



American Water Works Association
Pacific Northwest Section

SUMMER 2020

WATER *matters*

The Official Magazine of the
Pacific Northwest Section – AWWA

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Message from the Chair • PNWS Association Director Report



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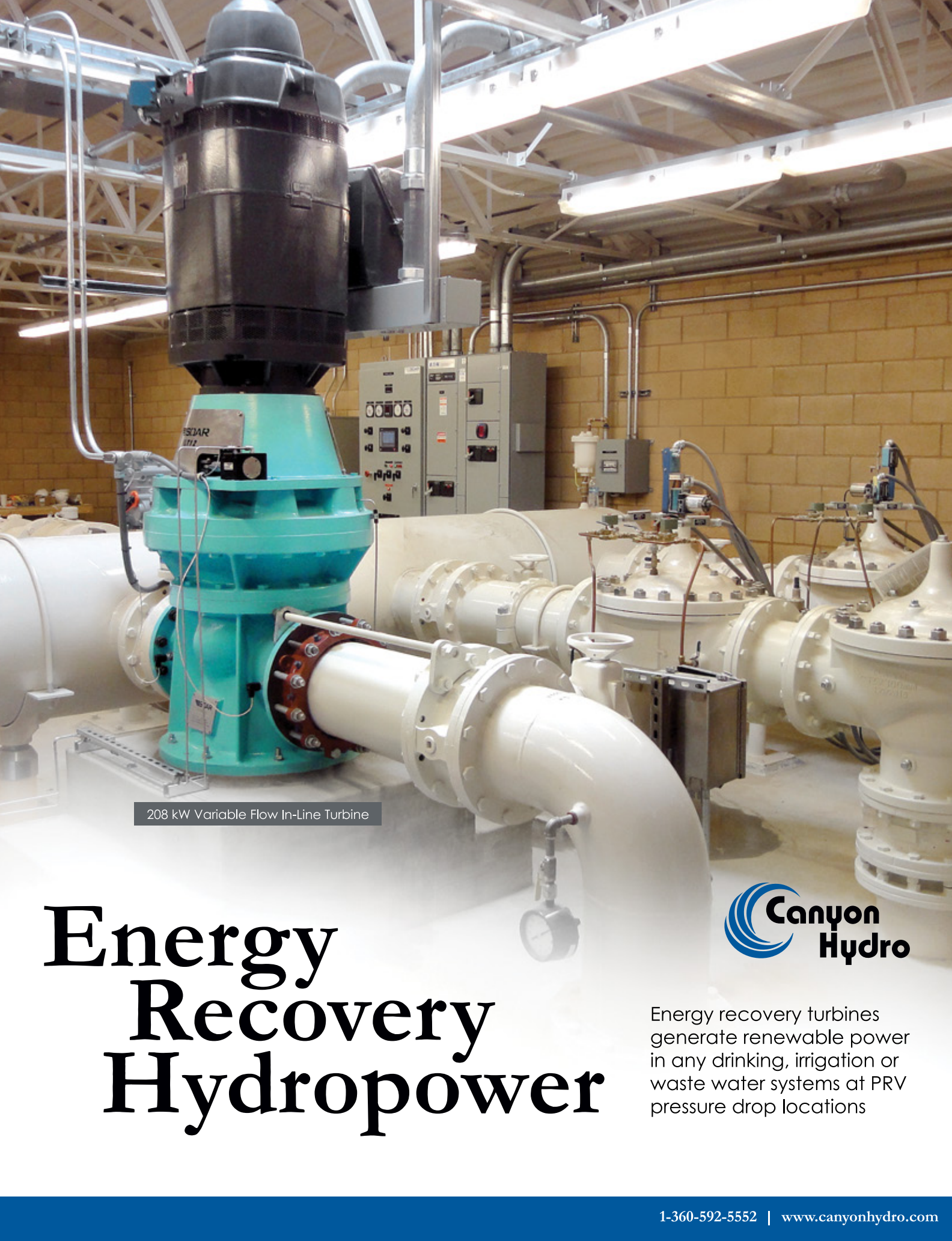
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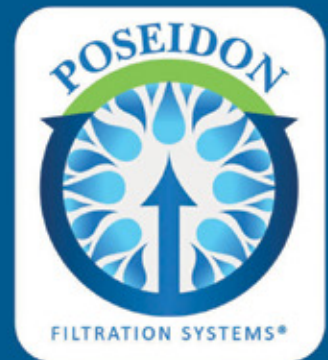
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The Power of Change

Wow, this is not the circumstance I had envisioned for giving this speech. I never imagined being Chair of our Section – especially not during a pandemic. Many thanks to all of you who believed in and voted for me. I am truly humbled. I also want to thank my employer Spanaway Water Company. Without the support of my managers and utility board, I would not have this wonderful opportunity to be your Section Chair.

I started my journey with AWWA 12 years ago. Like many of you, I was invited to attend a meeting and was asked to do something. Since it is my nature to always want to help (and I might have been volunteered to do so anyway) I eagerly said, “Yes, of course!” I think that most of us are the same – otherwise why would we join such an organization? We all want to help.

Helping others is what this Section has been built upon. Without help from our membership, we would not be able to offer training programs, conferences, networking events or fundraisers. Through helping others, we grow, learn, and build relationships. Relationships are where we get to influence, impact, and change people's lives. Change being the opportune word in that last sentence.

Change is something that many fear. I say embrace the change; without it, we do not grow.

The past few years, our Section has seen a lot of change in our meeting format, our budget process, our mission and vision, our conference, and in committees (by way of moving to divisions). Change in the faces that represent you.

I know that many of you have had difficulty in this process (as I have) but remember why you joined the Association and why you decided to get involved. What did it look like when you joined? Did you not get involved because you thought that you could make a difference? Were you one of those many faces that helped shape this Section? Did you also bring change and diversity when you got involved? What will the next generation of our membership look like? Will they also bring new diverse thoughts and faces to our beloved Section?

Our Section will continue to change and adapt because it is vibrant, energetic and continually evolving to meet the needs of an ever-changing membership.

So, it is with those thoughts in mind that I share my goals for my short time as your Chair of the Pacific Northwest Section of AWWA.

I would like us to embrace the mission of the Association's Diversity and Member Inclusion Committee. Its mission is creating a diverse membership and establishing an organizational environment that recognizes, encourages, celebrates, and effectively utilizes each individual member's talents.

To do this I would like to create a Subcommittee under our Membership Engagement Committee to implement our Section's Vision by utilizing and optimizing the talents, experiences and passions of our members. To do this we need to create an environment free of negativity and bias. As I mentioned earlier, change is constant and we should focus on it positively. Our AWWA membership includes more than operators and engineers. I will ask this Subcommittee to focus on adding managers, diversity professionals, human resource professionals, customer service and IT professionals to our Section. Diversity as an essential component of the growth, structure, and continued success of any organization. Diversity should be an inherent trait of our membership that brings a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, values, and beliefs as assets.

I know this won't be easy – change never is – but our very own Kari Duncan, the recent winner of the *George Warren Fuller award*, said it best in her January 2015 article on 'Workforce Diversity' stating, “Any time there is a group of people with different backgrounds and outlooks in the room, there can be disagreement and controversy. However, this is the very reason that diversity in a work group produces superior results. As long as the team

Through helping others, we grow, learn, and build relationships. Relationships are where we get to influence, impact, and change people's lives.

We can get through this together. I ask that we all remain strong and dedicated to our core values of protecting public health and continue to be there for each other as a water community.

can learn to respect one another's differences, the new ideas that come out of a diverse group can help solve problems, create a better design, and produce a better product."

My second goal is to have our Budget and Finance Committee focus not only on this year's remaining budget but look ahead to next year's budget. The cancelation of our 2020 conference has certainly impacted our finances and goals for the coming year but it will also impact future Section Boards and their budgets. I will be challenging the Finance Committee to bring forth a conservative budget that will protect our Section's fiduciary responsibility to our membership – not only now but for the future. To that end, we are going to need your assistance. Once we finish up a bit more triage from this pandemic, I would ask that we work with our committees to

provide alternative training formats to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our membership. We have operators that need CEUs. I ask that we use the CEU-approved sessions from the canceled Spokane Conference. We need to get this great training to our members. I also ask our membership to attend the Section Conference in Boise next year, May 5-7. If we all attend next year's conference it will go a long way to getting us back to 'normal' if you will. Boise has a convention center and hotels that could accommodate all of our 2,500 Section members.

I know that this is a hard period of time that we are going through. The impacts of COVID-19 are far reaching. I have been truly saddened by all that we are missing. On personal levels, weddings, birthdays, graduation, proms, family vacations

and saying final goodbyes to cherished loved ones through funeral and memorial services have all gone by the wayside. On a professional level, meetings, conferences, networking events, training – even going into the office and interacting with your co-workers on a daily basis – are being missed. These things are taking a toll on all of us and weighing heavily on our emotions and mental health.

We can get through this together. I ask that we all remain strong and dedicated to our core values of protecting public health and continue to be there for each other as a water community. With that I say stay healthy, wash your hands, and please be good to people. 🙏

Ronda Farmer
PNWS Section Chair



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AWWA: the Roadmap in Guiding Water Professionals Through COVID-19



As you would expect a national association to be on the forefront of providing resources, education, guidance, and advocacy during perilous times, AWWA certainly exceeded expectations as we've navigated through these unprecedented times with COVID-19.

In my career, having gone through H1N1 in 2009 – also referred to as the Swine Flu – nothing has compared to this virus. The experts say the only comparison of the sheer magnitude of what we have seen from COVID-19 is the Spanish Flu (back in 1918) that infected nearly a third of the world's population before it fizzled out.

COVID-19 began wreaking havoc in early March of this year. Since the early days of the pandemic, as it began to spread throughout the country, AWWA's focus has been on producing webinar series specifically focused on how water professionals can respond to COVID-19. These have had record-setting attendance and are now available on the COVID-19 section of the AWWA website, www.awwa.org/resources-tools/resource-topics/coronavirus.

The first webinar focused on sustaining utility operations during COVID-19, the second focused on how to handle communication challenges during COVID-19, and the third focused on legal aspects of COVID-19 for water utilities. These webinars are free and still available.

AWWA also produced two member surveys; the data pulled from each survey, in conjunction with the U.S. EPA, was collected and communicated in a news release to build confidence around the water sector and how quickly it responded to COVID-19. 90% of water utilities have plans to

continue essential operations for field and plant employees, who cannot work from home. To view each survey, visit www.awwa.org/resources-tools/resource-topics/coronavirus.

The Association's website (www.pnws-awwa.org) has seen a record number of traffic this past month; its COVID-19 resource page (alone) had over 17,500 views.

On April 9, AWWA hosted a video conference call with the Board of Directors regarding whether or not to cancel the annual conference in Orlando, FL. The Association's Executive Committee weighed the pros and cons of having the conference and what that might look like going forward. At the end of the day, the bottom line is the AWWA's first core principle: **protecting public health**. With the COVID-19 pandemic still unfolding, health authorities are asking people to avoid travel and to practice social distancing; it is uncertain when these guidelines might change. With the conference less than 10 weeks away, it is hard to imagine a scenario in which the Association could have moved forward with the conference with any confidence.

You might be wondering how the Association is faring, both business- and budget-wise. First and foremost, the Association is in good financial health. The Association's financial performance ended the year of 2019 with a net operating income of \$1 million over budget. That surplus has been moved to an already established reserve fund just for the very situation we are experiencing with COVID-19.

Normally, two days prior to the ACE Conference, the Association holds its Summer Board Meeting to conduct its Annual Business Meeting. With the

cancellation of the conference, the Association must still conduct business.

On June 12, 2020, the PNWS-AWWA hosted a video conference to address new business and approve the budget.

On the same day, Service Provider Director-at-Large Corianne Hart Burnett started her three-year term; she joins Kristin Kihs, Mike Stuhr and I.

Meanwhile, Marshall Thompson concluded his three years of service as a Director-at-Large. On behalf of the PNWS-AWWA, thank you Marshall for all your hard work and dedication to our Sector.

I hope all of you will begin to start thinking about ACE21, scheduled on June 13-16, 2021, in San Diego, CA.

On the legislative front, the Association Governmental Affairs office, in D.C., has been engaged in extensive discussions with congressional staff and other water associations on obtaining funding for water infrastructure investment, assistance to low-income customers and for utilities themselves in one of the stimulus bills coming out of Congress.

They are working with a consultant to forecast the financial impacts of the pandemic to the water sector that will aid in future to assist discussion with Congress. There has also been interviews with several reporters in the trade press on the pandemic and congressional actions.

On the regulatory side, the Association held a 'Champions Meeting' on March 3-4 to identify lessons learned and pathways forward for source water protection under the U.S. Farm Bill. Governmental Affairs has been collaborating with U.S. EPA and DHS on Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce guidance, which includes all parts of the

I am sure you are as equally impressed and yet not surprised by the way AWWA has helped meet the needs of its members with the many needed resources and expertise.

water sector and supporting supply industries. A meeting took place with EPA's Administrator Wheeler and AA for Water David Ross, as part of the Water Sector Coordinating Council, that resulted in the U.S. EPA writing a letter to Governors regarding the criticality of water systems fighting COVID-19. Governmental Affairs also had calls with WARN Chairs to

monitor COVID-19 response action and critical needs, including priority for PPE and treatment chemical supply chain issues.

In summary, I am sure you are impressed and yet not surprised by the way AWWA has helped meet the needs of its members with many resources and expertise.

I am impressed and proud of the

fact the Association has been making a concentrated effort to publicly recognize the water professionals, who have worked tirelessly during this pandemic. On the Association's website (www.pnws-awwa.org) you will find a plethora of messages and ways to help all of us recognize our Section members and the many operators that have braved these days unselfishly in the pursuit of providing safe, reliable drinking water to the communities we serve.

Please contact me at rblack@lakewoodwater.org or 253-588-4423 if you have any questions or feedback on how the Association serves you. 📧

Randy Black
PNWS-AWWA Director



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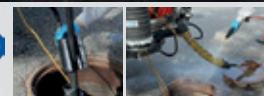
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Membership Engagement and Development Committee (MEDC) and 2020 Vision Committee

The Membership Committee, revitalized as the Membership Engagement and Development Committee (MEDC), quickly diverted plans for the annual conference in Spokane to brainstorm ways to support membership virtually. We held our first video conference call for May's monthly committee meeting. We then geared up to support the Young Professionals (YP) Committee in bringing the YP Technical Track and First Timer's Meet and Greet program to a virtual program, held on May 29 from 1-5 p.m.

This quarter, the MEDC will be focusing on:

- recruiting new members for the MEDC,
- reaching out to **first year members** to connect them with resources,
- planning for the fourth year of the **Mentorship Program 2020-2021**, and
- reaching out to Subsections to provide leadership with tools to engage their members, including **Welcome Wagon** materials.

We Need You – Join MEDC

The MEDC is actively recruiting for new Committee members. If you're interested in engaging new and current members and love to promote the AWWA, then the MEDC is the Committee for you. We hold monthly calls on the first Friday of the month. If you're interested in getting involved contact Committee Chair Chris Young at chris.young@murraysmith.us.

Mentorship Program – New Applications Collected This Fall

This fall, the fourth year of the Mentorship Program, will kick-off with the release of the application form, available online in October. If you're interested in learning more about the program, you can find last year's application form and the Mentorship Guide at www.pnws-awwa.org/mentorship or contact our Mentorship Program Coordinator Erica Rodriguez at erica.rodriguez@murraysmith.us. 

MEDC Purpose: To support the Pacific Northwest Section of AWWA (PNWS) in the engagement, retention, and growth of membership.

2020 Vision: To align with AWWA's strategic initiative for a sustainable future by bridging young talent with the water industry.

Stay Connected on YP and 2020 Activities

by attending the **Monthly YP Committee Calls**. Email the YP Committee Communications Coordinator Amie Batham at amie.batham@medford.org to get on the listserv.




Customer Service Committee



The Pacific Northwest Section Customer Service Committee's certificate training is growing in popularity. Now that we have changed to a two-day, one course program, it is easier for people to attend the training and earn their certificate. We still offer CEUs for Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

We held two training programs this year. The first was at Kitsap County in March, then we hosted another training at Wenatchee that was rescheduled due to the weather. We were able to hold both training dates prior to restrictions put in place for COVID-19.

We canceled training in Moscow, ID, that was originally scheduled for April but we plan on rescheduling it as soon as things reopen and everyone feels comfortable attending. We also have one tentatively planned in September at Yakima, WA, and one in October at Sammamish, WA. We will continue to update our website on the status of these scheduled training dates.

We are looking for people to join our Committee and sign on as trainers for our program. If you are interested in learning more, signing up, or scheduling the Customer Service course in your area, please contact Cathy Middleton, Committee Chair, at cmiddleton@rwpud.org or 503-674-4502. 

Water Resources Committee

2021 Conference Plans

While we are disappointed that the pandemic made it impossible to see everyone at the 2020 PNWS-AWWA Annual Conference, the Water Resources Committee is looking forward to the 2021 Conference! If you were a scheduled speaker for 2020, we encourage you to coordinate with the Committee if you'd like to present your same topic or submit a new abstract for 2021. We are also seeking additional submissions in the broad areas of water rights, water supply,


source development and mitigation. Please reach out to a Committee officer if you have a suggestion for an additional topic.

Officer Transition/Seeking Future Leaders

Officers for this year will be:

- Jacob Krall, Geosyntec Consultants (Chair)
- Kenny Janssen, GSI Water Solutions (Vice Chair)
- Jeanne Finger, City of Spokane (Secretary)

- Andrew Austreng, Aspect Consulting (Past Chair)

We continue to actively seek future leaders for the Committee. If you are interested in participating at any level, from becoming an officer to helping plan a social event or suggesting ideas for a future conference, please reach out to one of our current officers. Our listed contact information can be found on our Committee's webpage at: www.sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/water-resources-committee/officers. 

ORWARN Committee

Announcing New Members

ORWARN has continued to gain members and focus on smaller water and wastewater systems and Tribal outreach. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we joined approximately 10 new member utilities.

COVID-19 and ORWARN

Thanks to the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), ORWARN had the opportunity to obtain face coverings for water and wastewater utilities

throughout all of Oregon. As of press time, the Oregon Association of Water Utilities (OWAU) helped ORWARN distribute approximately 20,000 face coverings.


ORWARN Website and Brochure Upgrades

The ORWARN website (www.orwarn.org) is up and running. A user's training was given at the functional exercise, held at the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) in November of 2019. A user's guide was also created to onboard new members.

Meetings and Conferences

ORWARN, in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Horsley-Witten, held a functional exercise and conference in Eugene at EWEB on November 7 and 8, 2019. 45 agencies participated in this well-received exercise.

Save the Date

ORWARN will be holding a conference in Newport, October 21-23, 2020. Stay tuned for more information. 



Public Information Committee


The Public Information Committee has been led by two capable volunteers. Robin Pederson, Water Services Coordinator with the City of Gresham and Kerry Aden, Government Affairs Coordinator at Rockwood Water have provided exemplary service to the Section's Public Information Committee for many years. Kerry and Robin were generous with their time as they passed the torch and their considerable knowledge to incoming Committee members: Andrea Watson, Tualatin Valley Water; Kim Marshall, Barney and Worth. Thank you Robin and Kerry for your yleadership and service!

This year's *Communication Awards* entries demonstrated the considerable effort water utility providers are making to reach our customers with meaningful information. While we were unable to formally announce the awards in Spokane, we would still like to recognize the excellent communications efforts from this year's winners.

Our focus will be to engage members and deliver the support you need.

Thank you for all the fantastic entries and to the volunteers, who judged this year's awards. We couldn't do this without your support.

Going forward, the focus of the Public Information Committee will be to engage members and deliver the support you need. We'd love to hear your ideas!

Please contact any current officer with your thoughts on what you would like to see from the Committee or if you are interested in volunteering. Contact information is available at www.sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/public-information. 

The 2020 Excellence in Communication Award Winners are:

Category	Large Utility Winner	Small Utility Winner
Print Communication	City of Gresham Reduce Your Exposure to Lead Brochure	City of Prineville New Customer Flyer
Electronic Communications	Tualatin Valley Water District TVWD Website Redesign	Mason Co. PUD No. 1 Mason Co. PUD No. 1 Social Media
Video or Sound Production	City of Spokane SpokaneScape Promotion	Silverdale Water District Our Shared Future
Consumer Confidence Report	City of Lacey 2019 Water Quality Report	City of Grants Pass 2018 Water Quality Report
Strategic Communication Plan	City of Hillsboro Hillsboro Water Strategic Communications Plan	Mason Co. PUD No. 1 Cross Connection Control
Wild Card	City of Spokane Your Water Hard at Work	Mason Co. PUD No. 1 New Customer Onboarding Campaign
Calendar		City of Olympia Water Resources Stewardship
Best in Show	City of Spokane Your Water Hard at Work	



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Utility Management Committee

Call for Abstracts

Much gratitude to the speakers who volunteered to present in Spokane. Due to limited Committee's resources and timing, we will not be coordinating a virtual offering of those presentations this calendar year.

We were glad to have our symposium, "What Would You Do If?" last January before the onset of the pandemic. See our article in the Spring 2020 edition of *Water Matters* for a summary. Thanks to everyone who helped out!

Our next one-day conference in **January of 2021** will be held on-site in Vancouver, WA, and possibly on-line as well. We invite participation from managers, supervisors, and anyone seeking to step into these roles.

What should managers learn about in order to be more effective? Proposed topics include:



Paul Kamin, General Manager for the Eastsound Water Users Association.

- Staff Development and Work Culture, Knowledge Transfer, Cross-Training
- Risk and Resiliency, Continuity of Operations Plans, Security
- Budgeting and Finance
- Asset Management

Submit your abstract by

July 31, 2020, to kreid@pnws-awwa.org.

Please include your contact email, your organization, the title of your presentation, and a description of the content.

Education and Training Fund Committee

The mission of the Education and Training (E&T) Fund Committee is to oversee the E&T Endowment Fund with the goals for scholarship growth, fund sustainability, and to ensure that scholarships will be available for future generations. Each year, a portion of the E&T Fund is disbursed to the Scholarship Committee in support of education and training scholarships for students, pursuing degrees in the water profession.

2020 Scholarship Contribution

As a result of the generosity from the Section membership and a good market year, the E&T Fund provided **\$38,200** for 2020 Scholarships. The Scholarship Committee oversees the selection process for scholarship

recipients and is now in the process of selecting the 2020 recipients. The E&T Fund includes over 12 named individual/family scholarships, making up a combined total of \$15,000 in annual scholarship funds. In addition, the Past Chairs along with PNWS and RH2 Engineering maintain annual named scholarships – each awarding between \$1,000 - \$2,000 annually.

Subsections can establish a named scholarship by donating an initial \$10,000. We've seen participation in the named Subsection scholarships grow over the past two years, with nine of the Subsections working towards a named scholarship and four of the Subsections giving scholarships between \$1,000 - \$3,500 this year.

Subsection E&T Funds

Subsection	Total Fund to date
Northwest Washington	\$29,577
Southern Oregon	\$41,517
Southwest Idaho	\$32,354
Inland Empire	\$21,916
King County	\$7,601
Northwest Oregon	\$1,550
South Sound	\$1,028
Blue Mountain	\$3,270
Lower Columbia	\$7,173

**Need \$10,000 to have a Subsection named scholarship*

With questions regarding the E&T Fund or how you can contribute, please contact the E&T Fund Committee Chair Bob Willis, bwillis@rh2.com, or Secretary Joanie Stultz, jstultz@brwnclad.com.

Women in Leadership Planning Committee

2020 Women in Leadership Symposium – ‘Forge Your Future’

On February 5, 2020, 160 women gathered at the Mountaineers Club in Seattle, WA, for the *Women in Leadership Symposium*: a unique tradition that has been inspiring professional women in the water industry for the past seven years. This year's theme focused on 'Forge Your Future,' encouraging women to step up and forge new and significant paths in 2020.

This was before COVID-19 was prominent in our region. Forging futures is now especially important, as we are all navigating new territory with consideration to COVID-19.

The women who attended the event demonstrated that female professionals in our industry are both accomplished leaders to learn from and emerging leaders to carry the next generation forward. The morning speakers shared their knowledge and wisdom through personal anecdotes and pragmatic approaches to leadership. Menzer Pehlivan, PhD, P.E., Jacobs, kicked off the morning by sharing her passion for being a strong and dynamic role model to inspire and empower the next generations, especially women, in engineering; Pam Elardo, P.E., New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC/DEP), shared her story on becoming a leader in the wastewater resource recovery field; and Angela Jones, JD, Washington STEM, educated us on how Washington STEM reaches the underrepresented students in the state by giving the education, resources, and opportunity to thrive, regardless of race, income, or gender. The afternoon continued with skill building breakout sessions, focused on project and business leadership, personal development and assessment, and carving new career paths. We concluded the symposium with Women-Owned Business Panel, featuring Robin Thaler, P.E., Mayfly Engineering and Design; Amalia Martino, The Vida Agency (communications);



Forging futures is now especially important, as we are all navigating new territory with consideration to COVID-19.

and Katy Isaksen, Katy Isaksen & Associates (KI&A utility financial).

This event focused on leadership, mentoring, networking, and learning with important skills for any aspiring professional. The reason why this event is a day to look forward to each year is its unique ability to create an atmosphere that is open and

authentic, using key ingredients to foster professional growth and development. At the end of the day, it is this atmosphere that helps us return back to our everyday lives a bit more empowered and inspired.

Thank you to all who made the seventh annual WIL Symposium a success! 🙌

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Distribution Committee

The Distribution Committee remains focused on providing high quality operator training. An Advanced Hydraulics training was planned with the Engineering Committee on March 17 but was canceled due to COVID-19. We plan to reschedule the training to an online platform in the next few months. Please see our website for more information: www.sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/distribution-system.


Since the cancelation of the PNWS conference, we plan to hold a vote to elect our new leadership in early June. We also continue to look for interested individuals throughout the Pacific Northwest Section to join our Committee – please consider joining our efforts to discuss and provide training for specific water distribution system issues. Our meetings are held regularly via conference call and are generally focused and brief. If you're interested in joining our next call, please contact Chair Daniel Reisinger, dreisinger@carollo.com, or Secretary Rachel Lanigan, rlanigan@rh2.com.

Covington Water District Operations Manager Dan Sleeth and City of Salem Water Distribution System Field Supervisor Don Lovas have shared the following information on how their utilities in Washington and Oregon, respectively, are coping with COVID-19 social distancing requirements. In Covington and nearby areas,

construction was shut down for a month due to COVID-19 and is now picking up again. With less construction activities like locates and construction conflicts, District staff are efficiently tackling water system maintenance. Routine maintenance at hydrants, meters, air-vacs, blow-offs, and tanks is being supported by freed-up excavation crews. All District managers and customer service staff are working from home, while operations and maintenance staff take staggered shifts, drive in separate vehicles, and wear masks if social distancing cannot be achieved. Equipment is frequently disinfected.

In the City of Salem, construction has continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. City staff has had to reduce maintenance activities to support Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) projects, City projects, and active subdivision developments. City crews are busy providing new services, tie-ins, and fire service taps. The City has noted an increase in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) enforcement on projects since COVID-19. Approximately 200 management, administration, and customer service staff are working from home or alternating days in the office but field crews are required to be onsite. The City has a designated crew for disinfecting offices, vehicles, and equipment twice daily. Wearing masks is encouraged when social distancing cannot be maintained. Most meetings are held using online meeting platforms. Daily safety meetings continue to be essential and have moved to tailgate meetings to allow greater social distancing.

Thank you, Dan and Don, for these informative updates!

For more information, please visit us at www.sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/distribution-system. 

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Engineering Committee

2020 EXCELLENCE IN ENGINEERING AWARDS

The Engineering Committee is proud to announce the winners of the *2020 Excellence in Engineering Awards*. Excellence can take many forms and the awards acknowledge creativity and innovation in overcoming difficult project challenges.

Nominations were accepted across three project categories:

- Best Engineering Planning Project,
- Best Small Engineering Works Project (construction cost of less than \$5,000,000), and
- Best Large Engineering Works Project (construction cost of \$5,000,000 or more).

Four Engineering Works Projects were submitted in early 2020 for consideration – three large projects and one small project. An independent panel of reviewers ranked

the projects by their representation of excellence in engineering, considering the following criteria:

- Incorporation of innovative technologies or approaches,
- Difficulty of the challenges overcome,
- Inclusion of sustainability elements (includes resource sustainability or cost effectiveness), and
- Considerations for system or project resiliency (seismic, flood, system redundancy, etc.).

All the nominated projects are highlighted below.

Congratulations to our two winners and a big thank you to all the nominees who submitted such worthy projects.

The 2021 call for nominations will be sent out in late 2020, additional information is available on the Committee webpage: www.sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/engineering/home/excellence-in-engineering-award.

SMALL ENGINEERING WORKS PROJECT NOMINATIONS

Terrace Street Pump Station

Owner: City of Ashland, Oregon

Engineering Team: Keller Associates, Inc.

Contractor: McClure and Sons, Inc.



City of Ashland's Terrace Street Pump Station (PS) was originally constructed in the late 1970s and had three unique functions:

1. Pump water to the city water treatment plant (a critical facility for the city to utilize its second supply source) from Ashland Canal,
2. Convey water through an inverted siphon to an additional irrigation canal, and
3. Discharge water to Ashland Creek.

In 2012, the PS was identified for improvements due to its importance to the city's water supply strategy, existing safety hazards, increasing operations and maintenance costs, and lack of electrical efficiency. This PS was not an efficient system. It was a great burden on staff, requiring constant physical monitoring, and cost the city substantial sums of money in overtime and electrical costs; the over-sized 200hp motors could only be operated at 100% since they didn't have variable frequency drives.

The City secured funding in 2016 through Business Oregon and the Infrastructure Finance Authority. Soon after, the City contracted with Keller Associates, Inc. to design and implement the new facilities. The design had many challenges including maintaining the current footprint (17'x17'), preserving the existing wet well to save cost, and designing a suite of new equipment: water quality pre-treatment, SCADA system, new pumps, variable frequency drives, and level-sensing equipment. All in a neighborhood friendly package, that even included a faux window to help it blend into its surroundings.

The challenges for the Terrace Street PS didn't end with design. The construction window was limited to only seven months in a residential neighborhood on a constrained site. McClure and Sons, Inc. was selected as construction contractor and work began in October 2018, as soon as the Ashland Canal was shut down for the season. The construction team successfully met this deadline and the project was completed on budget and on schedule.

The successful Terrace Street PS accomplished the following for the city:

- Eliminated severe safety hazards of electrical shock and confined space,
- Reduced operation and maintenance costs,
- Integrated pumping redundancy and pre-treatment for water quality, and
- Improved the delivery and reliability of the city's secondary water source.



The new pump station building measures just 17' x 17' feet and was constructed in a very constrained area. (photo: McClure and Sons, Inc.)
Inset: The pump station exterior includes a faux window to help it blend in better with its residential setting. (photo: Kevin Caldwell)

LARGE ENGINEERING WORKS PROJECT NOMINATIONS

Lebanon Water Treatment Plant

Owner: City of Lebanon, Oregon

Engineering Team: Carollo Engineers, Inc., R2 Resource Consultants, Inc., and Udell Engineering and Land Surveying, LLC

Contractor: Slayden Constructors, Inc.



The City of Lebanon faced many challenges in developing the new water treatment plant that now provides the city with water independence for the first time in 72 years. Specific challenges included financing the largest undertaking in city history, building a new river intake on an extremely constrained site, and moving from contract-operations to city-operations. These were all successfully addressed by a multi-disciplinary team of city leaders and staff, Business Oregon Infrastructure Finance, consultants, CM/GC contractor and its subcontractors, innovative membrane supplier, and regulatory review and approval agencies, all united together to provide reliable high-quality drinking water for the city.

Some of the unusual constraints the project team successfully managed included:

- Reducing cost to lessen funding burden on the community meant significant value engineering was needed from the engineering and CM/GC contractor team to maintain the project's high-quality water output. Ultimately \$5.5M in costs were avoided through the value engineering ideas.
- Resilient intake design to accommodate dynamic river conditions, climate change, and seismic risks was challenging due to limited area near the river bounded by a busy county road. These challenges were addressed with investments in temporary traffic control, installing a platform above the river to work from, and utilizing submersible style pumps to minimize the pump station footprint.
- Expandable open platform membrane racks and membrane procurement were utilized to ensure competitive membrane procurements now and in the future, as well as allow the plant to more easily adapt to improvements in membrane technology. Membrane racks, plant equipment, and piping were all designed to allow for a quick and low-cost capacity expansion from 4.5 MGD to 6.0 or 8.0 MGD.
- Moving from contract operations to city operations was a city priority with the development of the new plant. Assisted by Carollo, the City identified staffing and operation and maintenance requirement and then provided opportunity for existing operations staff to attend classes and become certified for plant operation. Two individuals at the City took this opportunity. The new operations team was rounded out by the hiring of an experienced supervisor. The new staff was engaged in the final plant construction and preparation prior to the City's transition to supplying water from the new plant.

The innovation and experience of the team was applied to overcome these challenges and provide facilities that can easily and economically be expanded, allowing

the city to attract industry and promote growth to strengthen the community. Lebanon Water Treatment Plant is a true demonstration of the teamwork it takes for Excellence in Engineering.



The exterior of the new Lebanon Water Treatment Plant utilized prefab structures to reduce costs, one of many value-engineering ideas.

Inset: The new Lebanon Water Treatment Plant employed open platform membrane system allowing the city to maintain price competitiveness far into the future.

Grabhorn Reservoir Replacement

Owner: Tualatin Valley Water District (Oregon)

Engineering Team: Keller Associates, Inc.

Contractor: Emery & Sons Construction Group

Tualatin Valley Water District's (TVWD's) original Grabhorn Reservoir (with a capacity of 5 million gallons) was the only reservoir directly serving over 50,000 people located in TVWD's largest service area. TVWD recognized that replacing the reservoir would be challenging because the tank was located 10 yards from the neighboring property and buried almost 45 feet deep. Furthermore, the site housed critical water supply facilities, including an Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) well and large diameter water pipelines that needed to remain operational during construction. Steep slopes, shallow/hard bedrock, and extensive permitting obstacles also needed to be addressed.

TVWD turned to the Keller Associates and Emery & Sons Construction team to deliver the Grabhorn Reservoir Replacement Project, employing a progressive-design-build delivery approach that included:

- Creativity and innovation in design and construction facilitated through progressive design build delivery,
- Overall cost savings to the water using community estimated to be \$1.4 million,
- Enhanced safety by employing safety features through design to benefit operators and the public,
- Extended asset service life by selecting reliable materials and planning for operational flexibility,
- Integration of cutting-edge technology such as visualization tools to optimize the site layout, minimize rock excavation, and valve house design to eliminate confined space entry, and

- Sustainability effort to preserve trees, reuse site soils, crush and use the old reservoir concrete onsite, and recycle metal from the old reservoir structure.

The collaborative nature of Grabhorn Reservoir Replacement Project reduced design and construction timelines, provided increased safety and seismic resiliency for TVWD's largest service area and saved the ratepayers more than \$1.4 million dollars.

Please check out the Engineering Committee's Excellence in Engineering webpage (www.sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/engineering/home/excellence-in-engineering-award) to see a time-lapse video of the project.



The new Grabhorn Reservoir was offset from the old reservoir's position so the old walls could be used as shoring.

152nd Avenue Reservoir

Owner: Clackamas River Water and Sunrise Water Authority (Oregon)

Engineering Team: Murraysmith, Inc.

Contractor: Rotschy, Inc.

Clackamas River Water (CRW) is implementing a multi-year infrastructure 'backbone' improvement plan made possible through municipal bonding and other funds. The 6.0 million gallon (MG) 152nd Avenue Reservoir project is one of the backbone facilities and greatly enhances CRW's ability to provide emergency fire flow, system pumping efficiencies, and excellent water quality to the local



Clackamas River Water and Sunrise Water Authority's new 6 MG 152nd Avenue Reservoir.

community. The reservoir is a critical seismically resilient water storage facility for both CRW and their project partner, Sunrise Water Authority (SWA), who together serve nearly 100,000 people.

The reservoir site was purchased in the early 1980s with the foresight that it had ground elevations needed to locate a storage reservoir with adequate water pressure to serve CRW's growing system. In the following decades, the need for the reservoir grew as residential development flourished and surrounded the proposed reservoir site on three sides, ultimately creating a tightly constrained project boundary.

The project was a success for both CRW and SWA for the following reasons:

Intensive community outreach to the many reservoir site neighbors, mitigation of construction impacts through vibration and settlement monitoring, and requirements for the contractor to assign a public coordination supervisor to immediately address neighbor concerns.

Creative ideas and application of technology for seismically resilient storage through use of the AWWA D110 Type 1 tank design, free-sliding connections at the tank roof and floor, planning for differential movement between the structure and connected piping, and inclusion of a seismic sensor and electrically actuated isolation valves to close when a predetermined ground vibration threshold is exceeded.

Innovation, achieving cost savings and a more sustainable project footprint by using recycled pavement materials as backfill where allowable, using trees from the site for the lagging in the soldier pile shoring, and installing H-piles for the soldier pile shoring so that they can be removed and reused. These ideas and more resulted in a low-bid result that came in \$400,000 below the engineer's estimate. 🏡

Congratulations to our two winners and a big thank you to all the nominees who submitted such worthy projects.



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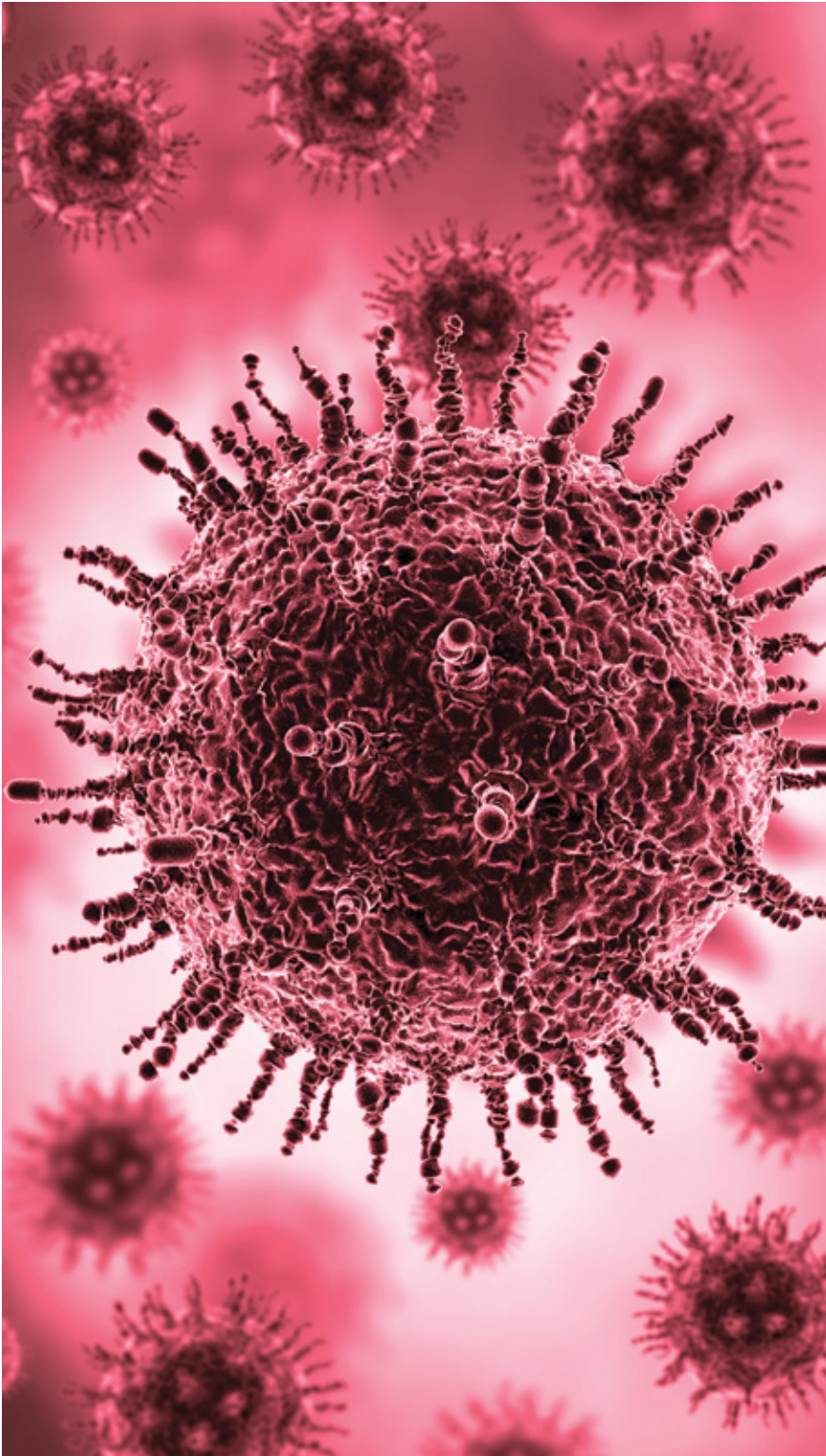
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Interesting Times

By Mel Damewood



"May you live in interesting times" – Wikipedia. This infamous source of information comes right out and says, "Is an English expression which purports to be a translation of a traditional Chinese curse." That explanation of the phrase could change by the time you are reading this, due to the Wiki nature, but I cannot help but think of the irony between the saying and what we are enduring.

Indeed, we are living in interesting times. The fact that this pandemic has touched nearly every single living soul in some way around the world is simply amazing. One cannot fathom the scale of it all. The cost of lives impacted either by the virus directly or economic hardship due to lock downs; I do not know one person who has not been impacted by this event in some way.

The wonder of it all and yet, here we are: the water and wastewater industry continues providing life by giving and sustaining service to our customers without a second thought. This is something to be proud of. I see no credit given to our craft as other essential services, but then we never do. We are used to working in the shadows of more visible and public facing professions.

Every utility, consultant, vendor, contractor, and supplier has either had to dust off or create a plan of how to deal with the long-term nature and impacts of COVID-19 to our public and employees: how to keep them as safe as possible against an invisible foe. Pandemic or infectious disease plans for utilities and support businesses has always been a fringe issue. Here on the west side of the Cascade Mountains, the Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake and preparedness for that event has been the focus of our emergency response plans; meanwhile, HABs has been on our radar screen... but a virus?

Utilities are actively conducting or gearing up to complete the Risk and Resiliency Assessments and Emergency Response Plans (ERP) required by America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA). Coinciding with that requirement, many utilities are directly

experiencing a major crisis to their workforce and how they operate for the first time. I think most in the water/wastewater industry intellectually understands the importance of emergency planning but it isn't until one experiences a full-fledged emergency that it really hits home – the complexities of a crisis and how we act during such an event.


I have had discussions with many utilities across the western United States and this is the first impactful, long-term crisis they've have had to face. The silver lining (if one can say that) to this crisis is that no major infrastructure damage has occurred along with this event. The human and economic toll has been enough. I will observe that in talking with these utilities – emergency

planning is once again a high focus and is taking a priority. This is a good thing.

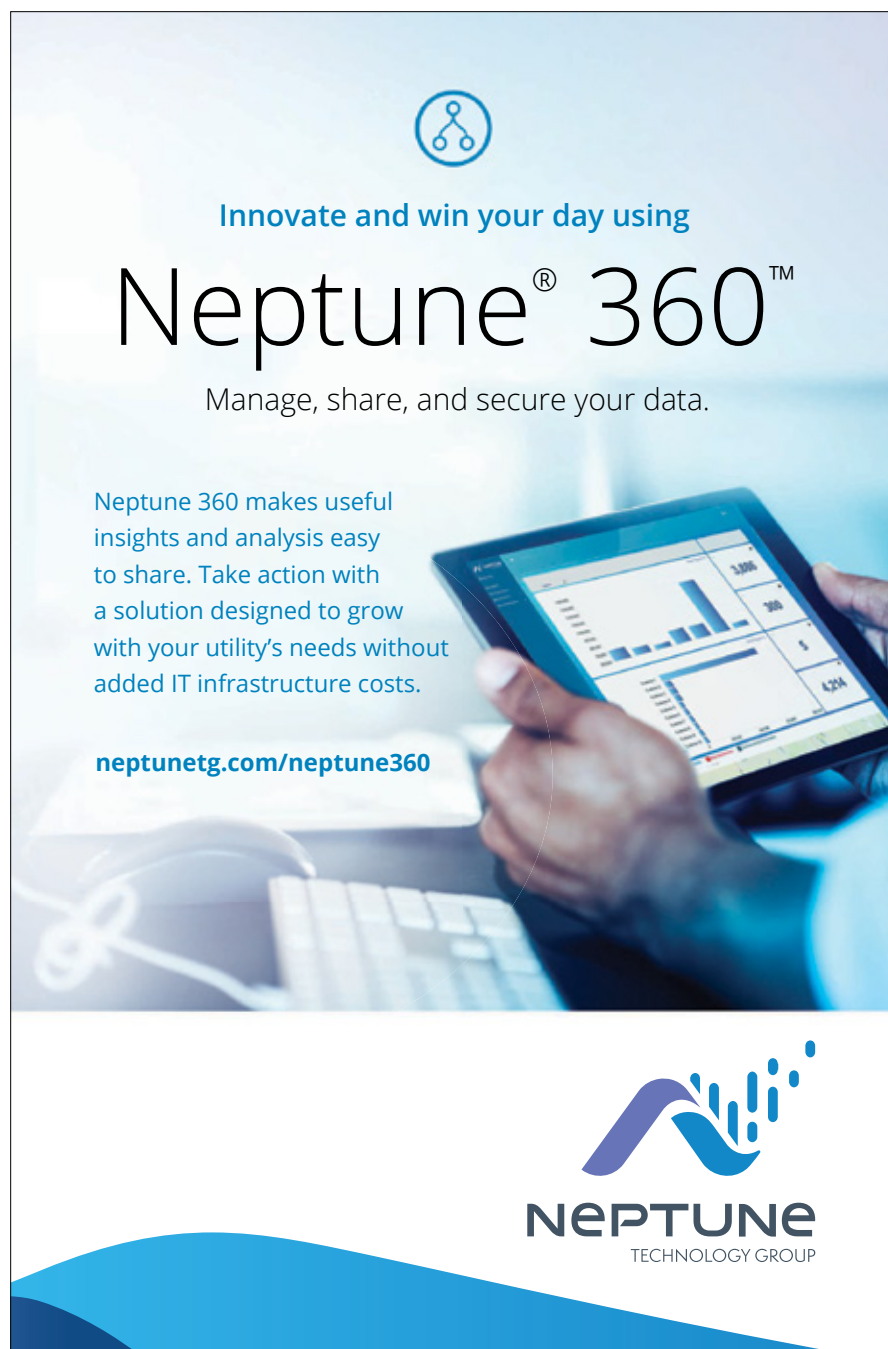
In my career while working at Eugene Water & Electric Board (Eugene, OR), I have witnessed and lived through many extreme events – on the water, electric, and generation sides of the business. One cannot know the chaos and deer in the headlight reactions that come with initial news – that a disaster has happened – until you are in it. ERPs are meant to help you through that initial shock as fast and as orderly as possible. The Incident Command Structure (ICS) works – and very well when followed appropriately. ERPs are also geared to help you communicate internally and externally with your staff, customers, and media. We live in a world that demands information (and quickly). If you don't tell your story, social media or the local newspaper will communicate it for you.


I will end this here; I could write a long time about this topic. Overall, I am impressed with is the quick and thoughtful processes that I witnessed through utilities that put infectious disease plans together and notices to the public about the safety of their water during the pandemic. I also witnessed utilities helping others with their staffing, safety plans, and balancing limited resources – with the safety of working in the field and with customers over a long period of time. This is who we are. We are not out of the woods yet and utilities still have to deal with the downstream issues of loss of income, rate adjustments, and other impacts that this has wrought.

I do pray that all of you and your families are staying safe and away from harm during this pandemic. I especially think of those who are elderly and immune-compromised: we need to be especially attentive to them. Our business centers around public health and it is our highest priority to protect and nurture that value.

I look forward to 'uninteresting times.' In fact, I pine for it. 

Gray Matters is penned by PNWS Section Past-Chair Mel Damewood (2018-2019), who is currently working for West Yost Associates in Eugene, OR.






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NSF Grants Put Lane Community College Programs Ahead of the Curve



By Brenda Cervantes, Project Specialist of Water & Energy Programs at Lane Community College

Technical careers require hands-on educational experiences and with an online curriculum the challenge is to provide students with that experiential component. In the past decade with funding through two NSF ATE grants, Lane Community College (LCC) transitioned its traditional classroom Energy Management program into an online instructional program with hands-on lab experiences available. The Independent Learner Energy Education Design project provides instruction in LCC's online Energy Management (Building Controls

Option) program coupled with fieldwork facilitated by regional power utility mentors.

Of particular interest – in this time when classrooms are going virtual to meet the needs of social distancing – is their transformed Water Conservation Technician (WCT) program, which has been moved to a completely online instructional environment.

WCT instructors have found ways to use virtual tours of commercial buildings when field work is not available or not practical for the

student. In this current climate these are very useful and viable solutions. The NSF ATE grants have allowed the Energy Management and Water Conservation Technician programs at LCC to address the challenges of hands-on experience connected to online instruction.

For more information on either Water Conservation Technician or Energy Management Building Controls programs please visit the Northwest Water & Energy Education Institute at LCC website, www.nweei.org.

The NSF ATE grants have allowed the Energy Management and Water Conservation Technician programs at LCC to address the challenges of hands-on experience connected to online instruction.



Creating sustainable water supplies for the future requires collaboratively reimagining the water cycle.



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AWIA COMPLIANCE

Risk and Resilience: What You Need to Know and Where to Find Resources

Passed in 2018, *America's Water Infrastructure Act* (AWIA) requires community water systems to fill a 'risk and resilience' assessment with the EPA. Within six months of the assessment, water systems must develop an emergency response plan. Links to the process, certification requirements, and resources can be found at www.epa.gov/waterresilience/americas-water-infrastructure-risk-assessments-and-emergency-response-plans.

Who Must File a Risk and Resilience Assessment?

Any community water system that serves more than 3,300 persons is required to file an assessment and emergency response plan. While a community water system is defined as any drinking water utility that consistently serves at least 25 people or has 15 service connections year-round, only those serving 3,300 people are impacted by this requirement.

When Do I Need to File?

The due dates for both the assessments and the plan are dependent upon the size of your service population.

Service Population	Risk and Resilience Assessment	Emergency Response Plan
≥ 100,000 people	March 31, 2020	September 30, 2020
Serving ≥ 50,000 and ≤ 99,999	December 31, 2020	June 30, 2021
Serving ≥ 3,301 and ≤ 49,999	June 30, 2021	December 30, 2021

Continuing Requirements

Every five years, your utility must review your risk and resilience assessment and adjust if needed. You then must recertify your assessment with the EPA. Within six months of recertification of your risk and resilience assessment, you must review your emergency response plan and revise if necessary.

Is There a Form or a Standard I Must Follow?

The short answer is no. Your utility's assessment and plan must meet all the criteria in AWIA Section 2013(a) and (b), but the AWIA does not require that you use any particular standard, tool or method for conducting your assessment or developing your plan. Please be aware that your risk assessment and emergency response plan need to include assessments accidental emergencies (chemical leaks, equipment malfunctions), natural disasters, and changing conditions (flooding or drought from climate change, for example), as well as malevolent acts of sabotage, both on your physical assets and your cyber-control systems.

The lack of a hard and fast standard recognizes the need for these assessments and plans to be flexible and tailored to each utility's needs. However, there are some guidance documents that can act as a road map to the development of these documents. The AWWA has developed *J100-10 Risk and Resilience Management of Water and Wastewater Systems* to guide utilities in their assessments, available for purchase here: www.awwa.org/store/product-details/productid/21625.

Establishing Priorities, Determining Strategies, and Finding Funding Sources

The EPA's *Resilient Strategies Guide* will help you identify possible priorities to evaluate and strategies to fortify your assets based on your utility type (it includes wastewater/stormwater as options, in addition to drinking water), your utility size, and state. The Launch Guide button is at www.epa.gov/crwu/resilient-strategies-guide-water-utilities#, which will take you to the guide launch page at www.epa.gov/crwu/resilient-strategies-guide-water-utilities#/utility-information?utilityname=®ion=101&utilitytype=4&utilitysize=1315.



Malevolent Acts: A New Concern

The risk for terrorism and potential sabotage must be taken seriously. The EPA has designed a guide to assist in this aspect of risk assessment and plan development, entitled *Baseline Information on Malevolent Acts for Community Water Systems*. This guide provides step-by-step assessments for different utility types and threats. The link to the EPA's site is www.epa.gov/waterriskassessment/baseline-information-malevolent-acts-community-water-systems, which includes the link to the document PDF at www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-07/documents/baseline_information_malevolent_acts_508_072519.pdf.

Risk Assessment for Extreme Weather

If extreme weather is a major risk for your utility, there is an assessment tool that will help you project current and long-term conditions. CREAT has interactive maps to help evaluate your area and integrates with the resilient strategies guide at www.epa.gov/crwu/creat-risk-assessment-application-water-utilities. This resource also helps identify strategies and, in some cases, funding sources for implementation.

Don't Forget Chemical Safety

One of the asset categories identified is 'the use, storage or handling of chemicals.' The example cites chlorine as a chemical of concern for uncontrolled release. Maintaining a chlorine residual is key to the safety of your water, and maintaining safe chlorine handling practices is also critical to the safety of your employees and surrounding populations.

Your Communities Depend on You

You know your water is literally the life-giver to your community. The economic and physical health of your communities are only as stable as the water source you provide. Thorough risk assessment and emergency planning is critical to maintaining your utility and the welfare of your community.

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PNWS Walks for Water

As part of the inaugural *Water Equation (WE) Walk!* fundraiser campaign, the Pacific Northwest Section (PNWS) fielded a team of six, led by Kristin Kihs. For eight weeks, teams across the country were asked to walk and collect donations on a mission to raise \$5000. From March 29 to May 25, there were 28 teams who walked over 14,000 miles and raised in excess of \$26,000! This effort helps to fully fund the 2020 Young Professionals (YP) Leadership Day and provide 11 One AWWA Operator Scholarships.

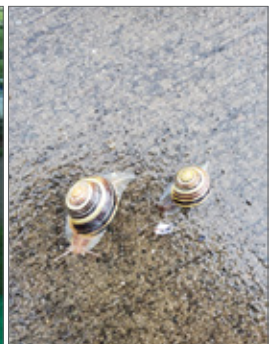
Locally, our team of six – Kristin Kihs, Dave England, Doug Schlepp, Michelle Cheek, Jeff Marrs and the PNWS Young Professionals (Joanie Stultz and Erica Rodriguez) – logged 662 miles and raised over \$3,700. A huge shout out to the Past Chairs and supporters of Past Chairs, who collectively in the course of one day donated over \$1,700 to

this great cause. Along the way, as walkers, we discovered a diversion to home confinement, spring flowers, nature, and at times a place to fill your growler. In the end, it was great to work together supporting the advancement of our Young Professionals and Operators.

A huge thank you to those of the PNWS who participated both physically and financially. If you missed out on this wonderful opportunity, or wondering when this will happen again, mark your calendars for next year's *WE Walk!* commencing April 5, 2021. 📅



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COVID-19 Response: Water Sector Preparation, Vigilance Crucial

The water sector's emphasis on preparedness for emergencies and risk will be especially useful as the current global coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19) continues to escalate.

According to preliminary results from an AWWA member survey, absenteeism and continuity of operations are the major areas of expected challenges from COVID-19 for water utilities. Other concerns include impacts on field operations and interruptions of treatment chemical supply chains.

Water utilities and other service providers continue to carry out their day-to-day responsibilities of providing safe and reliable water and sanitation services to communities, many with detailed emergency preparedness plans already in hand.

"As stewards of public health and the environment, water professionals are well versed on managing risks associated with protecting the water supply and planning for routine and extreme incidents. The coronavirus situation creates potential workforce and supply chain issues relative to utility continuity of service," said Kevin Morley, Federal Relations Manager with the American Water Works Association (AWWA).

"Thanks to the work that utilities are doing to comply with Section 2013 of America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, the Sector is already in the process of reviewing threats that could impact utilities operation and adjusting emergency response plans as appropriate," he added. "AWWA has supported this readiness by providing a Utility Risk and Resilience Certificate Program and many other resources."

COVID-19 is a serious challenge and water utilities should be prepared to communicate with their community the actions they are taking to sustain operations. The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and, based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is low. Conventional water treatment methods, which include disinfection with oxidants like chlorine, are effective for inactivating COVID-19. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual.

Utilities should be prepared for potential impacts to operations, including staff absenteeism, and to respond to

customer inquiries about water safety, according to Morley. This includes staying informed about any measures needed to protect both public health in general and water professionals in particular based on guidance from EPA, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other partners.


Actions for water utilities to consider:

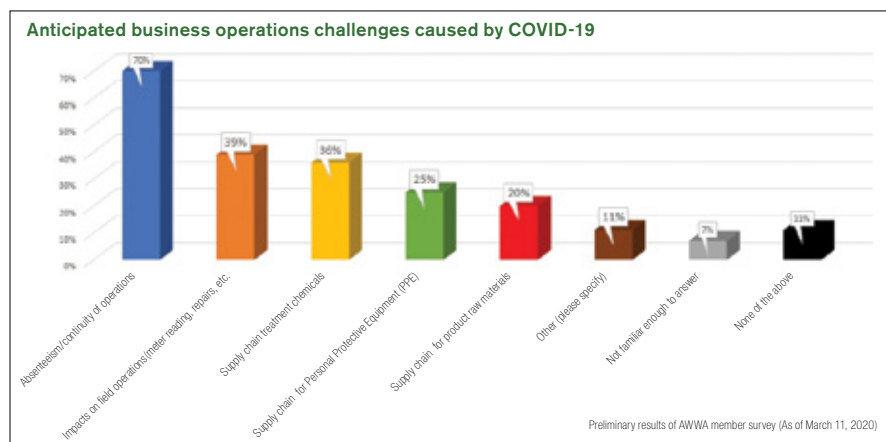
- Review ability to implement workforce contingency to sustain operations, which may include housing staff on site or modifications to typical shifts, including communication with staff on expected roles and responsibilities.
- Coordinate with local public health officials to ensure utility workforce has access to facilities and can make necessary repairs to distribution or collection systems if travel restrictions are imposed in a community.
- Communicate frequently with suppliers of essential treatment chemicals and supplies.
- Communicate with your customers about the safety of the water supply per EPA and CDC guidance.
- Consider alternative payment methods for typical face-to-face transactions with customers.
- Consider postponing customer shut-offs to sustain hygiene and sanitation during the outbreak.

Other sources of guidance particular to COVID-19 include:

- AWWA's coronavirus resource page, www.awwa.org/resources-tools/resource-topics/coronavirus.
- EPA's COVID-19 resource page for drinking water, wastewater and disinfectants, www.epa.gov/coronavirus.
- CDC's resource page about water transmission and COVID-19, www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html.
- The World Health Organization's March 3 technical brief on water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management, www.who.int/publications-detail/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-waste-management-for-covid-19.
- Occupational Health and Science Administration (OSHA) guidelines for COVID-19 control and prevention, www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/controlprevention.html#solidwaste.
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's

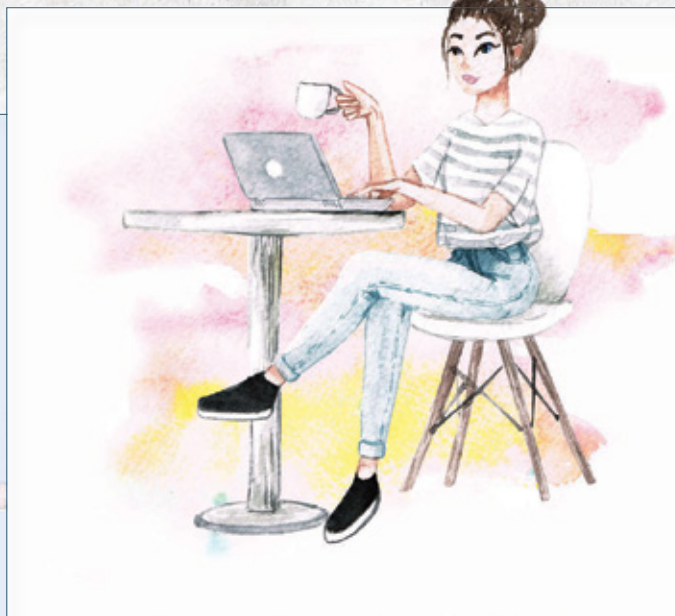
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's materials on impacts to critical infrastructure from COVID-19, www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/20_0306_cisa_insights_risk_management_for_novel_coronavirus.pdf.

- The Water Environment Federation's field guide for water professionals on COVID-19, www.wef.org/news-hub/wef-news/the-water-professionals-guide-to-the-2019-novel-coronavirus.
- The Water Research Foundation's update on coronavirus research, www.waterrf.org/event/coronavirus-research-update. 



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South Sound Subsection

In our last update, we foreshadowed how '2020 is not going to be any quieter' than 2019. We had no idea how right we were; unfortunately, it's not the type of commotion we were anticipating. We've had to cancel or postpone many of our favorite events for 2020. But fear not: your South Sound Subsection is still hard at work to ensure we're able to jump back into activities when it's safe to do so.

Canceled events

For the sake of clarity, let's go ahead and rip the band-aid off and confirm which events are officially cancelled for 2020:

- Best Tasting Water & Meter Madness Competition
- YP Spring Social
- L&ASA Charity Golf Tournament
- Summer Facility Tour

Waterworks 101

We were able to hold the Waterworks 101 training on February 26 just before the statewide 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' proclamation was announced. This year's training took place at Tacoma Public Utilities Auditorium. Among the 60 participants, the location was a hit for its comfortable chairs and open layout. One participant said they enjoyed how the class included 'true stories of incidents that have happened in the past in other water districts.' Other participants felt a greater appreciation for the work that goes into drinking water after attending this high-level overview class.

Trainings Transitioning to Online

Washington Certification Services now approves classroom training to be administered via webinar or

other remote learning methods. The temporary policy allows for remote trainings until December 31, 2020. We are exploring the best ways to implement this form of training for our own Subsection members. We will provide more information via email on when we will offer the first remote training for CEUs.

Virtual meetings

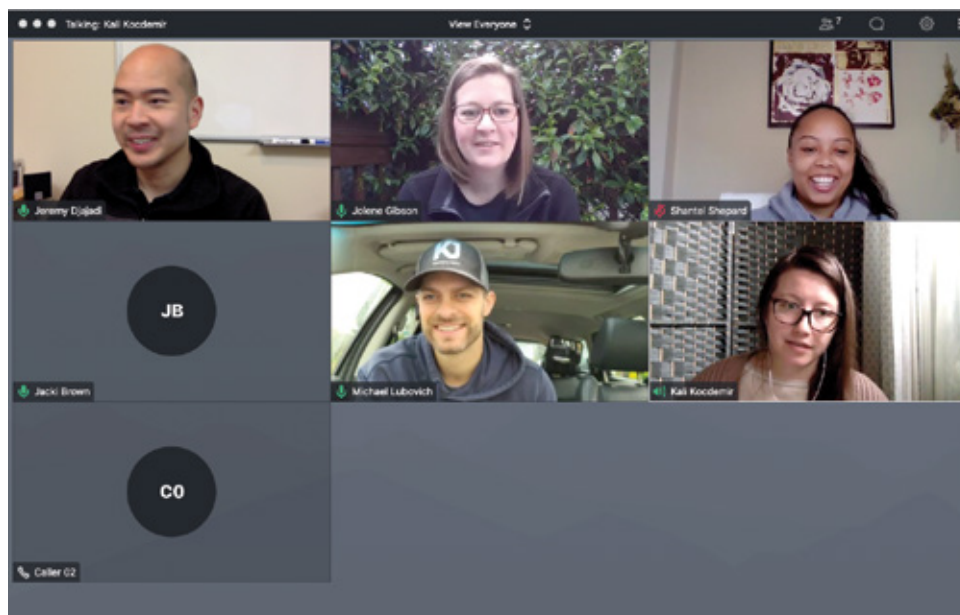
The South Sound Subsection officers, Board members and volunteers have been holding meetings virtually on the third Wednesday of every month. Once our communities are safe and healthy enough to restart, we want to be well-prepared to resume the subsection's fun and educational activities. We anticipate continuing monthly meetings virtually for the next several months. If you'd like to get involved and join our next virtual call, please contact us through our website – we'd love to have more volunteers.

A Virtually Good Time

In light of the social distancing guidelines, the Young Professionals (YP) Committee took their PNWS AWWA Conference track online this year. We love the innovative thinking! The Mini Virtual YP Conference Track was held on May 29 and a lot of participants attended. We will share participant feedback in our next Subsection update.

As we continue the slow build back to some resemblance of normalcy, please stay safe and healthy. 🏠

Jolene Gibson, City of Tacoma
President of the South Sound Subsection
jgibson2@cityoftacoma.org



If you'd like to get involved and join our next virtual call, please contact us through our website – we'd love to have more volunteers.

King County Subsection

From spring to the first part of summer, the King County Subsection (KCSS) has been responding to its new reality with the COVID-19 restrictions. The team held its first virtual KCSS Board Meeting in May to confirm the new 2020-2021 officers and talk about ways the Subsection could continue to serve its members in a virtual setting.

As a whole, we are expecting a quieter year of activities but we will continue to stay connected with membership and inform them when we are ready to continue our programming and allowed to gather again. It's times like these that remind us of how amazing the people in our industry are and how grateful we are to our essential workers for keeping the pipes flowing to our communities.

Save the Date

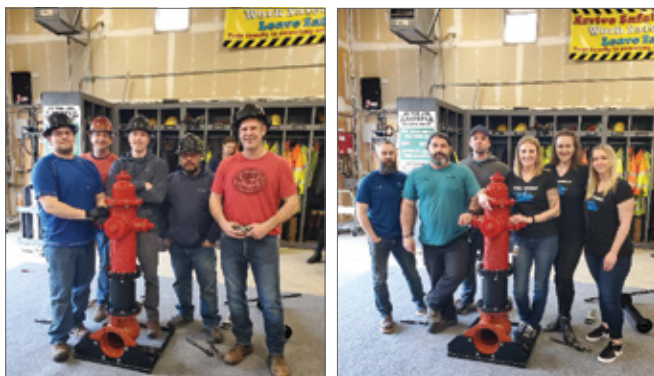
We are still tentatively planning for our annual Charity Golf Tournament, scheduled on September 11, 2020, but we will be monitoring the health advisories closely over the next few weeks and will send out an update once a decision is made for the event. Please look out for these updates. If we can't hold our annual Golf Tournament, we will be looking for ways to still give back and raise funds safely for the E&T Fund and Water For People.

Membership Fun – 2020 King County Water Olympics

Correction from the Spring Issue: The annual King County Subsection Water Olympics was rescheduled for a small, competition-only gathering at the Covington Water District on Thursday, March 12, 2020. At the time of the event, the conference was still scheduled to take place in May at Spokane. This group of competitors was still able to participate in the hydrant hysteria, meter madness, and best tasting water events. A special thanks goes to the Covington Water District for hosting this group on the short notice.

The winners of the King County Subsection 2020 Water Olympics are:

- Meter Madness – Tyler Howard, Covington
- Hydrant Hysteria – Covington (women), Mercer Island (men)
- Best Tasting Water Treated & Best Overall – Covington
- Best Untreated – Lake Forest Park



Hydrant Hysteria Teams (Left: Mercer Island, Right: Covington Water).



Best Tasting Water Winners (Treated and Best Overall: Covington Water; Untreated: Lake Forest Park).

Best Tasting Water Judges tasting water samples.



Training

The KCSS is reassessing our class schedule for 2020 and, at this time, are anticipating the earliest in-person class will take place in February 2021; meanwhile will continue to assess over the next few months.

The Subsection is committed to offering classes to help its members meet their CEU requirements; expect more courses to be offered in 2021 to make up for the loss of classes in 2020, due to COVID-19.

For questions related to classes, please contact our Program Director Jim Konigsfeld at jim.konigsfeld@spwater.org or 425-295-3217.

Expect more courses to be offered in 2021 to make up for the loss of classes in 2020, due to COVID-19.

Get Involved With King County

If you have attended a King County event and wondered how you could become involved or are interested in connecting with more of the industry folks in our area, the King County PNWS-AWWA Subsection hosts monthly meetings and encourages you to attend, meet the officers and learn more about the work we do to support the membership.

If you are interested in attending an upcoming meeting, please reach out to the Subsection's Secretary, Joanie Stultz, at jstultz@brwncaid.com.

Member Spotlight

Our very own Joanie Stultz was the recipient of this year's Section Pioneer Award – an award that recognizes a young professional who exemplifies the most outstanding leadership, technical expertise and dedication to community service. In the words of her nominators, "Joanie uses every event as an opportunity to include, and guide, other young professionals. She is proactive and makes sure to pass down her understanding of the task, situation and is always approachable." Joanie is the KCSS current Board Secretary and past Young Professional Liaison. She also serves on the PNWS Education and

Training Fund, and the Membership Engagement and Development Committee (MEDC), as the 2020 Vision Chair. Congratulations, Joanie!

Service Shout-out

We would like to take a moment to recognize Sally Mohr and her dedication to the PNWS and King County Subsection during her time on the Board. Sally joined the King County Subsection in full force, developing the Board organization, outreach, and programming. With Sally's passion for developing the people and organizations she serves, the KCSS has flourished – growing our annual Golf Tournament and Water Olympics events and recruiting new Board members. We are grateful for her service and wish her the best of luck in her next Chapter. Thank you Sally – we will miss you. 🙏

The King County PNWS-AWWA Subsection hosts monthly meetings and encourages you to attend.

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Inland Empire Subsection

The Inland Empire Subsection (IESS) welcomes its newest President, Bijay Adams from Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District. The Subsection would like to thank its outgoing President, Michelle Johnson from JUB Engineers, for all her hard work over this past year. Past President Loren Searl planned the 16th Annual Truck Rodeo, held at the Centerplace Regional Event Center in Spokane Valley. The Annual Truck Rodeo was another successful Subsection event, where 143 water operators and professionals attended the day-long training. For the second year now, the Subsection has run two parallel tracts – one for administration personnel and the second for operators.


Thanks to the ingenuity of our Director Sara Broderius, this change has promoted larger interest and attendance among professionals in the water industry. Similar to years past, we held men and women tapping team and hydrant hysteria demonstrations, Best Tasting Water, Meter Madness, Gimmicks and Gadgets, and Service Truck competitions. We awarded our coveted Muddy Boots Award to Mike 'Andre' West from the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District. The 2020 winner for Best Tasting Water went to Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District. First place for **Meter Madness** went to **Ryan Treffry, City of Spokane**. First place for **Gimmicks and Gadgets** went to **Jason Wells from City of Post Falls**. For the Service Truck competition, the **Best 1-1/2 Ton and Under** went to **Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District**, the **Best 1-1/2 Ton and Over** went to **City of Coeur d'Alene Water**, the **Best Old Beater** went to **Hayden Lake Irrigation District**, and the **Best of Show** by popular vote went to **City of Coeur d'Alene Water**. Lastly, **Ray Foster, City of Spokane**, had the **best water leak photo submission**.

The IESS would like to thank our sponsors for this event. Without our sponsors and vendors, this training

and completion event could not be possible. Thank you to this year's Gold Sponsors Pump Tech and Owen Equipment; and Silver Vendors AMERICAN Flow Control, American Leak Detection of the Inland NW, Cobalt Truck Equipment, Consolidated Supply Co., Core & Main, Country Financial, Ford Meter Box Co., Frank J. Martin, Hollabaugh Brothers & Associates, Ferguson Waterworks, and HD Fowler Co.

The IESS would like to acknowledge a couple of our members for their contributions to the Subsection. We would like to congratulate **Maura Kegley** for her receipt of the **Subsection Activity Award**. Maura has served as the Inland Empire Subsection Secretary/Treasurer for five years. Maura has been the foundation of the Subsection; there has not been an activity that she has not been instrumental in planning. All Subsection events – the monthly board meetings, training events, Golf tournaments, No Water No Beer events, or the Truck Rodeo – have not only been successful but have continually grown due to her involvement. The Subsection owes Maura a debt of gratitude and acknowledgement.

Lastly, we have to say goodbye to one of our own. **Dan Kegley** is retiring after almost 30 years of service to the City of Spokane. IESS would like to acknowledge the tremendous dedication and legacy Dan has left to the water industry. His recent **Lifetime Achievement Award** is well deserved and recognizes Dan's achievements and contributions. Dan is an incredible resource and has always been there to help others in the water industry. Like his wife Marua, the IESS owes Dan a debt of gratitude and acknowledgment. This Kegley duo has served the IESS well and we thank you!

To learn more about IESS, connect with Bijay Adams, bijay@libertylake.org. 



Northwest Oregon Subsection

A Letter to Members from the NWOR Subsection President

Northwest Oregon Subsection Members,

I hope this letter finds you well during these unprecedented times. I hope you are keeping physically active and thriving to the best of your abilities.

On behalf of the NWOR Officers and Chairs, I would like to thank you for your service. The work you and all the AWWA members are providing to the public is saving lives during this uncertain time. I extend special accolades to the hospital workers who are faced with an extremely difficult job during this pandemic.

During the last month many events were changed, canceled, or postponed. Everyone is working tirelessly to make adjustments to protect the health and safety of our members. Consequently, the NWOR Short School has been canceled and all refunds have been issued. The loss of funding from the Short School significantly decreases our approved 2020 budget. Thankfully, our past presidents did an excellent job managing the budget.

Because the length of this crisis is unknown, we have proposed additional reductions to the budget. Saving financial resources will enable us to continue to provide training, scholarships, and mentoring for the next fiscal year.

Both the Section conference in Spokane and the National conference in Orlando have been canceled. All local in-person training and lunch meetings have been canceled to align with the Oregon Governor's order to 'Stay Home, Save Lives.' The time frame for resumption of activities is unknown. We will continue to monitor the directives issued by the Governor regarding opening of the state.

As of May 1, there are a few transitions of positions and responsibilities. Matt Kaatz will lead as President,

Laura Oxsen will support as Vice President, and Kyle Arnhart will be Treasurer. We are also happy to welcome Brooke Barry as our new Secretary. We are excited to have Brooke on our team.

Your Subsection is working to arrange various online training so members can obtain CEU hours before the end of the year. When training dates are approved, we will announce them in the monthly membership email and on social media.

We know that water professionals are never acknowledged or thanked enough – so kudos to you for your outstanding service. During this crisis, the Centers for Disease Control's first advice for staying healthy was to, "wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds." Each and every one of you are playing a critical role in everyone's lives.

To wrap up on a positive note, the Holiday Party at the Oregon Zoo is still scheduled for Friday, December 18, and we look forward to seeing you all there.

The NWOR Subsection would like to highlight all the amazing work each one of you continues to do daily. We would love to receive pictures of you and your fellow workers completing day to day tasks that we can highlight on our social media outlets. You can send pictures and any questions, concerns or comments to any of the officers.

Once again thank you for your commitment to your communities, your dedication to public health, and your spirit of self-sacrifice. I am so proud to be your president.

Sincerely,
Matt Kaatz, NWOR Subsection President

On behalf of the NWOR Officers and Chairs, I would like to thank you for your service. The work you and all the AWWA members are providing to the public is saving lives during this uncertain time.

Northwest Oregon Subsection *continued*

Get WILD at the ZOO

Our holiday Party 2020 will be on Friday, December 18, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

It's never too early to be hunting for that perfect Ugly Sweater!



Sponsorship for Holiday Party 2020

The NWOR Subsection is excited to reconnect with everyone after an extremely long period of social isolation and event cancellations. We are pleased to have the 2020 Holiday Party at a new venue: the Oregon Zoo. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has not allowed us to collect our typical revenue through various events throughout the year. In order to make this event a success we need your support.

Sponsorship of the 2020 Holiday Party is an opportunity for companies and individuals to show support of the Northwest Oregon Subsection. If you are interested in being a sponsor for this year's holiday party, please contact Laura Oxsen at laura.oxsen@3j-consulting.com.

Thanks to the 2019 Holiday Party Sponsors

Ferguson, Century West, Core and Main, Consolidated Supply, DN Tanks, WSC, West Yost Associates, McWane Ductile, General Pacific, MurrySmith, Stantec and Pace.

Opportunities

We're currently looking for an energetic Young Professional (YP) Chair. A YP is anyone under the age of 35 and/or who has less than 10 years of experience in the water industry. Please contact Brooke Barry at bbarry@westyost.com if you're interested.

Send us your photos: we'd love to see what your city or company is doing. Visit us on our social media accounts! 



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