



# American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest Section

## Conference Program Committee Report Winter Trustees Meeting Vancouver, WA February 7-9, 2018

### *2018 Conference Program – Tacoma, Washington*

We have heard back from Oregon, and the Washington Department of Health with CEU approval for almost all the program. Exceptions to Washington's drinking water approval included the Young Professionals track, Oregon and Idaho regulatory updates, half the wastewater track, and a few customer service and public information sessions, which are not unexpected. We are still awaiting Idaho review and Washington Department of Ecology wastewater review.

Jacki has begun working with the moderators, and as is typical for this point in the program, we are beginning to see substitutions for both speakers and topics. If topic substitutions are made by the beginning of February, we have enough time to submit CEU updates to the states. Any topic substitutions that come in later will miss that deadline, and will not receive CEU credit. We do have many other options for those who do require CEUs, so at this point, that's not a major concern.

Regarding the pilot for vendor hall training sessions, Kristin and Cheryl agreed to take a phased approach. This year we will allow vendors to schedule short sessions in the vendor hall that will complement a technical session track, and assess the interest in such sessions. If there's enough interest, then next year we will pursue more formal training, which will require abstracts, learning objectives, qualified instructors, and monitored attendance.

In January, Cheryl had the opportunity to chat with Mike Shepherd (on the CEU review committee at IBOL) about Idaho's stricter relevancy interpretation in the last few years, particularly with regards to water resources topics. Mike indicated he's the one who's been driving that change. His concern is that most operators in Idaho operate very small water systems, and that they have very limited amounts of training time; he would prefer they focus on the basics that keep their systems in good operating order and in regulatory compliance. It appears limiting CEU approval of water resources and engineering content steers those operators where he wants them to go. She asked him to consider also that managers of larger systems may be required to maintain operator certification, and that management of resource and supply as part of their jobs merits consideration for CEU approval. A follow-up conversation is planned, but hasn't happened yet.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Capron, Chair  
Seattle Public Utilities

Jacki Masters, Vice Chair Tacoma 2018  
Mountain View-Edgewood Water Company