

Rural Water Policy Advisory [2/5/2018]

The NRWA Board of Directors Convenes Tomorrow in Washington, DC: The following are the minutes from the NRWA Legislative and Regulatory Committees that will be submitted to the board for review. All NRWA committees convened on Saturday.

[NRWA Legislative Committee Minutes, February 3, 2018, Washington DC](#)

Meeting Convened: Chairman Kent Watson opened the meeting, explained the agenda and briefed the committee on key Legislative Committee accomplishments from the previous year including multiple Congressional hearing appearances, the status of the current Congressional appropriations bills, NRWA's efforts to save the USDA rural development water initiatives in this Congressional session, and this year's appropriations requests.

General committee discussion and staff briefings on the following topics and agenda items:

- Status of FY2018 and FY2019 Congressional appropriations processes
- USDA appropriations requests
- EPA appropriations requests
- NRWA priorities in the 2018 Farm Bill deliberations
- Water workforce legislation
- EPA Clean Water technical assistance legislation
- Administration's Infrastructure proposal
- Update on current status of national politics (House and Senate).

[NRWA Regulatory Committee Minutes, February 3, 2018, Washington DC](#)

Meeting Convened: Chairman Paul Fulgham opened the meeting, explained the agenda and entertained general discussion among all members.

Motion for staff to draft straw man Lead and Copper Rule revisions recommendation for committee review based on committee discussion, and scheduled presentation from EPA on options under consideration for reviewing the Rule (Freudenthal/Crum).

In addition to the [Regulatory Committee quarterly report](#), the committee has 6 issue items to report activity to the board, 1 policy motion we have recommended for board approval, and 1 NRWA policy statement we are recommending be approved by the board. The 6 issue activities to report are:

One, The committee adopted a motion to have staff craft a straw man document to reply to EPA's requests for recommendation for revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule. President Fletcher attended the formal consultation with EPA on this effort in Washington in January and may have more to report on the subject. The straw man is to include a recommendation to separate the current in-home tap sampling with utility compliance with the rule. Also, the Regulatory Committee will be having a webinar presentation from EPA on this consultation and everyone is welcome to attend.

Two, We continue to urge Senators to conduct oversight over the U.S. EPA on our request that the agency allow Tier 2 public notifications to be delivered under the agency's e-delivery or Internet delivery option. My Senator, Orrin Hatch, is the latest Senator to make an inquiry to the agency and his letter to the Administrator is included with our report.

Three, NRWA staff along with Mississippi, New York, and Illinois Rural Water Associations continue to negotiate with the House Energy and Commerce Committee over their legislation to authorize a new mandatory consolidation provision in the Safe Drinking Water Act. Our latest proposal to the committee is printed on the back page of our quarterly report.

Four, Senator Boozman (Arkansas), Booker (New Jersey), Inhofe (Oklahoma) and Feinstein (California) introduced legislation, Senate Bill 2364, last week that is consistent with NRWA's concerns that the WIFIA program should have been dedicated to supporting the state revolving funds. NRWA has endorsed the legislation.

Five, Last week, EPA approved a delay of enforcement of the Obama Administration Waters of the United States Rule. This is consistent with NRWA policy and our Amicus Brief in the federal courts. EPA plans to re-craft the rule during the two year delay.

Six, NRWA DC staff recently met with the attorneys representing ductile pipe interests who are opposing any change in federal legislation that will limit local discretion in project design to favor the PVC pipe interests. Many states have been battling on this issue at the state level and it is currently being advanced on the federal level in a variety of forms. NRWA staff will be further updating the board on any future collaborations and actions on this issue as they evolve.

We are recommending that the board **approve a statement** to EPA urging the agency to allow non-profit wastewater utility associations to be eligible for Clean Water State Revolving Funds. The draft letter is included with the quarterly report.

Finally, we are providing a Regulatory Committee **motion for review**: Support effort for Maryland Rural Water Association (MRWA) and NRWA to engage Senator Cardin regarding his legislation, "The Rural and Urban Low Income Community Water Assistance Pilot Program," to modify the legislation to have any new federal water bill subsidy be administered by existing (state) agencies and not small water utilities. MRWA and NRWA are to report any progress in this effort before any determination on NRWA support for the legislation.

National Rural Water Association

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The National Rural Water Association is the country's largest public drinking water and sanitation supply organization with over 30,000 members. Safe drinking water and sanitation are generally recognized as the most essential public health, public welfare, and civic necessities

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