

Gerrit Jöbsis for Sue Lowry

Gerrit Jöbsis: Thank you all for being here. This is the last session of the symposium and I'm really happy to see as many people as we have here. This shows a real dedication we all have to helping with our drought management issues and understanding more about instream water uses. My name is Gerrit Jöbsis, I'm with American Rivers. I direct our work in the Carolinas and Tennessee, an area we call the Rivers of Southern Appalachia and the Carolinas. American Rivers is a national river conservation organization. We're headquartered in Washington D.C. We have offices throughout the country and our mission is to protect wild rivers, to restore damaged rivers and to conserve clean water for people and for nature so in stream flow protection is very much in our daily work.

I was pleased when Tom Annear asked me to be the moderator for this session about public involvement, public engagement, in drought management. I've known Tom for quite a while and when we first started working together I worked for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. I made a mid-career change to work in the non-profit arena, to work for American Rivers, because of public engagement. I felt that I wanted to be more involved in public engagement - to get people I was working with, the people in the community, more aware of issues involving our waters. So again, I do truly appreciate Tom asking me to be the moderator for this session.

We have a great panel of 5 distinguished speakers. The first is Sue Lowry, who is not here. Sue unfortunately had a personal situation come up where she could not be here today. Being the true professional she is, she gave us a heads up on that. I'm going to do my best at making her presentation for her, which should not be that difficult, for most people at least, because she gave me a very good presentation and some notes. I'm going to do my best to go through that.

We have Ben Emmanuel, who is the American Rivers' director for clean water supply in Atlanta, Georgia as a speaker. Barney Austin, who happens to be from Austin, TX, which I think is pretty cool. If anybody knows about a Jöbsis, anywhere town, let me know, I want to go there. Barney is the President and CEO of Water Strategies, no, Aqua Strategies, excuse me. Aqua Strategies, out of the Austin, TX area, a consulting firm.

We have Cory Toye, with Wyoming Trout Limited who is their water and habitat program director and then we also have Catlow Shipek, who is the policy and technical director for the Watershed Management Group. So we have a really great panel, all of us are going to be talking about the importance of involving stakeholders, involving the public in drought management issues.

But, before we get started, I wanted to say a few words about this issue. I was pleased that public engagement came up at the very first session I attended here, one by Tom Annear and Lara Fowler about Riparian and Prior Appropriation laws. I was pleased to hear Lara say that the thing that excited

her most about working on water issues was not the law, necessarily. What gave her hope was the ground up watershed activities going on in her community and how people were engaged, engaging more in water issues. In that same workshop, Tom made a statement and had a slide, that said, we don't need more public support, what we need is more public engagement. That's very true. We need to go from educating to engaging to make sure that we have a constituency that is speaking with us and for us, outside of the circles that we are often working in.

Whether you're working on good science, whether you're working on good policy, whether you're working on creating a good institution, you're not going to realize the full potential of your work without having strong public engagement and public involvement. Without public engagement and public involvement, frankly, the environment is going to lose. When it comes down to the tough times, when it comes down to water scarcity, when it comes down to the crisis, when hard decisions are going to be made, the ones that lose are the ones that are least valued, the ones that don't have the support. What we need to do is branch out, reach out and broaden the conversation on water issues to get away from those of us who are here, who already understand, and make sure we are educating and involving people outside of our normal circles.

I think it is very telling that we have this as the last session, because, as the speakers and I were talking about yesterday, you should save the best for last. After we joked about that a little bit, we looked at each other and said, you know they really did save the best for last because public engagement is how we are going to elevate water issues, drought management issues, from where we are today and expand that into a bigger conversation so we can make sure that decisions made about water management are going to happen in the open, with public dialogue, and without the kind of the back room decisions that have been made in the past, decisions that sometimes led to great harm.

Lowry presentation

So, with that, I'm going to start the session. Sue did a very good job educating me and informing me and engaging me in this presentation. So, thank you Sue. Sue Lowry is the executive director of the Interstate Council on Water Policy. She asked me to focus on two major things. One is an overview of the ICWP, what they do and what they're working on. But the most important thing she wanted folks to understand was the opportunity and the importance of stakeholder engagement on funding needs for the national water monitoring network that USGS has. That's her big ask and I'll be talking about that a little bit later.

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



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



The ICWP has been around for about 60 years. They were created in 1959. Their mission is to enhance the stewardship of the nation’s water resources. They want to be an inclusive voice, a unified voice, for national water policy and especially a voice for the state water managers and the interstate water managers. They provide a national forum for discussing these issues, policy issues and their goal is to find solutions, not to just talk about issues but to come together and collaboratively work on solutions to the issues. Being state water managers and interstate water council members their real goal is to then open up communications with federal agencies and with congressional offices to get the support needed for water resources.

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



The ICWP's three focus areas are laid out in their strategic plan. The first, as you can read here, is on national water policy, that's Federal policies that are aligned with the state and interstate authority interests and their capabilities. Their perspective is different and perhaps unique as to what the federal interests may be. They are interested in integrated planning for sustainable water management and looking at national level support that can provide sustainable use practices to those operating at the state and interstate level.

They are also interested in the best water data and water science that will inform policy and planning. What tools do we need? How do we make sure those tools are there for making the right decisions?

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

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



The ICWP is a membership organization and they serve their members by convening through national round table meetings, and also annual meetings. Most of the work is done through their four working committees, the Legislative and Policy Committee, the Water Data and Science Committee, the Interstate Committee, and the Water Planning Committee.

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



They are a nation-wide organization. They have broad representation, but most of their members are from the East, in the Eastern part of the U.S. One of the reasons for that is because many of their members are representing interstate water compacts which are more numerous in the East. We've heard before in this workshop about the Delaware, the Potomac, the Susquehanna interstate water compacts. One of the ICWP's goals is to help serve as a voice for those compacts and what they need for being effective in their management responsibilities.

The ICWP's focus is on coalition building, they really strive to engage stakeholders. One of the things they are working on is collaborative, cooperative, round tables focusing on the ACWI, which is the Advisory Committee of Water Information, and their shrinking budget. The budget for supporting water tools and water information is being reduced and a real priority is to get that funding back up. And one thing I'll be talking about a little bit later is their stream gauge support letter. The ICWP is trying to get stakeholders to make sure that the funding is there for this important network of water monitoring and data collection tools.

The ICWP works around the country. They have round table meetings, not only at the national level but also within different regions. They try to involve a cross-section of different users, especially the cost-share cooperators, those who are

working with the U.S. Geological Survey to help fund some of the USGS gauges under what's called the Cooperative Water Program. These discussions are to create not only a set of issues, but also a set of recommendations for USGS to address. To help USGS do a better job in collecting the data that ICWP members need.

So the cooperative round tables meeting had several key recommendations coming out of it. One is for full implementation of the NSIP, which stands for the National Streamflow Information Program, which is now known as the Federal Priority Stream Gauges Program. Basically, this is the USGS gauges network.

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



Priorities are for long-term monitoring and data collection, making sure that those gauges that have been running continue to collect data as well as adding new gauges when they are needed.

The real goal is to align the information that the USGS is collecting with the cooperators' capabilities and their needs - making sure that the information is collected in the right place, in the right way, to be able to meet the cooperators' needs and to support the development of data driven decisions with the right support tools.

Key recommendations to address a shrinking budget for the advisory committee on water information are shown on the next slide. The goal is to sustain the national water monitoring network, for not only surface water, but also ground water, water quality, and to address significant gaps that are existing. Sustained funding for the cost-shared program - the program that allows for studies and research where there is cost-sharing between the federal government, and state governments, tribes, and other participants. And to continue providing incentive-based programs to build partnerships and leverage additional resources.

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



One thing that's unique about the ACWI, as Sue was telling me, is that it is the only venue where we can have both non-federal and federal cooperators talking on the same level, where the recommendations come from the full group and not just from the federal agencies. It is an important venue for the state and the interstate water folks to be able to have a voice and put forward recommendations that support of federal agency. They're on equal footing in this ACWI setting.

Sue suggested I skip most of this slide, except for the very bottom which is the note that the ICWP's website has the full ACWI report and all of their recommendations. So rather than going through this all here, she asks you to look at the full report that's available online to better understand what the key recommendations are, what the priorities are.

One of the things that is a top priority for the ICWP this year is to get full-funding for the stream-gauge program. The ICWP puts a high priority on building support for this backbone of our water data collection and decision making tools. They've been doing this for the past 11 years with high levels of success by having a broad representation of support not only from federal agencies, but also from state agencies and from other collaborators. The important thing is getting this information to the elected officials that are making the federal budget decisions.

They found out that from their past actions that having a clear message from a broad cross-section of voices is the way to effectively move the needle on this funding.

Luckily, she also recommended I skip this slide, because I don't really know what it means. (Laughter)

The remaining challenge...FY19 and beyond

Federal Priorities Streamgauge 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**)



The challenge we have right now is for FY19 funding. There are significant funding gaps. At this time, only a quarter of the 4,760 gauges are fully funded by USGS. There is an additional 125 million dollars needed to make sure the budget is fully fleshed out. Their top priority is on this cooperative water program where there is supposed to be a 50/50 match between the federal government, the USGS, and the collaborator supporting the monitoring tool or gauge. Currently, however, the USGS only has 30% of the funding needed, so instead of being able to provide their full 50%, they can only provide 30% of the cost-share. 70 million dollars is needed to get back to the prescribed 50/50 match. That's the subject of the stakeholder letters that she is looking for you to support I'll have an example of that in just a minute.

Additionally, there is some one time funding need for the modernization of data transmission platforms and for gauge hardening. Does someone know what gauge hardening is? I don't know what that is but it's a big item, so it must be important.

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.



In the back of the room on the table, there is a fact sheet that Sue provided about a stream gauge program, a cooperative program, and the need to have more funding in this FY19 budget year. She asks you to pick up a copy of that and to look at more information on this on the ICWP's website. She really needs folks to sign on these support letters, to have institutions contacting their elected officials, the senators, and the House of Representatives members to get their support for this funding. While all these letters are important, the real key is for support from members of the Senate, let's see, where do I have this here, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. If your state has a Senator on that committee, please get their support. That is through which some of the funding is going to be approved or appropriated.

And also, to the House Natural Resources Committee and their Water Environment and Oceans Subcommittee are critical. They would like to see these letters targeted to elected officials that sit on those committees and that subcommittee. If your state has a representative there, please contact them and let them know through these letters that you think they should support full-funding of the Cooperative Water Program, the \$70 million ask. The ICWP's number one priority is to get those letters out for supporting that program.

October 10-12, 2018 –Join Us!
ICWP Annual Meeting
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



Sue also asked me to talk, to let you know that the next national conference for the ICWP is in Oklahoma City, and she really hopes to see as many people as possible here, there. She told me this is a great meeting and thinks that you all will see good benefit from participating in that. So please do consider that. And, finally, while I only got to meet Sue for a very brief time, I want you to know

that she's an intelligent and engaging person. I really believe that she wants to hear your ideas. She is interested in making sure she understands what others' interests are, so please do contact Sue. After she retired from state government she created a consulting firm called AvocetConsult, so she can be contacted through that e-mail address, she can also be contacted directly through her telephone. So, that is it for me I think, yes. (Applause)

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



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