



# American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest Section

## Water Science Division Report

2022 Fall Trustees Meeting

Submitted by Joel Cary, Oregon/Idaho Trustee

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### Key Highlights:

- The Water Research, Water Treatment, Water Quality, and Water Resources Committees have all remained active and engaged this last quarter.
- Planning for the 2023 Section Conference in Kennewick, WA has continued with positive results under the new Division based model.
- All Committees were engaged in the Budget planning process. Funds were requested by the Water Quality, Research, Treatment Committees for potential training workshops in the next fiscal year.

### Background and Committee Details

All Committees held successful leadership transition meetings during the 2022 Section Conference in Tacoma. Within each Committee, members expressed their desire to renew participation and engagement, even though all Water Science Divisions Committees are generally strong in this area. Specific ideas discussed included holding more in-person tours at various locations to generate additional interest from Section members.

During this quarter, the majority of efforts have been centered around 2023 Conference development and planning. Under the new Division based coordination model being piloted this year, Committee leadership has been very engaged and supportive. The idea of focusing on session building as a team was a key highlight and point of discussion, leading to a topic driven format for the 2023 Conference. Key focus areas by all Committees includes several notable areas of interest and concern for PNWS utilities, including PFAS, manganese, Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, emerging treatment technologies and optimization, and water resources planning for surface and groundwater sources.

All Committee are planning to continue holding regular meetings during the next quarter. Focus will remain on completing technical sessions for the 2023 Section Conference and planning for potential training workshops in the fall or winter. As the Water Science Division Trustee, I will also continue supporting each Committee as needs arise. The extensive talent, expertise, and professional from these volunteer members and Committee leader truly makes my role enjoyable and rewarding.

### **Research Committee**

Chair – Andrew Nishihara, Stantec

Vice Chair – Sophia Hobet, City of Hillsboro

Vice Chair – Deborah Newby, Veolia

- Anna Vosa ( Portland Water Bureau) ended her term successfully as Committee Chair.
- Andrew Nishihara began his term as the new Chair.
- The Research Committee has been active and holding regular meetings.
- Priorities this quarter included:
  - Soliciting speakers and abstracts for areas of key interest to Section members, specifically PFAS and corrosion control chemistry; and
  - Developing a technical session for the 2023 Section in coordination with all Committees under the Water Science Division

### **Treatment Committee**

Chair – Brian Rowbotham, Murraysmith

Vice Chair – Mac Gifford, Portland Water Bureau

Secretary – Aaron Gress, Murraysmith

- Josh Kennedy (Jacobs) ended his term successfully as Committee Chair.
- Brian Rowbotham began his term as the new Chair.
- The Water Treatment Committee has been active and holding regular meetings.
- The priority this quarter was developing a technical session for the 2023 Section in coordination with all Committees under the Water Science Division.

### **Water Quality Committee**

Chair – Emilia Blake, Skagit PUD

Vice Chair – Virpi Salo-Zieman, Confluence Engineering Group

Secretary – Mia Vijanderan, Brown and Caldwell

- Kay Rottell (Wash. Dept. of Health) ended her term successfully as Committee Chair.
- Emilia Blake began her term as the new Chair
- The Water Quality Committee has been active and holding regular meetings.
- Priorities this quarter included:
  - Soliciting national speakers and abstracts regarding manganese occurrence and control, an area of key interest for Section members; and
  - Developing a technical session for the 2023 Section in coordination with all Committees under the Water Science Division.

### **Water Resources Committee**

Chair – Jacob Krall, Geosyntec

Vice Chair – Kenny Janssen, GSI Water Solutions

Secretary – Andrew Wentworth (currently unaffiliated)

- There was no change in leadership during this year's transition.
- Committee chairs expressed their desire to increase Committee participation to develop the next round of leadership, allowing for transition/rotation at the 2023 Section Conference.
- The Water Resources Committee has been active and holding regular meetings.
- The priority this quarter was developing a technical session for the 2023 Section in coordination with all Committees under the Water Science Division.

*### End Report ###*