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**Linking Member Associations with
Important Federal Policies and Local Trends**

Thursday, May 23, 2024
1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

The Water Environment Federation logo is located in the bottom right corner of the teal slide. It features the same stylized white 'W' icon and text as seen in the first image.


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How to Participate Today

The image shows a Zoom meeting control bar with four main buttons highlighted in red boxes: 'Audio Settings', 'Q&A', 'Show Captions', and 'Leave Meeting'. Red lines connect these buttons to descriptive text below them.

- Audio Settings**
Adjust your speaker output (You can also optionally join via phone audio)
- Submit your questions using the Questions pane.**
- Enable auto-caption feature**
(May not be 100% accurate)
- Leave the webcast early**

A recording will be available for replay shortly after this webcast.

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Today's Agenda

Moderators: Jay Hoskins and Julie Nahrgang


Introduction – *Steve Dye (WEF)*

Water Week 2024 Reflections

- Khris Dodson (NYWEA)
- Frank Dick (City of Vancouver)
- Blaga Delic & Olga Mikhalchishina (Young Professionals)

Questions and Discussion

Federal Update – *Steve Dye (WEF)*

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Federal Update

WEF Government Affairs Department

Steve Dye
Sr. Director of Government Affairs
sdye@wef.org



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National Water Policy Fly-In 2024



Save the Date:

April 8, 2025

Washington, DC

www.waterweek.us



Join hundreds of water professionals from around the nation in Washington, DC, to advocate before Congress and the Biden Administration on the issues that are important to the water sector.

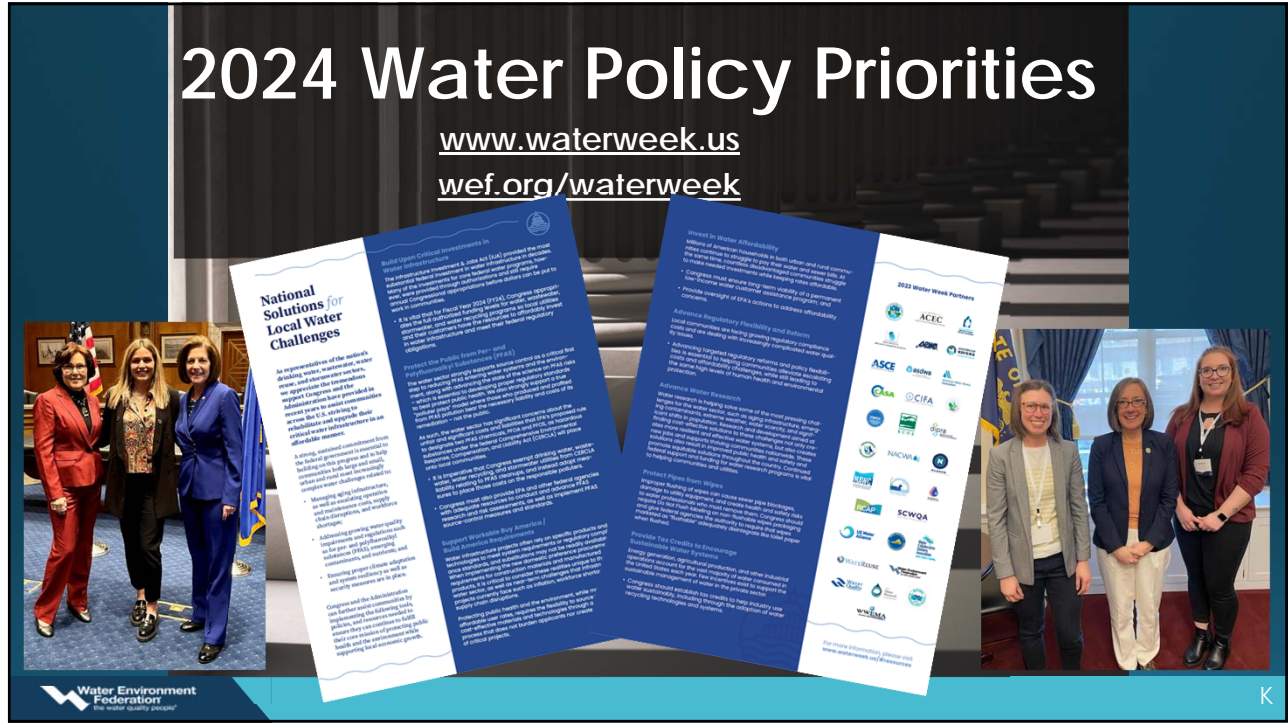
- Details posted on the Water Week website: www.waterweek.us
- Co-hosted by WEF, NACWA, WaterReuse Association, the Water Research Foundation, and **AMWA!**



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2024 Water Policy Priorities

www.waterweek.us
wef.org/waterweek



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National Solutions for Local Water Challenges

As representatives of the nation's drinking water, wastewater, water reuse, and stormwater sectors, we appreciate the tremendous support Congress and the Administration have provided in recent years to assist communities across the U.S. striving to rehabilitate and upgrade their critical water infrastructure in an affordable manner.

A strong, sustained commitment from the federal government is essential to building on this progress and to help communities both large and small urban and rural meet increasingly complex water challenges related to:

- Managing aging infrastructure, as well as escalating operation and maintenance costs, supply chain disruptions, and workforce shortages;
- Addressing growing water quality impairments and regulations such as for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), emerging contaminants, and nutrients; and
- Ensuring proper climate adaptation and system resiliency as well as security measures are in place.

Congress and the Administration can further assist communities by implementing the following tools, policies, and resources needed to ensure they can continue to fulfill their core mission of protecting public health and the environment while supporting local economic growth.

Build Upon Critical Investments in Water Infrastructure

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided the most substantial federal investment in water infrastructure in decades. Many of the investments for core federal water programs, however, were provided through authorizations and still require annual Congressional appropriations before dollars can be put to work in communities.

- It is vital that for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), Congress appropriates the full authorized funding levels for water, wastewater, stormwater, and water recycling programs to local utilities and their customers have the resources to affordably invest in water infrastructure and meet their federal regulatory obligations.

Protect the Public from Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

The water sector strongly supports source control as a critical first step to reducing PFAS entering water systems and the environment, along with advancing the state of the science on PFAS risks – which is essential to developing proper regulatory standards to best protect public health. We also strongly support a “polluter pays” model where those who produced and profited from PFAS pollution bear the necessary liability and costs of its remediation – not the public.

As such, the water sector has significant concerns about the unfair and significant costs and liabilities that EPA’s proposed rule to designate two PFAS chemicals, PFOA and PFOS, as hazardous substances under the Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) will place onto local communities.

- It is imperative that Congress exempt drinking water, wastewater, water recycling, and stormwater utilities from CERCLA liability relating to PFAS cleanups, and instead adopt measures to place those costs on the responsible polluters.
- Congress must also provide EPA and other federal agencies with adequate resources to conduct and advance PFAS research and risk assessments, as well as implement PFAS source-control measures and standards.

Support Workable Buy America / Build America Requirements

Water infrastructure projects often rely on specific products and technologies to meet system requirements or regulatory compliance standards, and substitutions may not be readily available. When implementing the new domestic preference procurement requirements for construction materials and manufactured products, it is critical to consider these realities unique to the water sector, as well as near-term challenges that infrastructure projects currently face such as inflation, workforce shortages, and supply chain disruptions.

Protecting public health and the environment, while maintaining affordable user rates, requires the feasibility to source the most cost-effective materials and technologies through a waiver process that does not burden applicants nor create costly delays of critical projects.

Water Policy Priorities

- Maintain and Increase Water Infrastructure Funding
- Provide CERCLA Exemption of Water
- Increase Regulatory Flexibility & NPDES Permit Terms



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Invest in Water Affordability
Millions of American households in both urban and rural communities continue to struggle to pay their water and sewer bills. At the same time, countless disadvantaged communities struggle to make needed investments while keeping rates affordable.

- Congress must ensure long-term viability of a permanent low-income water customer assistance program and
- Provide oversight of EPA's actions to address affordability concerns.

Advance Regulatory Flexibility and Reform
Local communities are facing growing regulatory compliance costs and are dealing with increasingly complicated water quality issues.

- Advancing targeted regulatory reforms and policy flexibility is essential to helping communities alleviate escalating costs and affordability challenges, while still leading to the same high levels of human health and environmental protection.

Advance Water Research
Water research is helping solve some of the most pressing challenges for the water sector, such as aging infrastructure, emerging contaminants, extreme weather, water scarcity, and significant shifts in population. Research and development aimed at finding cost-effective solutions to these challenges not only creates more resilient and effective water systems, but also creates new jobs and supports thriving communities nationwide. These solutions also result in improved public health and safety and promote equitable solutions throughout the country. Continued federal support and funding for water research programs is vital to helping communities and utilities.

Protect Pipes from Wipes
Improper flushing of wipes can cause sewer pipe blockages, damage to utility equipment, and create health and safety risks to water professionals who must remove them. Congress should require Do Not Flush labeling on non-flushable wipe packaging and give federal agencies the authority to require that wipes marketed as "flushable" adequately disintegrate like toilet paper when flushed.

Provide Tax Credits to Encourage Sustainable Water Systems
Energy generation, agricultural production, and other industrial operations account for the vast majority of water consumed in the United States each year. Few incentives exist to support the sustainable management of water in the private sector.

- Congress should establish tax credits to help industry use water sustainably, including through the adoption of water recycling technologies and systems.

2023 Water Week Partners

For more information, please visit www.waterweek.us/#resources

Water Policy Priorities

- Help with Water Affordability
- Water Research
- Do Not Flush Wipes Labeling Legislation
- Tax Credits for Industrial Reuse

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Special Thanks to the Sponsors!

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Water Week 2024 Reflections



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Khris' Reflections on the Fly-In

- Great event and we need to do it
- Lots of partnerships (WEF, NACWA, AWWA)
- Handouts are good but different than AWWA
- Love the prep meeting virtual
- Policy Fly-In based on interest



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Lovely joint evening event, as always



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Location, location, location: There's A LOT of walking! Also, WEF's hotel and AWWA's hotel were not close.

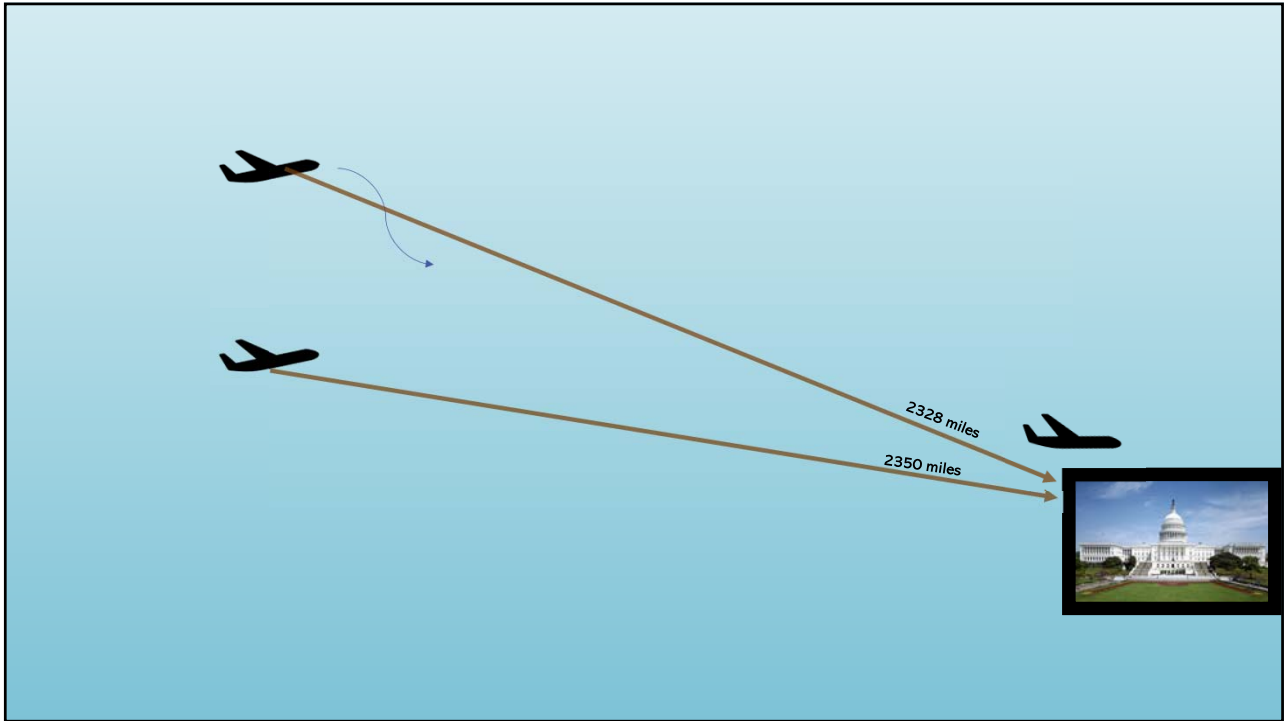
Timing is everything!

- We met with more actual members this year
- AWWA did their opening event Tuesday morning; ours was Wednesday afternoon

Bring a contingent: We had our executive director (me!), president, a YP, our GAC chair, a large and a small utility exec, and NYC DEP



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Pre Fly-In Day, April 8th

US Capitol Tour



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April 9th

- YP breakfast
- Government Affairs Community meeting



April 9th

Sessions with EPA and Congressional Representatives



April 9th

Water Week 2024
Reception



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April 10th

Congressional Office and
Federal Agency Meetings



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WEF's
WATER ADVOCATES
PROGRAM

Make a difference in a few moments of time from your keyboard!

Join Us!

The Water Advocates Program helps you to reach out and connect with elected officials on important water sector issues.

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New Water Advocates Program
CALL TO ACTION!

Ask your members of Congress to support The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Establishment Act

The Water Advocates Program helps you to reach out and connect with elected officials on important water sector issues.

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New Water Advocates Program

CALL TO ACTION!

Ask your representatives to support the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act (HR 7944)



The Water Advocates Program helps you to reach out and connect with elected officials on important water sector issues.

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Q&A Discussion

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<p><u>Funded in Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (A.K.A. BIL)</u> <i>Clean Water Guaranteed Funding: \$12.7B</i></p> <p>Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CW SRF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ \$1.9B in FY22 ✓ \$2.2B in FY23 ✓ \$2.4B in FY24 • \$2.6B in FY25 & FY26 <p>CW SRF Emerging Contaminants Grants (PFAS, Microplastics, 6PPD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1B FY22 – FY26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ \$100M in FY22 ✓ \$225M in FY23 ✓ \$225M in FY24 • \$225M in FY25 	<p><u>Needs Annual Appropriations</u> <i>Potential Additional Funding: \$25B</i></p> <p>CW SRF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ FY22 \$1.6B (-\$444M) ✓ FY23 \$1.6B (-\$863M) ✓ FY24 \$1.6B (-788M) • FY25 & FY26 \$3.25 <p>WIFIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ FY22 \$63M ✓ FY23 \$68M ✓ FY24 \$64M ✓ \$2M for Stormwater Centers of Excellence FY24 ✓ \$41M for Sewer Overflow Grants (OSG) FY24 ✓ \$5.4M for Water Workforce Development Grants ✓ \$25.5M for Tech. Assist. To Wastewater Treatment <p><u>Still Needs Initial Funding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilience & Sustainability Grants Small POTW Grants Connecting to POTWs Grants Energy Efficiency Grants Stormwater Planning & Implementation Grants
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Take the Pledge to Save the SRFs

Join the movement to urge Congress to fund the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs at congressionally authorized levels of \$3.25 billion each for federal fiscal year 2025.



www.SaveTheSRFs.org

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Federal Regulatory Update

Safe Drinking Water Act

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) to establish Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for six PFAS

- Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0114

CERCLA (SuperFund)

Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Potential Future Designations of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) as CERCLA Hazardous Substances

- Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OLEM-2022-0922

Clean Water Act

Draft Guidance for Future National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permits for Combined Sewer Systems

- Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2023-0475