

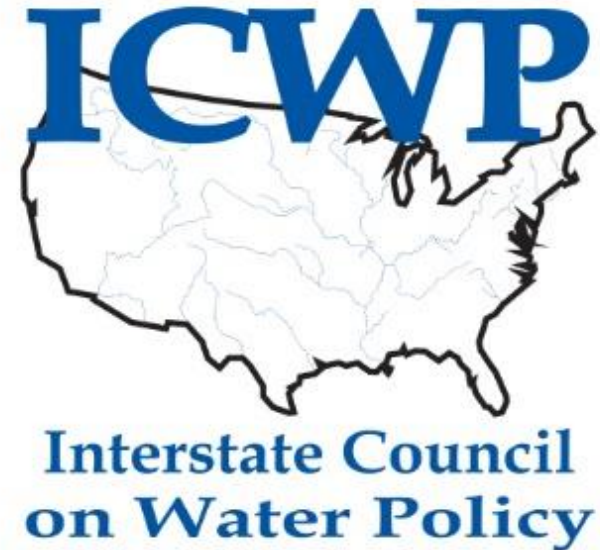


Improving Water Data and Science - ICWP's Success Story

Sue Lowry
Executive Director
www.icwp.org

During today's presentation I'll discuss:

- An overview of ICWP
- Activities resulting in increased funding for water data and science
- Newer issues and funding needs to address water use data and enhanced state water planning activities



ICWP Mission – Enhance the stewardship of the nation's water resources.

- Serve as the national policy voice for the state and interstate water resource managers
- Provide a national forum for the evaluation of policy issues and the development of solutions
- Provide opportunities to engage federal agencies and Congressional leaders



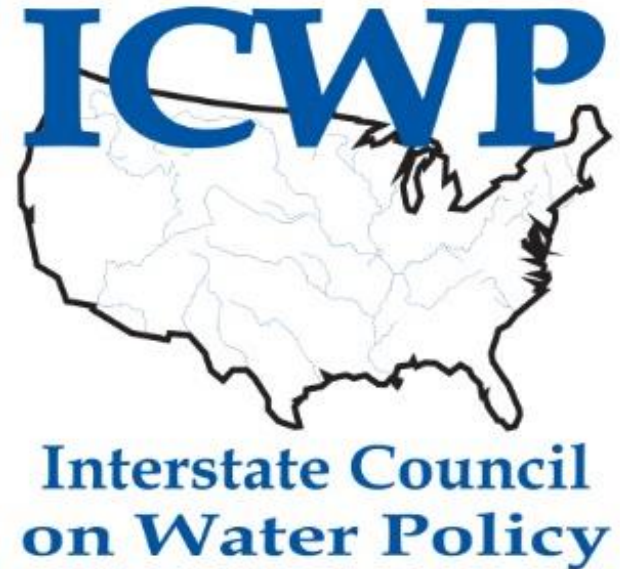
ICWP Focus Areas

1. National Water Policy Development
 - Federal policies concerning water resources are aligned with and reflect state and interstate authorities, needs and capabilities
2. Integrated Planning for Sustainable Management
 - Effective national water policy that supports integrated planning for sustainable water resources management
3. Water Data and Science to inform Policy and Planning
 - Effective integrated water science tools for making resource decisions



ICWP Events and Membership

- Washington Roundtable
- Annual Meeting
- ICWP Committees
 - Legislation and Policy
 - Water Data and Science
 - Interstate Committee
 - Water Planning Committee
- Dues: \$5,000 for large states,
\$3,500 for smaller states and tribes,
\$1,500 for affiliate members



ICWP's focus on coalition building to support water data and science

- Cooperator roundtable meetings and recommendations
- ACWI “shrinking budget” recommendations
- Streamgage support letter



Cooperator Roundtable Meetings

- ICWP conducted over a dozen regional and national water science stakeholder meetings
- The stakeholders represented a cross-section of cost-share “Cooperators” participating in the USGS Cooperative Water Program (CWP)
- The purpose was to discuss improvements and develop recommendations for the USGS



Cooperator Roundtable Meeting – Key Recommendations

1. Full implementation of the “NSIP”-now FPS
2. Prioritize long-term monitoring & data collection ahead of interpretive studies
3. Align USGS services with Cooperator capabilities
4. Prioritize the development of data-driven decision support tools



ACWI Shrinking Budget Key Recommendations

1. Sustain the national monitoring network for surface water, groundwater and water quality and address significant gaps
2. Sustain funding to continue cost-shared investigations, studies and research. Defer less critical grants, interpretive investigations, analytical studies and research.
3. Continue providing incentives and programs that build partnerships and leverage additional resources for water data and science



ACWI Key Recommendations

4. USGS should characterize “uncertainty” in scientific terms that data users and decision makers understand
5. USGS water science centers should convene regular meetings with cooperators and detail monitoring responsibilities, shared priorities, etc.
6. The USGS should anticipate and support an increased role for other agencies

Please Visit www.icwp.org for the complete ACWI report



Streamgauge Support Letters

- ICWP continues to build awareness and demonstrate national support for funding of the national streamgauge network
 - “Backbone” for water data collection & decision making
 - Needed by Congress & federal agencies
 - Subsidized by state, tribal and local agencies
- ICWP has delivered streamgauge support letters to Congress and Interior for 11 years
- Repeating this clear message with a unified voice has proven successful



Results and benefits...

- The USGS received additional appropriations from Congress totaling \$7.7 million in their FY14, FY15 & FY16 and FY18 budgets
 - Approximately 255 additional gages have been added to the National Streamgage Network
- Funding was directed primarily to increase the number and reliability of Federal Priority Streamgage (FPS) Network



The remaining challenge...FY19 and beyond

Federal Priorities Streamgange Network:

Only ¼ of the 4,760 gaging sites identified in the network are fully funded by the USGS.

Full implementation: **\$125M**

The Cooperative Water Program (CWP) was a 50-50 cost share program, however, current funding is only able to support about 30% cost share

Full implementation to regain 50/50 match: **\$70M**

Additional One-Time Needs for Modernization of data transmission platforms (**\$112M**) and gage hardening (**\$238M**)



Here's how you can help streamgages!

Pick up a Fact Sheet for FY19 USGS Streamgaging Program funding needs—The fact sheet is also on www.icwp.org

Sign on to the Streamgaging Support Letters. ICWP coordinates one for state agencies and another one for non-profits/organizations. Please email Sue Lowry if you are willing to sign on to future letters.

Let your Senators/Congressional rep know if the importance of streamgaging data to your application. One challenge is getting politicians to understand how widely streamgage data are used by their constituents.

Ask your Senator/Congressional rep to increase FY19 funding to these programs in the USGS, especially if they serve on Appropriations Committees.



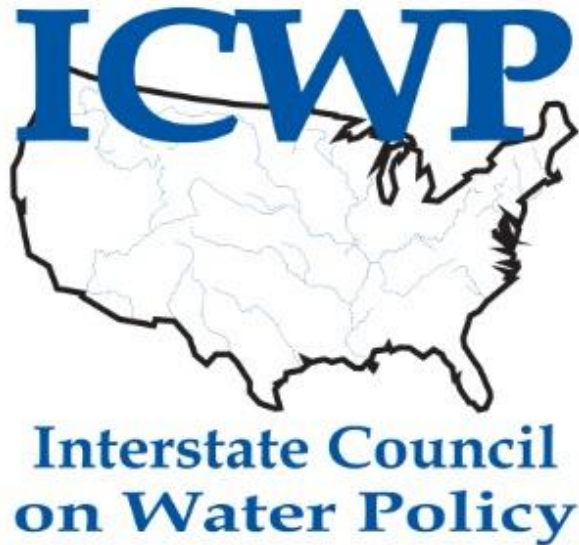
October 10-12, 2018 –Join Us!

ICWP Annual Meeting

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



Thanks for Your Interest,
We'd Like to Hear Your Ideas!



Sue Lowry

Executive Director

(307) 630-5804

avocetconsult@gmail.com

www.icwp.org