



American Water Works Association  
**Pacific Northwest** Section  
Water Resources Committee

DeEtta Fosbury, Chair

971-200-8532

dfosbury@gsiws.com

## Committee Report Fall 2017

### What We Do

Members of the Water Resource Committee (WRC) include engineers, consultants, planning professionals, water resource managers, utility managers and academics. We develop forums to share experiences and expertise and discover innovative solutions together to meet the challenges of increasing water demand, complex regulatory constraints, source water protection, and changing water availability due to climate change. Our goal is to aid the drinking water supply community to meet these challenges successfully through collaboration.

### Technical Sessions for the Annual Section Conference

#### 2017 Section Conference Program

The WRC developed two technical sessions for the conference in Kennewick:

Water resource planning in response to climate change (3 hours, average attendance of 28), and

In collaboration with the Water Conservation Committee: Conservation as a source of supply (3 hours, average attendance of 17).

#### 2018 Section Conference Program

Members of the Water Resources Committee are wrapping up our technical session proposals for Tacoma. We have several interesting topics in the works, including:

1. Pacific Northwest water banking case studies and regulatory framework (3 hours),
2. Facing the future of water supply by understanding regulatory drivers (2 hours),
3. Thinking outside the bucket – Increasing resiliency in an era of no new (easy) water supplies (3 hours),
4. Water Supply Well Construction and Design (1 hour),
5. In collaboration with the Conservation Committee: Just add practical experience – Water efficiency from goals to results (3 hours), and
6. In collaboration with the Water Quality Committee: Management approaches to harmful algal blooms (3 hours).

We look forward to seeing you at these sessions in Tacoma!

### Educational Events

#### February Webinar

We had 17 registrants for our February webinar: Assessing Water Availability in Washington State, presented by Toni Smith of Landau Associates. Recent court decisions have dramatically affected Washington's perspective on rural water availability and land use permitting. Counties can no longer

rely on the state's groundwater permit exemption to provide a legal water supply for small rural developments such as single family homes, small subdivisions, and family farms. State agencies, local governments, and the public are grappling with the challenges of limited water supply and a precipitously-declining legal toolkit. Ms. Smith described the paradigm shift in assessing water availability in Washington, reviewed some early local government adaptations, and discussed implications for municipal purveyors and future rural development.

### Field Trip

Our second annual summer field trip was a guided walking tour of the Portland Water Bureau's Washington Park Reservoir Improvements Project, led by PWB Resource Protection and Engineering personnel. The Portland Water Bureau supplies drinking water to more than 950,000 people in the Portland metro region. A large capacity reservoir at Washington Park is an essential part of Portland's water system, serving areas west of the Willamette River.

Currently, Washington Park's open Reservoirs 3 and 4 occupy the site along with two gate houses, a weir building, three pump houses, a generator house, and associated underground piping. The reservoirs are part of a gravity-fed drinking water system constructed more than 120 years ago. A new 12.4-million gallon, seismically reinforced, below ground reservoir will be constructed in the footprint of existing Reservoir 3, with a reflecting pool/water feature on top. The reservoir will not only maintain the historic drinking water function provided by the original reservoirs, but will be engineered to withstand ongoing landslide encroachment and potentially catastrophic effects of a major earthquake. Reservoir 4 will be disconnected from the public drinking water system, and a lowland habitat area, bioswale, and reflecting pool will be constructed in the basin.

When this eight-year capital improvement project is complete and online, the new underground reservoir will supply water to Portland's west side, including all downtown businesses and residents, the Oregon Zoo, more than 60 parks, six hospitals, and 20 Portland Public schools.

### Fall Webinar

We plan to organize a webinar for October or November; the topic is still to be determined.

### Networking Socials

The Water Resources Committee plans three to four social gatherings per year. Check out our website, or join our email list to find out when our next social will be.

#### February Social

A group of about ten water professionals met at Zarz on First in Portland after our regular monthly planning meeting.

#### September Social

The Washington Park field trip ended with a trip to Clyde Common in downtown Portland, where committee members, tour attendees, and several other water professionals met for some refreshments, networking, and good company.

### Budget

As of July 31, our total income was \$206.37, which was generated by our February webinar. We expect to bring in about \$300 more by the end of the year, in registration fees for our summer field trip and fall

webinar. We have had no expenses so far this year and expect no more than \$50 by the end of the year for incidental event expenses.

## Succession Planning: Current Officers and Leaders-In-Training

- Chair: DeEtta Fosbury, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.
- Vice-Chair: Jeremy Hudson, Rockwood Water People's Utility District
- Past Chair: Jill Hoyenga, City of The Dalles
- Board Liaison: Julie Smitherman, City of Ashland
- Officers On-Deck:
  - Neha Subramanyam, City of Hillsboro
  - Mary Hingst, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.
  - Jacob Krall, Geosyntec Consultants

The WRC has experienced a high turnover rate in recent years, which has led to some re-thinking of leadership roles and commitments, and strategies for ensuring sustainable succession from year to year. We are developing a new leadership strategy to be tested and refined over the next couple years, which includes filling officer seats with two-person teams.

Jeremy Hudson joined the committee in January and filled our vacant secretary seat until May. Since then, he and DeEtta Fosbury have been sharing all officer responsibilities. Neha Subramanyam and Mary Hingst will begin serving as Co-Secretaries this fall, and Jacob Krall and TBD will succeed them in May. DeEtta Fosbury and Jeremy Hudson will serve as co-chairs for 2018-19.

## Visit our Website for More Information

Please watch for announcements of upcoming events on our committee website. We anticipate announcing our fall webinar very soon. If you're interested in joining our mailing list to receive event invitations and meeting announcements, you can add yourself through the link on our website.