

December 1, 2006

## Interest Strong for December 12 Action Planning Session

Attendance for the December 12 *Strategic Watershed Agenda . . . An Action Planning Session*, in Kansas City, Mo., reached 50 this week. The participants are from diverse geographical locations and offer a good mix of public agency leaders, private affiliate representatives, and association staff. These varied areas of experience and expertise will help ensure an insightful and productive session. NACWA appreciates the strong response from the Board of Directors to this session and the Board's continuing commitment to shaping the Association's strategic direction as we head into the 35th anniversary of the Clean Water Act and the 110th Congress.

NACWA, this week, forwarded session registrants a white paper that will form the basis for the facilitated discussion on the following issue areas: 1) Clean Water/Drinking Water/Water Reuse; 2) Nonpoint Sources of Pollution; 3) Urban/Suburban Stormwater; 4) Wetlands; 5) Green Infrastructure; 6) Septic Systems; and 7) Collection Systems. The Association will soon send the white paper to all Association members via *Member Update*, offering them the opportunity to share their insights on these key issues as well.

NACWA is also pleased that Bill Bertera, Executive Director of the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and WEF President, Mohamed Dahab, will be attending the session along with other WEF staff. The Association believes this is significant given the recent adoption by both organizations' Board of Directors of the Memorandum of Agreement and the commitment of both groups to bolster each others' missions and avoid duplication of effort.

## High Level of Interest in NACWA's 2007 Winter Program – Hotel Cut-off is January 8

NACWA's 2007 Winter Conference, *Global Trends Impacting Public Utilities. . . The Rising Cost of Clean*, is just around the corner. Board members are urged to reserve your hotel room today by contacting the Renaissance Vinoy at 727.894.1000 to guarantee the special conference rate of \$229 single/double. Be sure to mention that you are a participant in NACWA's 2007 Winter Conference. Please make your hotel reservation prior to the Monday, January 8, 2007 deadline.

The 2007 Winter Conference, January 30 – February 2, 2007, will explore the increasing pressures from external, and sometimes global, forces that are challenging public utilities. With environmental regulations, consent decrees, and other mandates forcing municipalities to plan their capital improvement budgets years and often decades into the future, the added level of uncertainty with regard to how far the municipal dollar will ultimately go is of critical importance. The Conference will explore the impacts of a rapidly growing global economy, including the international demand for construction and other materials.

Immediately prior to and during the Conference there are a number of Board workgroup sessions, committee meetings and events that you should be aware of as you plan your travel. They are as follows:

### Monday, January 29

*Morning/Afternoon*

9:00 – 5:00

Strategic Planning Committee Workgroup – Review of NACWA's Strategic Plan (Appointed Workgroup members only)

## Tuesday, January 30

### *Morning*

8:30 – 9:30 Strategic Planning Committee  
9:45 -10:45 Audit Review Committee  
11:00 – 12:15 Budget & Audit Committee

### *Afternoon*

12:15 – 2:00 Executive Committee  
4:00 – 5:00 Membership Committee

### *Evening*

6:00 – 7:00 Welcoming Reception/Meet & Greet  
7:00 Executive Committee Dinner

## Wednesday, January 31

### *Morning*

7:30 – 8:45 Regulatory Policy Committee

### *Afternoon*

12:15 – 2:00 Board of Directors Meeting

### *Evening*

6:00 – 7:30 Excellence in Management Recognition Reception

## Thursday, February 2

### *Afternoon*

12:00 – 1:30 Awards Committee  
4:00 – 5:00 Clean Water Funding Task Force

### *Evening*

6:00 – 7:30 Reception

## Friday, February 3

### *Morning*

8:00 – 9:15 Legislative Policy Committee

All receptions will take place at the Renaissance Vinoy, which has a variety of different venues for evening events. The *Spouse/Guest Lounge* will also be available and will be open Tuesday, January 30 – Thursday, February 1 from 8:00 – 10:00 am (continental breakfast served). Board materials are slated to be forwarded to Board Members on January 10, 2007. We look forward to seeing you soon in St. Petersburg.

## **Champion Challenges Board Colleagues to Urge Others to *Join NACWA Now!***

We are now one month into the *Join NACWA Now!* membership campaign. The campaign has already generated strong prospective member leads and one rejoining member – the City of Toledo, Ohio – however, we still need your support. Board participation in membership recruitment is an integral part of attaining our goal of increasing NACWA's membership.

As Association leaders, Dick Champion has challenged each of you to support this campaign by recruiting at least one new member in 2007. To assist you in this Presidential Challenge, we are pleased to offer multiple recruitment resources on the *Join NACWA Now!* campaign website including a list of “hot” prospective members; *Join NACWA Now* benefit cards; and dedicated staff to assisting you in your recruitment efforts. With both Dick Champion and Larry Patterson well on their way to recruiting their first new members of the campaign, we look forward to a positive response to this Presidential Challenge.

## NACWA Positions & Priorities Reflected in TRCP White Paper

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) is one of the nation's leading conservation organizations and a recognized leader on Farm Bill conservation programs. TRCP has established an Agriculture and Wildlife Working Group (AWWG) to develop a comprehensive Farm Bill conservation proposal. TRCP partner organizations, including Ducks Unlimited, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Izaak Walton League of America, Pheasants Forever, the Wildlife Management Institute, The Wildlife Society, BASS and the North American Grouse Partnership, are coordinating on work to make sure the next Farm Bill achieves even greater conservation benefits. Last week NACWA joined with the TRCP as a new member of the AWWG. As a result, NACWA's Farm Bill water quality priorities will soon be incorporated into the AWWG's recommendations. NACWA's partnership with TRCP, through the AWWG, will help to elevate our water quality priorities and provide better access to key officials during next year's debate on conservation policy in the Farm Bill.

## NACWA Builds Network of Engaged Organizations

NACWA recently sent a letter to approximately 20 state and regional organizations representing the interests of public wastewater treatment agencies seeking to have them name a liaison to the Association in order to help broaden and strengthen our municipal network and ensure support for the clean water community's advocacy priorities. The Association has received a positive response and is engaged in follow-up initiatives to ensure success. A critical part of engaging this new network is communication. The Association is in the process of conceptualizing the best vehicle through which to communicate NACWA advocacy initiatives and inspire the proactive involvement of these key utility organizations and their agency members. The communication component of this effort is slated to kick-off in January 2007, with the goal of tailoring messages to build strong alliances among NACWA and organizations at the state and regional level. NACWA staff will keep the Board apprised of further developments in this important outreach effort through regular updates.

## Grumbles Convenes Association Leaders to Discuss Security

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assistant Administrator for Water, Ben Grumbles, met with Association leaders today to review efforts by the water sector to heighten security and ensure emergency preparedness. Executive Director Ken Kirk represented the Association and highlighted the numerous initiatives that NACWA has either led or participated in within the security arena – from vulnerability assessment software to publications, and legislation to pandemic preparedness. NACWA joined with the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) in reflecting on the great progress made and recommending that EPA retain primary jurisdiction over water/wastewater security issues; work to avoid unnecessary mandates; support classification of the water/wastewater sector as 'first responders'; and, urge the federal government to deem water sector employees as high priority for vaccination distribution in the event of a pandemic.

## NACWA Prepares to Intervene in BEACH Act Case

Consistent with the Board's authorization at its September meeting, in recent weeks NACWA has drafted a complaint and motion to intervene in *Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*. The suit, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, concerns EPA's failure to establish new recreational water quality criteria and to take a number of other actions under the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000 (BEACH Act). Local court rules require NACWA to formally consult counsel for both NRDC and EPA before intervening; a process NACWA began before Thanksgiving. NACWA anticipates filing the motion by mid-December, and will keep the Board apprised of further developments.

## Annual Audit Underway Next Week

NACWA's FY 2006 audit will begin on December 4, 2006. The Association will utilize the services of the accounting firm Clifton Gunderson LLP again this year. The audit is anticipated to last about a week, and we expect to receive the FY 2006 audited Financial Statements and Management Letter in draft form by December 31, 2006. The draft Financial Statements and Management Letter will be included in the Winter Conference Board materials. NACWA's Board-appointed Audit Review Committee, whose membership includes Marian Orfeo, Ralph Charlton, Buddy Morgan, Ray Orvin and Mark Yeager, is scheduled to review the draft statements at a meeting on January 30, 2007 during the Winter Conference. Following the Board's consideration of the audit, each Board member will receive a bound copy of the final FY 2006 audited Financial Statements and Management Letter.

We look forward to seeing many of you in Kansas City on December 11 & 12,  
and the full Board in St. Petersburg at the Winter Conference.  
Happy Holidays!