fighting for legal recognition and protection of stormwater management programs.**

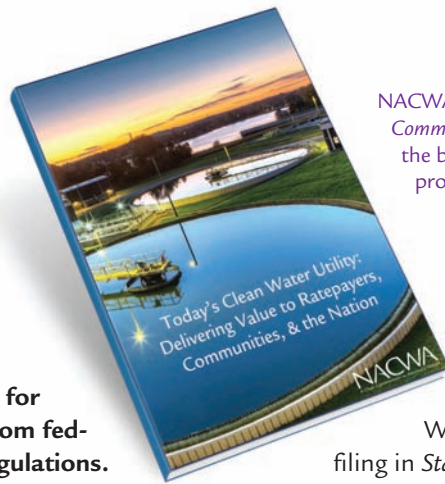
The Association, in partnership with the Association of Ohio Metropolitan Wastewater Agencies (AOMWA) submitted a May 12, 2014 *amicus brief* in an important legal case over stormwater fees before the Ohio Supreme Court. The brief in the *Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) v. Bath Township, et al.*, urges the state supreme court to overturn a

lower court ruling that invalidated NEORS’s stormwater management program. It argues that the increasing complexity and cost of municipal stormwater regulations necessitate a more affordable, equitable, and effective method for utilities to manage and charge for stormwater services. It highlights the importance of providing legal recognition and protection for stormwater management programs, including the ability for utilities to fund such programs. 

■ **Actively engaging Congress on legislation to address the affordability challenges faced by communities and utilities across the country.**

NACWA has been an active advocate for H.R. 3862, *The Clean Water Affordability Act*. The legislation is co-sponsored by Reps. Bob Latta (R-OH) and Tim Walz (D-MN) and would codify EPA’s integrated planning approach, extend permit terms for communities with an approved integrated plan, and require the Agency to revise its guidance on financial capability. A second bill, H.R. 2707, *The Clean Water Compliance and Ratepayer Affordability Act*, is co-sponsored by Reps. Steven Chabot (R-OH) and Marcia Fudge (R-OH). H.R. 2707 would create a new pilot program for 15 communities across the country to develop integrated plans and extend permit terms for pilot communities with an approved integrated plan.





NACWA released *Today's Clean Water Utility – Delivering Value to the Ratepayer, Community, and Nation* at its 2014 Summer Conference. The report highlights the billions of dollars in savings and return on investment from innovative projects at the Nation's clean water agencies.

■ **Securing an exemption for clean water agencies from federal greenhouse gas regulations.**

NACWA advocated to secure an exemption for publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) from the Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse gas (GHG) regulations. NACWA has advocated both in regulatory and judicial settings that the biogenic GHG emission from POTWs are not appropriate for federal regulation. In June, 2013 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that, consistent with the Association's long-time position, the Agency may not require permits under the Clean Air Act (CAA) based solely on GHG emissions. POTWs benefit from this decision because the vast majority are considered non-major sources under the CAA and potentially faced future permitting due to GHG emissions generated onsite by burning of biogas and/or biosolids, process emissions, or other sources of GHG emissions. The Court's decision will keep many POTWs out of CAA permitting altogether and allow others to narrow the scope of their permit obligations. [TAF](#)

■ **Challenging local biosolids land application bans to prevent potentially far-reaching national implications.**

NACWA joined with state and municipal groups to file a May 30, 2014 brief in litigation challenging a local biosolids land application ban

in the State of Washington. The filing in *State of Washington v. Wahkiakum County* argues that a ban on land application of class B biosolids initiated by Wahkiakum County, Wash., violates state law and ignores decades of research that demonstrates the safety and environmental benefits of well-run land application programs. The brief also provides a national perspective on how the ordinance, and other similar local efforts to ban land application, could have far-reaching implications for utilities both within Washington State and elsewhere in the country. [TAF](#)

■ **Advocating for assistance for communities to pursue integrated planning.**

The Association's advocacy was instrumental in the Environmental Protection Agency's May 9, 2014 announcement of the availability of \$335,000 in technical assistance for five communities seeking technical support to develop and implement an integrated planning approach to meeting Clean Water Act requirements. Nearly 30 utilities have applied to access this assistance. NACWA's advocacy to encourage and promote opportunities for its Member Agencies, through integrated planning, set the stage for an additional \$2 million in funding, currently being pursued by the Association through appropriations legislation. [TAF](#)

■ **Arguing that the Clean Water Act does not require municipal separate storm sewer system permits to strictly comply with water quality standards or numeric effluent limits.**

NACWA joined with sector partners to file an August 1, 2014 brief in a potentially precedent-setting case over the appropriate regulatory requirements in municipal stormwater permits. The municipal brief filed in *Maryland Department of the Environment v. Anacostia Riverkeeper*, pending before a Maryland state appellate court, argues that the Clean Water Act does not require municipal separate storm sewer system permits to require strict compliance with water quality standards or numeric effluent limits. [TAF](#)

■ **Reinforcing important Clean Water Act flexibility to express nutrient limits in monthly or seasonal averages, and not as true daily maximums.**

The Association filed a brief in an appeal before the U.S. Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) in the *City of Homedale Wastewater Treatment Plant*. NACWA's brief reinforced the important flexibility available under the Clean Water Act to express nutrient limits in monthly or seasonal averages. The EAB issued a positive ruling on July 8, 2014 upholding the ability of clean water regulators to express discharge permit nutrient limits in weekly or monthly averages, echoing arguments made by NACWA and its municipal partners. [TAF](#)

# THE Power OF COLLABORATION

IN A VERY DYNAMIC TIME FOR THE WATER SECTOR, *we know that we are stronger by association and have made collaboration a top priority. NACWA and its Member Agencies are responding to the impacts of climate change; partnering with the agricultural sector to improve nutrient management; moving above ground with green infrastructure to manage stormwater; embarking on creative partnerships to keep non-flushable products out of the sewer systems; exploring how investment of private capital can support clean water projects; and shining a bright light on billions of dollars in savings and return on investment from innovative projects at the Nation's clean water agencies — all by joining forces with both expected and unexpected partners to achieve real results. The Association's collaborative partnerships — across the water sector and beyond — maximize the impact of NACWA's advocacy as we represent the clean water community's best interests.*

This year, NACWA demonstrated the **POWER OF COLLABORATION** by...

■ **Supporting and exploring the *Water Resources Utility of the Future*.**

NACWA built upon its invaluable collaboration with the Water Environment Federation and the Water Environment Research Foundation to support and explore all aspects of the *Water Resources Utility of the Future* through advocacy, information, outreach, and research.




■ **Joining with others to actively pursue reasonable approaches to financial capability and affordability.**

The Association collaborated with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the

National League of Cities, and the National Association of Counties, as they engaged with the Environmental Protection Agency on the Agency's *Draft Financial Capability Assessment Framework* letter.

■ **Building consensus on flushability standards for wipes and other products.**

NACWA organized a workgroup comprised of the Water Environment Federation, the American Public Works Association, and INDA (the trade association of the nonwoven fabrics industry) to move toward consensus on flushability standards for wipes and other products that are likely to be flushed. The workgroup is an important part of NACWA's *Toilets Are Not Trashcans!* campaign to protect

our pipes, pumps, plants, and personnel — and reduce the amount of wipes and other inappropriate products that are flushed or drained into the sewer system. 

■ **Collaboratively convening *Water Week 2014* to advance shared priorities on Capitol Hill.**

The Association, along with the Water Environment Federation and the Water Environment Research Foundation — along with the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the U.S. Water Alliance, and a number of state and regional water groups — to bring together hundreds of clean water professionals from coast-to-coast to advance shared priorities on Capitol Hill as part of the inaugural *Water Week*.

■ **Organizing and hosting a *Water Resilience Summit* focused on federal-municipal cooperation.**

The Association joined together with the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies to convene more than 50 wastewater utility, drinking water utility, private sector, and federal officials for a facilitated dialogue on climate and resilience issues. The *Water Resilience Summit*, held during *Water Week 2014*, focused on federal-municipal cooperation to build water sector resilience and featured representatives from an array of federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency; the Federal Emergency Management Agency; the Department of Interior; the Department of Energy; the White House's Council on Environmental

Quality; and, the Army Corps of Engineers. The *Water Resilience Summit Summary & Next Steps* white paper, outlining collaborative actions the two associations plan to undertake, was released this summer.

and underscored the importance of NACWA's advocacy efforts on the *Water Resources Utility of the Future*, with projects in the reuse, energy production, and resource recovery arenas being identified as the most

*“This historic first-of-its-kind gathering of water professionals in Washington will demonstrate to policymakers the great value the water sector brings to environmental protection, economic development, and job creation.”*

KEN KIRK | NACWA Executive Director, speaking about



■ **Convening a *Clean Water Finance Dialogue* to examine the role of private capital in public clean water projects.**

NACWA convened approximately 40 representatives from private investment firms, public clean water agencies, and the Environmental Protection Agency for a vibrant *Clean Water Finance Dialogue*. The *Dialogue*, held in June, in New York City, focused on how private capital can be invested in public clean water projects

likely candidates for public-private partnerships.

■ **Leading the Healthy Waters Coalition as it advanced the Farm Bill's Regional Conservation Partnership Program.**

NACWA led a diverse group of municipal water, wastewater groups, conservation organizations, state agencies, and agriculture and forest interests — in its advocacy for stronger links between agricultural policy and water quality. The Coalition's advocacy resulted in key provisions in the Farm Bill's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), signed into law on February 7, 2014, that will ensure resources are targeted toward better nutrient management and water quality.



Flanked by NACWA Board Member, John Sullivan, Chief Engineer, Boston Water & Sewer Commission (left), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Gina McCarthy, provided the keynote address at the NACWA-AMWA *Water Resilience Summit*.

# THE Power OF COLLABORATION

## ■ Collaborating to provide high-quality executive education to the sector through *The Water & Wastewater Leadership Center*.

NACWA celebrated 14 years of *The Water & Wastewater Leadership Center*, based at the renowned Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina — Chapel Hill. A joint venture of NACWA, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the Water Environment Federation, and the American Water Works Association — along with strategic partners, the American Public Works Association and the National Association of Water Companies — the offerings of *The Water & Wastewater Leadership Center* have benefitted nearly 400 utility executives since 2001.

## ■ Working collaboratively to advance and promote physical security, cybersecurity, and emergency preparedness at utilities through the *Water Sector Coordinating Council*.

The Association collaborated with seven other water sector associations — the Water Environment Federation, the Water Environment Research Foundation, the American Water Works Association, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the Water Research Foundation, the National Rural Water Association, and the National Association of Water Companies — to form the Water Sector Coordinating Council (WSCC) in the wake of 9/11. The


WSCC works cooperatively with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Homeland Security to advance and promote physical security, cybersecurity, and emergency preparedness at utilities.


## ■ Offering a strong voice and positive leadership in the *Value of Water Coalition* as it unites public and private interests to address the need for investment in water infrastructure. Working in collaboration with a broad

*“The Water & Wastewater Leadership Center was by far the best training I have ever attended. Not only was it top notch in terms of the staff and facilities, the program really got to the heart of building skills that are imperative to success in the management of today’s utility.”*

T.J. LYNCH | Assistant Director, City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department, N.C.

## ■ Urging Congress to demonstrate its commitment to the *Clean Water State Revolving Fund* as a core investment tool for municipal wastewater agencies.

NACWA joined with fellow members of the Water Infrastructure Network — a broad-based coalition of local elected officials, drinking water and wastewater service providers, state environmental and health administrators, engineers and environmentalists — in a successful advocacy campaign urging Congress to demonstrate its commitment to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund as a core investment tool for municipal wastewater agencies through action on the *Water Resources Reform & Development Act*. 

coalition of water businesses and nonprofit associations, NACWA has engaged actively in the important work of the Value of Water Coalition. Comprised of American Water; the American Water Works Association; the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies; CH2M HILL; MWH Global; the National Association of Water Companies; United Water; Veolia Water; the Water Environment Federation; and, Xylem Inc., the Coalition unites public and private interests to address the need for investment in water infrastructure and demonstrates how water not only connects us, but also grows jobs and opportunities, keeps us safe and healthy, and sustains our environment. 





Representative Tim Bishop (D-NY) (right), Co-Chair, *Congressional Clean Water Caucus* greets NACWA Member Agency speakers in advance of a Congressional briefing sponsored by the *Caucus* during *Water Week 2014*.

■ **Fostering a collaborative agreement to effectively manage waste from the production of milk that resulted in cost-effective environmental improvements.**

The Association negotiated a *Memorandum of Understanding* with the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) focused on the effective management of nutrient-rich waste from the production of milk, providing benefits to both partners and resulting in more cost-effective environmental improvements than if NACWA and the NMPF were to act alone.

■ **Joining with others to form the National Network on Water Quality Trading to craft a set of best practice options to assist those developing new trading programs.**

NACWA joined together with a diverse group of organizations and entities — including The World Resources Institute; The Freshwater Trust; Willamette Partnership; Troutman Sanders; Electric Power Research Institute; National Milk Producers Federation; American Farmland Trust; Chesapeake Bay Foundation; Environmental Law & Policy Center;

National Association of Conservation Districts; and, Association of Clean Water Administrators — to form the *National Network on Water Quality Trading* to continue work on crafting a set of best practice options to assist those developing new trading programs.

■ **Organizing a series of regional Integrated Planning Workshops to facilitate the understanding and implementation of EPA's *Integrated Municipal Stormwater & Wastewater Planning Approach Framework*.**

This year the Association organized and hosted three Integrated Planning Workshops to facilitate discussion among the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), state regulators, and utility and municipal stakeholders on the Agency's *Integrated Municipal Stormwater & Wastewater Planning Approach Framework* to meet Clean Water Act obligations. NACWA has convened a total of seven Workshops in the past two years — generally in partnership with the Association of Clean Water Administrators and the Water Environment Federation — in conjunction with EPA — and frequently

in collaboration with state and regional organizations.

■ **Collaborating with the Water Environment Federation to co-host the *Utility Leaders Morning at WEFTEC*.**

The special morning session — for utility leaders and invited guests — includes the Association's *Hot Topics Breakfast*, featuring key Environmental Protection Agency staff, followed by a *Utility Executives Forum*.

■ **Convening a broad-based coalition of state and regional clean water associations to work collaboratively on shared advocacy objectives — and inform and enhance NACWA's advocacy on behalf of its members.**

NACWA convened representatives from state and regional clean water associations regularly to discuss opportunities for collaboration on advocacy issues and the benefits of leveraging the groups' capabilities for shared advocacy objectives. This broad-based national clean water coalition of state and regional associations is joining with NACWA to approach targeted national clean water issues with a united voice, and sharing information and support for regional advocacy goals. The growing coalition serves to both inform and enhance the Association's advocacy on behalf of its members.




# THE Power OF COLLABORATION

- **Collaborating with the Water Environment Federation and the Water Environment Research Foundation to send utility representatives to *Singapore International Water Week*.**

The newly-created scholarship fund seeks, and then sends, a utility of the future-focused delegation of U.S. water sector leaders to *Singapore International Water Week* — a key global platform to share and co-create innovative water solutions.

- **Partnering to protect the clean water communities interests in precedent-setting lawsuits.**


Throughout the year, the Association joined with a wide array of national, regional, state, and municipal organizations to defend the clean water community's interests in precedent-setting lawsuits. 

- **Promoting the role that green infrastructure can play in creating truly sustainable infrastructure — where gray (infrastructure) + green (infrastructure) = clean water.**

NACWA partnered with Penn State

The Value of Water Coalition sponsored a webcast discussion at the Newseum earlier this year which featured NACWA Member Agency representatives and focused on the need for investment in water infrastructure.

Public Media on *Water Blues — Green Solutions*. The compelling documentary focuses on the role that green infrastructure can play in creating truly sustainable infrastructure — where gray (infrastructure) + green

(infrastructure) = clean water, and uses the power of public television and online platforms to educate and raise awareness through the strength of partnerships with collaborating organizations. 

*“As the water sector continues to innovate and ensure its resiliency, so too are we looking to be innovative in the ways we communicate about how our work supports communities across the country.”*

KEN KIRK | NACWA Executive Director



# THE Power OF RECOGNITION

NACWA'S MEMBER AGENCIES — *and the Association as a whole* — are at the top of their game. Throughout the year NACWA recognizes individuals, utilities, and facilities and celebrates their commitment to innovation, exceptional utility management, and our nation's waters. This year, NACWA itself received national recognition for its collaborative Water Resources Utility of the Future initiative. Whatever the honor, well-deserved recognition acknowledges a job well done, and inspires others to view today's challenges as opportunities to find new and innovative ways to provide leadership.

This year, NACWA demonstrated the **POWER OF RECOGNITION** by...

■ **Honoring Member Agencies for outstanding contributions to environmental protection and the clean water community.**

NACWA honored twelve individuals and ten Member Agencies for outstanding contributions to environmental protection and the clean water community with *2014 National Environmental Achievement Awards*. The award-winning Member Agency applications demonstrated innovation, creativity, and technical advancement in the areas of Operations & Environmental Performance, and Public Information & Education.

■ **Recognizing peak performing Member Agency facilities.**

The Association awarded 446 member agency facilities with *Peak Performance Awards*, recognizing 157 with *Platinum Peak Performance Awards* signifying

their 100% compliance for five or more years. Seventeen facilities earned first-time *Platinum* status, while the remaining 140 recipients achieved the remarkable accomplishment of maintaining perfect compliance for a time period ranging from six to 27 years.

NACWA also recognized 158 member agency facilities with *Gold Awards* for maintaining perfect compliance for a full calendar year and 131 member agency facilities with *Silver Awards* for no more than five permit violations in calendar year 2013.

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*“The Peak Performance Award has transformed how people think on a daily basis and how their actions affect the compliance of the entire treatment facility. Your efforts to recognize all of their hard work is an incredible morale booster and focuses everyone on working together for a common goal.”*

ROBERT COLE | Environmental Services Manager, Central Marin Sanitation Agency, Calif.

# THE Power OF RECOGNITION

- **Acknowledging sustainable, successful utility programs that exemplify the attributes of an effectively managed utility.**

Each year NACWA provides important acknowledgement, through the Association's *Excellence in Management Recognition Program*, of Member Agencies that are implementing sustainable, successful programs that exemplify the attributes of an effectively managed utility. Agencies received recognition for their implementation of initiatives reflecting both the *Ten Attributes of Effectively Managed Water Sector Utilities* and an array of key resource efficiency and protection activities. The Association proudly presented seven Member Agencies with *Platinum Excellence in Management* recognition, one with *Gold* honors and two with *Silver* recognition, reflecting their successful efforts to address the range of management challenges faced by public clean water utilities.

- **Earning national recognition for its *Water Resources Utility of the Future* initiative.**

NACWA earned recognition from the American Society of Association Executives as a 2014 *Power of A Gold Award* winner for its collaborative *Water Resources Utility of the Future* initiative. *The Power of A Awards* celebrate the extraordinary contributions of a select number of organizations annually that distinguish themselves with innovative, effective and broad-reaching programs

and activities that positively impact America — and the world.



- **Laying the foundation to honor Member Agencies that are *Water Resources Utilities of the Future*.**

The Association created a new category of *National Environmental*

*Achievement Award* to recognize Member Agencies that embody the qualities of the *Water Resources Utility of the Future*. The award will be first presented in 2015 and will acknowledge agencies that demonstrate bold, transformational community leadership in managing valuable resources, partnering in local economic development, and engaging stakeholders in their watershed resulting in environmental, economic, and social benefits.



Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), a 2014 *National Environmental Achievement Award* winner for Federal Public Service addresses *National Clean Water Policy Forum & Fly-In* attendees highlighting both the importance of maintaining and improving wastewater systems and his work on legislation in support of green infrastructure.

# NACWA

## MEMBERS

### PUBLIC AGENCY MEMBERS

#### ALABAMA

Jefferson County Commission  
Mobile Area Water & Sewer System  
Montgomery Water Works & Sanitary Sewer Board

#### ALASKA

Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility

#### ARIZONA

City of Mesa Water Resources  
City of Phoenix Water Services Department  
Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department

#### ARKANSAS

City of Little Rock Wastewater Utility  
Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility

#### CALIFORNIA

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
Central Marin Sanitation Agency  
City & County of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
City of Fresno Department of Public Utilities  
City of Los Angeles  
City of Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant  
City of Riverside Water Reclamation Plant  
City of Sacramento  
City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department  
City of San Diego Public Utilities  
City of San Jose Environmental Services Department  
City of Santa Barbara  
City of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility

City of Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant  
City of Thousand Oaks Public Works Department  
Delta Diablo Sanitation District  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Encina Wastewater Authority  
Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Orange County Sanitation District  
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District  
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
South Orange County Wastewater Authority  
Union Sanitary District  
Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District  
Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority  
West County Wastewater District

#### COLORADO

Boxelder Sanitation District  
City of Aurora Water Department  
City of Fort Collins Utilities  
City of Fort Lupton  
City of Greeley Water and Sewer Department  
City of Pueblo Wastewater Department  
City of Rifle  
Colorado Springs Utilities Environmental Services  
Littleton/Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Metro Wastewater Reclamation District

Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District  
Pleasant View Water & Sanitation District

#### CONNECTICUT

Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority  
The Metropolitan District  
The Town of Greenwich  
Water Pollution Control Authority for the City of Norwalk

#### DELAWARE

City of Wilmington  
Department of Public Works

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DC Water

#### FLORIDA

City of Boca Raton Utility Services Department  
City of Clearwater  
City of Hollywood  
Emerald Coast Utilities Authority  
JEA (Electric, Water & Sewer)  
Marion County Utilities  
Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department  
Orange County Utilities  
Palm Beach County Water Utilities  
Pasco County Utilities  
Toho Water Authority

#### GEORGIA

City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management  
City of Augusta Utilities Department  
City of Cumming  
Columbus Water Works  
Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources  
Macon Water Authority

#### HAWAII

City and County of Honolulu

#### IDAHO

City of Boise  
City of Garden City  
City of Meridian  
City of Pocatello Water Pollution Control Department

#### ILLINOIS

American Bottoms Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility  
Bloomington & Normal Water Reclamation District  
City of Joliet, Department of Public Utilities  
City of Lockport  
Downers Grove Sanitary District  
Flagg Creek Water Reclamation District  
Fox Metro Water Reclamation District  
Fox River Water Reclamation District  
Glenbard Wastewater Authority  
Greater Peoria Sanitary District  
Kankakee River Metropolitan Agency  
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
North Shore Reclamation District  
Rock River Water Reclamation District  
Sanitary District of Decatur  
Springfield Metro Sanitary District  
Thorn Creek Basin Sanitary District  
Urbana & Champaign Sanitary District  
Wheaton Sanitary District

#### INDIANA

Citizens Energy Group  
City of Fort Wayne  
City of Valparaiso Elden Kuehl Pollution Control Facility  
Gary Sanitary District

#### IOWA

City of Ames Water & Pollution Control Department  
City of Cedar Rapids, Utilities Department  
City of Des Moines

#### KANSAS

City of Lawrence Department of Utilities  
City of Olathe  
City of Wichita  
Johnson County Wastewater  
Unified Government of Wyandotte County



## KENTUCKY

Lexington-Fayette Urban  
County Government  
Division of Water Quality  
Louisville & Jefferson County  
Metropolitan Sewer District  
Northern Kentucky  
Sanitation District No. 1

## LOUISIANA

East Baton Rouge  
Sewerage Commission  
Sewerage & Water Board  
of New Orleans

## MARYLAND

Anne Arundel County  
Department of Public Works  
City of Baltimore  
Department of Public Works  
Washington Suburban  
Sanitary Commission

## MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Water &  
Sewer Commission  
City of Gloucester  
City of Worcester  
Lowell Regional  
Wastewater Utility  
Massachusetts Water  
Resources Authority  
South Essex Sewerage District  
Springfield Water & Sewer  
Commission  
Upper Blackstone Water  
Pollution Abatement District

## MICHIGAN

City of Saginaw  
Detroit Water & Sewerage  
Department  
Genesee County Division  
of Water and Waste Services  
Oakland County Water  
Resources Commissioner  
Wayne County DPS  
Environmental Services Group  
Ypsilanti Community  
Utilities Authority

## MINNESOTA

City of Rochester, MN  
Water Reclamation Plant  
Metropolitan Council  
Environmental Services  
Western Lake Superior  
Sanitary District

## MISSOURI

City of Liberty  
City of Springfield  
Independence Water Pollution  
Control Department  
Kansas City Water Services  
Little Blue Valley Sewer District  
Metropolitan St. Louis  
Sewer District

## NEBRASKA

City of Omaha Public Works  
Department

## NEVADA

City of Henderson  
City of Las Vegas Water  
Pollution Control Facility  
Clark County Water  
Reclamation District

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

City of Nashua Division  
of Public Works

## NEW JERSEY

Atlantic County Utilities Authority  
Bayshore Regional  
Sewerage Authority  
Bergen County Utilities Authority  
Camden County Municipal  
Utilities Authority  
Hanover Sewerage Authority  
Joint Meeting of Essex  
& Union Counties  
Middlesex County Utilities Authority  
North Bergen Municipal  
Utilities Authority  
Ocean County Utilities Authority  
Passaic Valley Sewerage  
Commissioners  
Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority  
Secaucus Municipal  
Utilities Authority  
Stony Brook Regional  
Sewerage Authority

## NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque-Bernalillo County  
Water Utility Authority

## NEW YORK

Albany County Sewer District  
City of Ithaca Department  
of Public Works  
County of Monroe Department  
of Environmental Services  
Erie County Sewer District No.5  
NYC Department of  
Environmental Protection  
Onondaga County Department  
of Water Environment Protection  
Rockland County Sewer District #1  
Town of Tonawanda-Water & Sewer

## NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities  
City of Raleigh Public  
Utilities Department  
City of Salisbury Rowan Utilities  
Metropolitan Sewerage District  
of Buncombe County  
Orange Water & Sewer Authority  
Water and Sewer Authority  
of Cabarrus County

## OHIO

Avon Lake Regional Water  
City of Akron Water  
Reclamation Services  
City of Canton Water  
Reclamation Facility  
City of Columbus  
Department of Public Utilities  
City of Dayton Department of Water  
City of Lebanon  
City of Lima Utilities Department  
City of Sidney  
City of Toledo Department  
of Public Utilities  
Metropolitan Sewer District  
of Greater Cincinnati  
Montgomery County Water Services  
Northeast Ohio Regional  
Sewer District

## OKLAHOMA

City of Oklahoma City Water &  
Wastewater Utilities Department  
City of Tulsa Water and  
Sewer Department

## OREGON

City of Albany  
City of Corvallis Public  
Works Department  
City of Eugene Wastewater Division  
City of Gresham Department  
of Environmental Services  
City of Portland Bureau  
of Environmental Services  
Clean Water Services  
Oak Lodge Sanitary District  
Water Environment Services  
of Clackamas County

## PENNSYLVANIA

Allegheny County Sanitary Authority  
Capital Region Water  
City of Lancaster  
Delaware County Regional  
Water Quality Control Authority  
Derry Township Municipal Authority  
Philadelphia Water Department

## PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico Aqueduct  
and Sewer Authority

## RHODE ISLAND

Narragansett Bay Commission

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Beaufort Jasper Water  
& Sewer Authority  
Charleston Water System  
Greenwood Metropolitan District  
Mount Pleasant Waterworks  
Renewable Water Resources  
Spartanburg Water System  
and Sanitary Sewer District  
Summerville Commissioners  
of Public Works

## TENNESSEE

City of Chattanooga Moccasin  
Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant  
City of Johnson City  
City of Kingsport  
City of Oak Ridge  
Hallsdale Powell Utility District  
Knoxville Utilities Board  
Metropolitan Government of  
Nashville & Davidson County



## TEXAS

Austin Water Utility  
Benbrook Water and Sewer Authority  
City of Amarillo  
City of Corpus Christi  
Wastewater Department  
City of Dallas Water Utilities  
City of Garland  
City of Houston Public Works &  
Engineering/Public Utilities Division  
City of Huntsville  
El Paso Water Utilities  
Public Service Board  
Fort Worth Water Department  
Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority  
North Texas Municipal Water District  
San Antonio Water System  
San Jacinto River Authority  
Trinity River Authority of Texas  
Upper Trinity Regional Water District

## UTAH

Central Davis Sewer District  
Salt Lake City Public Utilities  
Snyderville Basin Water  
Reclamation District  
Timpanogos Special Service District

## VIRGINIA

Alexandria Renew Enterprises  
Arlington County Department  
of Environmental Services -  
Water Pollution Control Bureau  
Chesterfield County Utilities  
City of Lynchburg  
Department of Utilities  
City of Richmond  
Department of Public Utilities  
City of Suffolk Department  
of Public Utilities  
City of Virginia Beach  
Department of Public Utilities  
County of Stafford  
Department of Utilities  
Fairfax County Wastewater  
Management Program  
Hampton Roads Sanitation District  
Hanover County Department  
of Public Utilities  
Hopewell Regional Wastewater  
Treatment Facility  
Loudoun Water  
Prince William County  
Service Authority

Upper Occoquan Service Authority  
Western Virginia Water Authority

## WASHINGTON

City of Bellingham  
City of Everett Public  
Works Department  
City of Lynnwood  
City of Tacoma, Environmental  
Services Department  
City of Vancouver  
King County Department  
of Natural Resources and Parks  
Lakehaven Utility District  
LOTT Clean Water Alliance  
Pierce County, PW&U,  
Surface Water Management  
Seattle Public Utilities

## WEST VIRGINIA

Beckley Sanitary Board  
Jefferson County  
Public Service District  
Morgantown Utility Board

## WISCONSIN

City of Superior, Environmental  
Services Division  
Heart of the Valley  
Metropolitan Sewerage District  
Madison Metropolitan  
Sewerage District  
Milwaukee Metropolitan  
Sewerage District  
NEW Water  
Racine Wastewater Utility

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American Biogas Council  
American Cleaning Institute  
New England Interstate Water  
Pollution Control Commission  
The Freshwater Trust  
Water Design-Build Council



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