



American Water Works Association
Pacific Northwest Section

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Water Quality Committee Report 2018 PNWS-AWWA Fall Trustees Meeting Coeur d'Alene, ID

2018-19 Committee Officers

Chair – Tom Bell-Games, HDR

Vice Chair – *open*

Secretary/Treasurer – *open*

Past Chair – Michael Grimm, West Slope Water District

Trustee Liaison – Alex Mofidi, Confluence Engineering Group

2019 PNWS-AWWA Annual Conference in Vancouver, WA

The WQC has created a great technical program for the 2019 PNWS-AWWA Annual Conference in Vancouver. While the detailed schedule is still being finalized, it is anticipated the WQC will host two different technical sessions this year: a Water Treatment/Water Quality joint session Thursday focused on harmful algal blooms and a Friday afternoon session which will include presentations covering PFAS, corrosion control, and contaminants of emerging concern.

2019 Best Tasting Water Competition

Once again, the WQC will host our Section's Best Tasting Water Competition at the 2019 PNWS-AWWA Annual Conference in Vancouver. 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. This year's judges have yet to be selected. We hope to have representation from as many of the 12 subsections as possible, 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 Denver for the national competition at the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition in June 2019.

Taste and Odor Workshop

In October 2018, the PNWS-AWWA Water Quality and Treatment Committees co-organized a workshop to provide a comprehensive introduction to drinking water taste and odor (T&O) issues and management, hosted by Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). In addition to presentations by local and national experts, attendees performed hands-on sensory training exercises and toured SPU's Water Quality Laboratory.

Cyanotoxins Workshop

The PNWS-AWWA Water Quality and Research Committees are in the early planning phases to jointly organize a workshop to be held in Oregon in early 2019 to discuss issues related to cyanotoxins and harmful algal blooms. Recent experiences in the region are anticipated to be included in the talks. Watch for announcements about this important workshop in the near future.

PFAS Webinar

The WQC is also teaming with the Research Committee on early planning for a webinar to address the emerging issue of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This webinar is anticipated to discuss the nature of PFAS compounds, their prevalence and persistence in the environment, and strategies for addressing their presence in source waters. National and local experts are being invited to participate in this discussion. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements.

Committee Succession

There are over 40 members currently wanting to remain part of the Water Quality Committee though only a small number are active in the Committee's most recent (July) 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: Vice Chair and Secretary.

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, Tom Bell-Games, thomas.bellgames@hdrinc.com or call at 425-450-6302. Hope to see you at the conference.