



American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest Section

Water Science Division Report

2023 Winter Trustees Meeting

Submitted by Joel Cary, Oregon/Idaho Trustee

Key Highlights:

- The Water Research, Treatment, Quality, and Resources Committees developed several tracks for the upcoming Section Conference in Kennewick, Washington.
- Given the extensive number of abstracts submitted, a pre-con seminar on PFAS was developed by the Water Treatment and Research Committees.
- Best Tasting Water Competition planning is also underway by the Water Quality Committee.

Background and Committee Details

During this quarter, the four Committee of the Water Science Division – the Water Research, Water Treatment, Water Quality, and Water Resources Committees – completed their work developing several excellent tracks for the upcoming 2023 Section Conference in Kennewick, Washington. Final planning elements, like moderator selection and late breaking abstract submissions, were coordinated amongst Committee members and the Program Committee. This was another year exemplifying the hard work and dedication that dozens of volunteers put into making the Pacific Northwest Section of AWWA successful.

In addition to the technical sessions on important topics like lead, manganese, source water protection, and groundwater and surface water treatment technologies, a joint pre-con seminar on PFAS (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances) was developed by the Water Treatment and Research Committees given the extensive number of abstracts submitted regarding this topic. This pre-con will focus on recent advances in the detection and removal of PFAS compounds as well as communications tools and case studies from around the Pacific Northwest.

The Water Quality Committee has begun planning for the 2023 Best Tasting Water Competition. This event is a hallmark of the Section and brings together utilities from across the region to submit their water for tasting by a panel of industry peers. More information will be shared as the Water Quality Committee continues to plan for this event in advance of the Section Conference.

Last, the Water Research Committee in partnership with the Young Professionals Committee is renewing the Student Poster Competition. The competition solicits abstracts from students in the water sector who then submit a poster based presentation for the Section Conference. The first place winner – judged during the Conference – will be offered a trip to attend AWWA ACE in Toronto this year. More information will be shared soon as the Committees work to promote this effort and solicit poster abstracts from interested students.

Research Committee

Chair – Andrew Nishihara, Stantec
Vice Chair – Sophia Hobet, City of Hillsboro
Vice Chair – Deborah Newby, Veolia

Treatment Committee

Chair – Brian Rowbotham, Stantec
Vice Chair – Mac Gifford, Portland Water Bureau
Secretary – Aaron Gress, Murraysmith

Water Quality Committee

Chair – Emilia Blake, Skagit PUD
Vice Chair – Virpi Salo-Zieman, Confluence Engineering Group
Secretary – Mia Vijanderan, Brown and Caldwell

Water Resources Committee

Chair – Jacob Krall, Geosyntec
Vice Chair – Kenny Janssen, GSI Water Solutions
Secretary – Andrew Wentworth (currently unaffiliated)

End Report