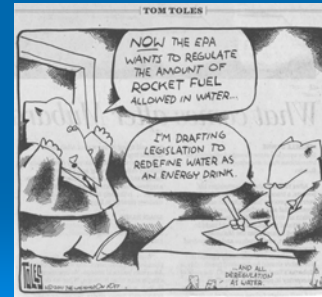


Texas Water Conference
Ft Worth, April 6, 2011

**WEF's Government
Affairs Committee
Activities Update
Bob Matthews, Chair
GAC**



The Latest from DC



Agenda

- Public Official Award
- Legislative items
- Regulatory items
- WEF Position Statements
- WEF Washington Briefing
- MA GA Activities, Hot topics



Public Official Award Requirements

- Elected or Appointed Public Official
- Significant contribution in clean water legislation, public policy, government service or other area of public prominence
- Local / State / Federal Level



**Public Officials Award
2011 Schedule**

October 3, 2010	Solicit Nominations
April 1, 2011	Close Nominations for WEFTEC Presentation
June 1, 2011	Recommend Nominees to Award Committee and Board



Legislative Items

- Funding Bills
- Other Bills
- EPA 2012 Budget



Funding Bills



- BUILD Act (Senator Kerry/Rep. Hutchison) create a American Infrastructure Bank
- Private Activity Bond (PAB) tax-exempt private financing for water and wastewater infrastructure



House Urged to Reauthorize Drinking Water SRF

- Ranking Democrats urge passage of a reauthorization of Drinking Water SRF
- Similar to the Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act (AQUA-H.R. 5320)
- Includes \$1.4 billion for DWSRF in fiscal 2011, \$1.6 billion in 2012, \$1.8 billion in 201



President Urged to Include Water Infrastructure in Investment Plan

- Sen. Ben Cardin, chair of the Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife sent support letter
- Need Federal Investment for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in 6-year plan
- President's 2012 Budget will outline a 6-year plan to "Leverage" our Resources



Water Infrastructure Bank AWWA Proposal

- Would provide direct lending for large projects; expand funds for SRF programs
- Helps small/medium-sized systems by helping states leverage SRF programs
- Bank would borrow Treasury funds at low rates, pass low rates to recipients
- Funded by loans/loan guarantees: minimal impact on federal budget
- Support from WEF and AWWA
- Recent Senate Banking Committee hearing; letter



Other Bills

- Senate Bill 3481-Amending the CWA
 - Signed in to Law by President in January
 - Requires the Federal Government to pay Stormwater Fees For Federal Properties
- HR 213 & HR 214 (Rulemaking Moratorium)
 - Would impose a 2-year moratorium on all new federal regulations and freeze new rules in process



Other Bills (cont.)

- H.R. 908- Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism (would continue to exempt W & WW)
- Senate- Secure Water Facilities Act (establishes framework for W & WW under DHS)
- Senate Updates to Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009 (integrated decision-making related to water & energy)



FY2012 EPA Budget Request

- \$9 billion (a \$1.3 billion decrease from 2010)
- CWSRF/ DWSRF (\$2.5 billion): \$947 million cut
- Great Lakes: \$125 million cut
- \$99 million for Brownfields
- \$1.2 billion for Superfund



Regulatory Items

- Nutrient Workgroup
- Wet Weather Workgroup
- Stormwater Workgroup
- Biosolids



GAC Nutrient Work Group Nancy Wheatley

- Developed peer-reviewed technical document to assist EPA on NRDC Secondary/Nutrient Petition
- Most secondary plants will require upgrades, including more sophisticated operation, to reduce nutrients: costly, time-consuming, site-restrictions
- Final to EPA May 2010
- Published on WEF website
- WEF members [Jeanette Brown, other authors] briefed EPA on July 14, 2010
- Participated in recent NACWA Nutrient Summit in Chicago: focus on POTWs in watershed context
- WEF host follow-on nutrient/watershed meeting



Wet Weather Workgroup Pat Bradley, Dan Ott

- Recently developed WEF position "Management of Wet Weather Flows by Municipal Utilities"
- Approved by Board April 30, 2010
- Met with EPA May 20, 2010
- EPA released notice of SSO rulemaking on May 27, 2010



WEF Wet Weather Flows Position

- WEF supports environmentally sound, cost effective management of wet weather flows
- EPA must develop a comprehensive strategy that allows municipalities to manage wet weather flows in a holistic manner
- EPA's strategy and guidance should be based upon:
 - WEF's "Guide to Managing Peak Wet Weather Flows in Municipal Wastewater Collection and Treatment Systems"
 - WEF/NACWA's "Core Attributes of Effectively Managed Collection Systems"



SSOs/Blending

WEF recently provided comments to EPA on their proposed SSO rulemaking:

1. EPA must provide practical guidance that allows municipalities to manage wet weather flows in a holistic manner for both the collection system and the wastewater treatment plant
2. Comprehensive wet weather solutions are accomplished over many years; require peak wet weather treatment facilities as collection system core attribute programs are being implemented
3. Peak wet weather treatment facilities POTWs can provide needed relief to collections systems and reduce SSOs as program improvements are being implemented in collection system.



GAC Stormwater Workgroup Brooks Smith

- Developed WEF comments on EPA proposal for stormwater survey - Dec. 2009
- Recently drafted an updated WEF stormwater position statement
- Final Draft of stormwater position statement to be approved by BOT in May



WEF draft Stormwater Position

Final draft position includes:

1. EPA should update their S/W regulations to recognize complexity of problems, solutions
2. Use a volume-based approach, not end-of-pipe treatment; e.g., strive to maintain predevelopment hydrology [or something close]
3. Focus on issues with water quantity as well as quality
4. Support green infrastructure and low impact development as part of the solution
5. Incorporate flexibility in compliance, such as offsets
6. Increase funding for implementation
7. Recognize climate change
8. Use a watershed approach that addresses sources in priority way



Biosolids

- WEF Submitted Comments on August 2, 2010 to EPA on their proposed Definition of Solid Waste
- Responding to EPA's June 24 Federal Register proposed rulemaking on the Identification of Non-Hazardous Secondary Materials That Are Solid Wastes
- Comments coordinated across WEF Committees: Biosolids, Air Quality & Odor Control, GAC



Biosolids: WEF Comments on EPA Solid Waste Definition

- WEF wants confirmation that definition will only impact biosolids processed in sewage sludge incinerators, not other biosolids management
- Criteria is not suitable for biosolids incineration and not consistent with encouraging energy recovery
- Unintended consequence: more land filling of material that could be used as renewable resource
- EPA may not have enough operating data to establish MACT standards for sewage sludge incinerators
- Proposed MACT standards rulemaking on October 14 2010; final rulemaking March 21, 2011



Recent WEF Position Statements

- GAC directed by WEF BOT in 2009 to review/revise selected positions
- On Feb 5, 2010 WEF BOT adopted 3 revised PS:
 - Financial Sustainability for Water Infrastructure
 - Protecting Water Resources and Infrastructure from the Impact of Climate Change
 - Clean Water Act Modernization
- On April 30, BOT adopted Wet Weather Position
- On June 16, BOT adopted updated Disinfection



WEF Position Statements Being Developed/Updated

- Biosolids
- Operation Training/Certification: Will go to the BOT in May
- Reuse
 - interest from the Reuse and Small Communities committees
- Decentralized Wastewater Systems



WEF 2011 Washington Briefing

- Coordinate with AWWA, NEWEA, other interested MAS
- April 4-5, 2011
- Congressional Breakfast & Reception
- WEF MAs working with AWWA Sections to organize state delegations
- March 4 & 16 webcasts to prepare for Hill visits



Future GAC Meetings, Events

- May/June 2011 GAC Web-Meeting
- GAC-sponsored Webcasts
- WEFTEC 2011: Los Angeles, California, October 15-19, 2011.



This Week in Washington is a weekly publication of the Water Environment Federation's Public Policy Department. It provides updates on the latest legislative and regulatory developments that affect the water and wastewater communities.



➤ Questions

