WWEMA
46th Washington Forum
April 3-5, 2019
Mandarin Oriental
Washington, DC

Creating a Roadmap for an Uncertain Future

Water Week 2019
Final Onsite Program
Looking into the Political Crystal Ball

Rich Galen, Chairman, Barrington Worldwide

A lot has happened since Rich presented on post-election impacts after the mid-term elections at our November Annual Meeting. He will bring his keen wit and political insights to discussions on trade, infrastructure, immigration, budgets, and other issues of national importance currently being debated by Congress and the Administration. As a former press secretary to Dan Quayle and Newt Gingrich during their time in Congress, and the communications director of the political office of Speaker Gingrich, Rich is uniquely qualified to speak to the current political landscape and what we might expect in 2019.

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Break

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Nutrients – The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Brian Lapointe, Ph.D., Research Professor, Florida Atlantic University
Laura Johnson, Ph.D., Director, National Center for Water Quality Research, Heidelberg University

Nutrients continue to capture national headlines whether by creating harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the Great Lakes or HABs and red tides in the Florida Everglades and elsewhere across this country. Brian and Laura will present their research findings that capture the nutrient inputs and loadings in the Great Lakes down to the Gulf of Mexico and Southwest Florida and the Caribbean. Information about contributions from agriculture, failing septic systems, and point sources will be shared to facilitate dialog on treatment and management options. Laura will also engage attendees in conversation about the next generation workforce and the skill sets our members and the water industry need from students coming out of college to successfully contribute as the next water leaders.

12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.
Networking Lunch (All Attendees)

1:30 - 2:15 p.m.
Trade Builds America

Alison Winters, Senior Policy Fellow at Americans for Prosperity

From Midwestern towns to coastal cities, trade helps build strong communities and drives American progress - creating jobs, fueling small business growth, and supplying hardworking families with everyday goods and services at affordable prices. Thanks to pro-growth policies, our economy and job creation are strong. Wages are up and unemployment is down. We are starting to grow faster than we have in years. Our country today is a better place to do business. But trade policies can put it all at risk.

2:15 - 3:30 p.m.
American Iron and Steel and Buy American Requirements – What You Need to Know

Kiri Anderer, P.E., DWSRF Team, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Rudd Coffey, Associate, Northbridge Environmental

While American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements have been permanent for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) for several years, recent signing of the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, has now made these requirements permanent for the Drinking Water SRF for the next five years. While manufacturers, states, and utilities have been dealing with these requirements, the landscape continues to evolve. A recent example is the January 31, 2019 Executive Order (EO) signed by President Trump on Strengthening Buy-American Preferences for Infrastructure Projects that expands manufactured goods to include aluminum, plastics and polymer-based products like PVC pipe, concrete, glass, optical fiber, and lumber. Kiri will speak to the current AIS requirements and how the recent EO may impact this program. Rudd will present findings from recent surveys and focus groups of state staff and the borrowing community on the headaches and challenges of dealing with AIS. In addition, Rudd will outline a proposal for an AIS Marketplace, an online clearinghouse where consulting engineers, contractors, vendors, and others can search for and find AIS-compliant products they offer. The focus of the AIS Marketplace is to help connect projects with the products they need to make compliance easier and more efficient.
3:30 - 3:45 p.m.
Break

3:45 - 5:00 p.m.
**Priorities and Outlook for EPA in 2019 and Beyond**

**Andrew Sawyer, Ph.D.**, Director, U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

**Jennifer McLain, Ph.D.**, Acting Director, U.S. EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

**Deborah Nagle**, Director, U.S. EPA Office of Science and Technology

Our panel of U.S. EPA office directors will provide insights on the priorities for each of their offices and the regulatory issues they are tackling in 2019 and beyond. We know that lead, PFAS/PFOA, nutrients, harmful algal blooms, Waters of the U.S., and peak wet weather flow issues have captured headlines in recent months. They will share information on these and other issues that will frame the Agency’s regulatory agenda.

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
**Networking Reception** (All Attendees)

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Friday, April 5

7:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
**Oriental Ballroom BC Foyer**

**Registration**

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
**Capitol Room**

**Breakfast** (All Attendees)

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
**Oriental Ballroom BC**

**The Economic Outlook**

**Ken Simonson**, Chief Economist, The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)

There is plenty of uncertainty facing contractors and other businesses heading into 2019! So far, the AGC members say they are still optimistic about the volume of work that will be available, but they are having an ever-harder time finding qualified workers. Pricing has become a big issue again, given the sudden shocks and unpredictability of tariffs and trade policy. And interest rate increases may impact more businesses than in the past decade. Ken will discuss these issues and more as he covers construction spending in industrial, public works, health care and education, and residential sectors, as well as employment and workforce issues.

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

**Enhancing Export Opportunities for U.S. Water Companies**

**Amy Kreps**, Senior Environmental Technology Trade Specialist, U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration

This session will highlight the resources and programs that the U.S. Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration offers to enhance the competitiveness of the U.S. environmental industry overseas and help U.S. firms to enter or increase their presence in international markets.

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

**Break**

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

**Better Contracts, Better Projects**

**Brian Perlberg**, Executive Director, ConsensusDocs

Searching for a way to avoid unfair risk distribution in contracts while improving project collaboration and building better business relationships? ConsensusDocs are the only standard contracts developed by a diverse coalition of 40 leading associations, including WWEMA, with members from all stakeholders in the design and the construction industry. This presentation will explain how the contract language protects the best interests of the project rather than a singular party to yield better project results and fewer disputes. Gain contractual best practices to get better project results, understand the importance of using fair risk allocated contracts, learn why other subcontractors prefer to use ConsensusDocs, and how to advocate for fair and balanced contractual relationships.

11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

**One Water Research Program**

**Beate Wright, P.E.**, Executive Director, Development and Communications, The Water Research Foundation

The Water Research Foundation (WRF) is the leading not-for-profit research cooperative that advances the science of water to protect public health and the environment. Governed by utilities, WRF delivers scientifically sound research solutions and knowledge in all areas of drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and reuse. This One Water approach allows for the integration of research across all water disciplines. Beate will highlight several research projects and priorities, as well as discuss how manufacturers can participate in the Leaders Innovation Forum for Technology (LIFT), a program driven by technology needs of water utilities.

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**ITRC and State Activities Related to PFAS Regulation**

**Patricia Reyes**, Director, Interstate Technology Regulatory Council

The Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) is a state-led coalition working to reduce barriers to the use of innovative air, water, and remediation environmental technologies and processes. ITRC produces documents and training that broaden and deepen technical knowledge and expedite quality regulatory decision making while protecting human health and the environment. Patricia will share information on the work that the PFAS Team is doing to produce concise technical resources that will help regulators and other stakeholders improve their understanding of the current science regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a large and complex class of anthropogenic compounds whose prevalence in the environment have become an emerging, worldwide priority in environmental and human health. Some PFAS are environmentally persistent and bioaccumulative, and may pose human health risks. Recent high-profile cases involving human exposure in the U.S. have further focused both public and regulatory scrutiny on PFAS.

**Closing Comments and Adjournment**

**John Collins**, Washington Forum Chair

**12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.**

**Board of Directors Lunch and Meeting**
Antitrust Policy

The Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (WWEMA) is a trade association whose purpose is to promote the common interest of its members and the water and wastewater industry at large, when such interests do not conflict with the common good. WWEMA is not intended to become involved, and it will not become involved, in the competitive decisions of its member companies; nor will it take action that would tend to restrain competition in the water and wastewater equipment industry.

Nevertheless, it is recognized by the Board of Directors of WWEMA that its activities could be regarded by some as a forum of opportunity to promote anti-competitive conduct. For this reason, the Board of Directors has taken this occasion, through this Statement of Policy, to make clear its unequivocal support for the policy of competition served by the antitrust laws, as well as its uncompromising intent to comply strictly in all respects with those laws.

To that end, the following will not be discussed at meetings:

- Current or future prices
- What constitutes a “fair” profit level
- Possible increases or decreases in prices
- Standardization or stabilization of prices
- Pricing procedures
- Cash discounts
- Credit terms
- Control of sales
- Allocations of markets or geographical division of markets
- Refusal to deal with a corporation because of its pricing or distribution practices
- Whether or not the pricing practices of any industry member are unethical or constitute an unfair trade practice
- Plans to bid or refrain from bidding or submit pricing to bidders on future public projects

Compliance with these guidelines involves not only avoidance of antitrust violation, but avoidance of any behavior which might be considered improper. Antitrust laws are complex and far reaching. This statement is not a complete summary of all applicable laws. It is intended to highlight and emphasize certain basic precautions designed to avoid antitrust problems. In case of doubt, seek the guidance of staff, management, or the organization’s counsel or your own corporate counsel should antitrust questions arise.

Code of Ethics

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The Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (WWEMA) and its member companies voluntarily pledge to conduct themselves according to the highest professional standards and laws of society.

- We shall strive to provide products and services of quality and value.
- We shall conduct our business with honesty and integrity.
- We shall make truthful representations as to the performance of our products.
- We shall work to maintain our professional skills—and those of our employees—at the state of the art.
- And we shall hold paramount the health and safety of the public in the performance of our business.

Adopted by the WWEMA Board of Directors on May 6, 1991, in Washington, D.C.