

Rural Water Policy Advisory [12/31/2018]

Rural Water's Power of an Association 2018 Retrospective

Each year, the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) and state rural water associations mobilize volunteer representatives from across the country to petition the federal government and Congress to support federal funding and policies that are most beneficial for small and rural communities. This is our strength. By having thousands of small community representatives organize together with a common message, and petitioning the national government and legislature, we can accomplish together what any one of us could not accomplish alone.

Highlights from 2018 Rural Water's Accomplishments (Thanks to You)

(January)

President Fletcher represented NRWA at EPA's formal "closed-door" Federalism consultation at EPA headquarters on revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR): NRWA's [comments](#) urge EPA to reconsider whether the existing LCR's mandate that allows for the effects of a private homeowner's plumbing (i.e. a kitchen faucet) on the water passing through that fixture should result in very burdensome and possibly unrelated requirements on the utility (i.e. treatment installation or adjustments, removal of underground water lines, and alarming public notices).

(March)

President signs massive increase in rural Water funding:

- \$1,060,263,000 for USDA Water & Waste Loan & Grant program (\$571,190,000 last year).
- \$40,000,000 for USDA Rural Water Technical Assistance (\$20,000,000 last year).
- \$1,693,887,000 for Clean Water State Revolving Funds (\$1,393,887,000 last year).
- \$1,163,233,000 for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (\$863,233,000 last year).
- \$20,000,000 for EPA's New "Small and Disadvantaged Communities" program (\$0.0 last year).
- Saves USDA Water Funding 2017 Documentary ([video](#)).
- Retains all Circuit Riders and Source Water Technicians.

(May)

NRWA was invited to testify before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on national water infrastructure legislation, "America's Infrastructure Act of 2008": Arkansas Rural Water Association's Executive Director Dennis Sternberg testified for Rural Water ([video](#)).

(July)

Senators stand up for rural and small communities by standing up to EPA: NRWA supported effort results in 36 Senators telling EPA to fix the EPA technical funding problem ([Senate statement](#)).

(August)

NRWA supports the Agency's proposal to promulgate a regulation to strengthen the transparency of science utilized by EPA to support policies in regulations promulgated under the Safe Drinking Water Act ([NRWA statement](#)).

(September)

State Rural Water Associations respond to Hurricane Florence ([NCRWA](#)).

(October)

NRWA elects Kent Watson of Texas as President at the 2018 WaterPro Conference in Fort Worth, Texas ([NRWA statement](#)): "This is the pinnacle of a career that started about 40 years ago in the water and wastewater industry," said Watson as he was surrounded by his closest friends and family during his inaugural luncheon.

President Trump Signs Water Infrastructure Bill into Law. Includes all NRWA priorities ([NRWA statement](#)).

Federal SDWA mandatory consolidation authority dropped from final infrastructure bill to reflect President Steve Fletcher's Congressional testimony ([The Fletcher Principle](#)).

Southeastern State Rural Water Association responded to Hurricane Michael ([news](#)).

(November)

USDA awards \$6 million to NRWA to develop a national apprenticeship program. The NRWA workforce development initiative for the water industry will assist in providing a highly skilled workforce for rural water and wastewater systems and for the future of rural America ([NRWA statement](#)).

NRWA urges EPA to clarify the Constitutionality of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in comments to the EPA regarding EPA's 2011 determination to set a maximum contamination level for perchlorate ([NRWA Comments](#)).

NRWA files comments under EPA's national PFAS initiative urging EPA to resist setting an MCL for PFAS ([NRWA 11/21/18 comments](#)).

(December)

EPA proposes new definition of "waters of the United States" that clarifies federal authority under the Clean Water Act that is consistent with NRWA recommendation ([NRWA comments](#)).

President Trump signs 2018 Farm Bill into law. Legislation includes all NRWA Farm Bill priorities. NRWA invited to testify three times on bill details ([NRWA statement](#)).

Section 1926(b) protection remains in Farm Bill ([NRWA on 1926\(b\)](#)).

National Rural Water Association

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