



Water Quality Committee Report 2018 PNWS-AWWA Spring Trustees Meeting Tacoma, WA

2017-18 Committee Officers

Chair – Michael Grimm, West Slope Water District
Vice Chair – Yone Akagi, Portland Water Bureau
Secretary/Treasurer – Thomas Bell-Games, HDR, Inc.
Past Chair – Jessica Dorsey, City of Hillsboro
Trustee Liaison – Michael Whiteley, City of Gresham

2018 PNWS-AWWA Annual Conference in Tacoma

The WQC has created a great technical program for the 2018 PNWS-AWWA Annual Conference in Tacoma. The WQC will host two different technical sessions on Friday this year and an Early Bird session on Thursday. The first session Friday morning will feature up-to-the-minute regulatory information from all three state drinking water programs along with utility perspectives on current and up-coming water quality issues. The second session Friday afternoon will include presentations covering emergency boil water alerts following significant water main breaks, source water monitoring programs for two specific water utilities, and distribution system lead and copper compliance issues.

2018 Best Tasting Water Competition

Once again, the WQC will host our Section's Best Tasting Water Competition at the 2018 PNWS-AWWA Annual Conference in Tacoma. Each subsection in the PNWS-AWWA may send water samples from one utility representing their subsection. Water samples are judged by an expert panel examining several water aesthetic parameters, and this year's judges are AWWA President Brenda Lennox, AWWA Vice-President Steven Blankenship, and Amanda Wilde from KUOW in Tacoma. Thanks to the Committee's two competition coordinators Charlie Dougherty and Kyle Thompson, the competition will feature 11 of the 12 subsections participating, and once again the competition will be held alongside the Water For People Silent Auction prior to the closing Friday night banquet. The winner at the Section level will represent the PNWS-AWWA in Las Vegas for the national competition at the 2018 AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition.

Water Quality Basics Training Module Project

Through an ad hoc sub-committee, the WQC desires to compose a Water Quality Basics training module for the section. This development sub-committee has a tentative outline of existing training materials available from various sources as well as plans to create new content for a valuable “workshop-in-a-box” that could be used by other committees or subsections within PNWS-AWWA. The proposed class format would be a full day (roughly 6 hours) training session which would carry CEU credits for attendees. Work will resume Summer 2018 to create the first draft session.

Committee Succession

There are over 60 members currently wanting to remain part of the Water Quality Committee though only about 12 are active in the Committee’s most recent (February) conference call meeting. The Committee will meet during the Conference, and four desired outcomes of the meeting include 1) the establishment of a quarterly conference call meetings schedule; 2) a short list of achievable tasks with committee member working groups; 3) a firm timeline to complete the WQ Basics module, and; 4) a solid committee officer succession plan. Currently, the 2018-19 officer list has two vacancies:

Chair – Thomas Bell-Games, HDR, Inc.

Vice Chair – Vacant

Secretary/Treasurer – Vacant

Past Chair – Michael Grimm, West Slope Water District

Questions?

My thanks to the Board for your time reviewing this report. If you have any questions about the Water Quality Committee, please feel free to send them to me, Mike Grimm, at mgrimm@wswd.org or call him at 503-729-0544. I will see you at the conference and later in the fall at the next Board of Trustees meeting.