

Outgoing President's Message

It's been another great year for NCWRA. Our association continued to grow in 2015 in both number and diversity of membership. We also continued our mission of providing a forum for water resource practitioners, students, and collaborators to meet, discuss, and exchange ideas by organizing and sponsoring fantastic programs and events. NCWRA provided these services through efforts of the Board of Directors, committee members, and other volunteers and through strategic partnership with WRRRI and other organizations. The Board and NCWRA member volunteers also participated in a strategic planning workshop over the summer, which continued to build on the vision for strengthening and expanding our organization into the future. On behalf of NCWRA and as 2015 NCWRA president of the Board, please accept my sincere gratitude to all those associated with NCWRA and WRRRI for your many efforts and contributions in making our organization a success. As outgoing president, I am very confident in saying that the future looks bright for NCWRA, and I am looking forward to assisting the incoming Board and NCWRA members in continuing to improve and grow our association. If you would like to learn more about how to get involved with NCWRA, please free feel to contact any of our Board or committee members listed on the NCWRA website. We hope that you will consider *Joining the Conversation* with us in 2016. Following is a short report on NCWRA activities and initiatives for 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex J. Nice", is written over a white background.

Alex J. Nice
2015 NCWRA President

Membership

As of December 15, 2015, NCWRA has a total of 142 active members, with 10 of those being student members. The association has continued to expand membership activities and student outreach by organizing two social network events in 2015. The spring social event was held at Tyler's Taproom in Raleigh, while the fall social event was at Tyler's Taproom in Durham. Both events were well attended by a diverse group of section members, potential members, professionals, and students. In late 2015, our Membership Committee made strides toward expanding opportunities for sponsorship and laying the groundwork for a future mentorship program.

Programs

Thanks to the Program Committee, we had another year of great programs and events. There were three luncheon forums and speakers at the McKimmon Center on the NC State Campus, which included:

- **February 9, 2015** - *Changes in Water Infrastructure Funding* – presentation by Kim Colson, Director of the NC Division of Water Infrastructure
- **September 21, 2015** - *The Effect of the New Definition of Waters of the US from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers (COE) in North Carolina* – presentation by John R. Dorney, Moffatt and Nichol.
- **December 7, 2015** - Emerging and On-going Challenges for Water and Wastewater Systems – presentation by Jack Moyer, Carolinas / Tennessee Water Security and Preparedness Practice Leader, AECOM.

NCWRA now consistently offers the option to participate in the forums at the McKimmon Center by webinar, a feature that has helped us towards our goal of expanding program availability statewide.

As in recent years, the 2015 NCWRA symposium was again part of the WRI Annual Conference in March. The topic of the symposium was *Resiliency in Water Resources*, which showcased a group of renowned speakers, including both academics and practitioners in the field of water resources:

- Hans-Peter Plag from the Mitigation and Adaption Research Institute and Department of Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Science at Old Dominion University
- Jared Bales, U.S. Geological Survey's Chief Scientist for Water
- Stan Riggs, Distinguished Professor of Geology at East Carolina University
- Dwane Jones, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at the University of the District of Columbia
- Laura Lenick author of *Resilient Agriculture: Cultivating Food Systems for a Changing Climate* and lead author of the recent USDA report, *Climate Change and U.S. Agriculture: Effects and Adaptation*.
- Gary McSmith, Engineering Manager for the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority.
- Greg Brunelle of Tetra Tech, who led the New York Office of Emergency Management's response and recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

NCWRA and WRI co-sponsored the student poster competition at the annual conference again in 2015. Following were the winners of the 2015 poster competition:

- 1st Place : Guy Iverson, East Carolina University, *Tracking Nitrate-Nitrogen Sources Using 15N and 18O in Nitrate in Coastal Plain Surface and Ground Waters*

- 2nd Place: Amirhossein Mazrooei, NC State University, *Decomposition of Sources of Errors in Seasonal Streamflow Forecasting Over the US Sunbelt*
- 3rd Place : Robert Mahoney, East Carolina University, *Seasonal Nitrogen Dynamics of Packaged Wastewater Treatment Plants in Coastal North Carolina*
- Honorable Mention: Elizabeth Allen, NC State University, *Challenges of Monitoring Water Quality on a Continuous Basis at the Watershed Scale in Eastern North Carolina*
- Honorable Mention: Richard Small, UNC-Charlotte, *Response of Foraminifera (Marine Microorganism) to a Concentrated Brine Solution Discharged from a Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant in Currituck County, North Carolina*

In addition to the regular luncheon forums and symposium, NCWRA also partnered with the North Carolina Association of Environmental Professionals to organize a regional conference on *Nutrient Management and Implications for Mitigation*. The event was held at the Marriot in downtown Winston Salem on October 1, 2015, and featured a panel of distinguished speakers and informative presentations, including the following:

- Michael Ellison, NC Division of Mitigation Services, Presentation: *Public and Private Roles in Nutrient Management*
- Rich Gannon, NC Division of Water Resources, Presentation: *NC Nutrient Strategies and Mitigation Going Forward*
- Kyle Hall, City of Charlotte, Presentation: *Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services Water Quality Monitoring and Program Results and Trends*
- Mike MacIntyre, City of Charlotte, Presentation: *Multiple Ordinance and Funding Tools for Watershed Improvement*

Communications

During 2015, the Communications Committee has worked toward streamlining processes for managing content on the NCWRA website and made strides toward updating and organizing content on the website. In addition, the committee has committed to preparing annual reports, such as this one, to help celebrate NCWRA member and Board accomplishments and progress. Furthermore, the committee has goals to improve visibility and outreach statewide and to improve virtual engagement through social media.

Strategic Planning

Board members and NCWRA member volunteers met on August 18, 2015 in Morrisville for a half-day strategic planning retreat, the first since the board's full-day retreat in summer of 2011. NCWRA has grown and changed since the last retreat, and it was time to regroup to acknowledge the accomplishments of the group over the last four years and begin thinking about next steps and future opportunities for growth. Mike Schlegel of the Triangle J Council of Governments, and now NCWRA President-Elect, did a great job in facilitating the retreat.

Results of the planning workshop included revisions to outcomes of the logic model developed as part of previous strategic planning as well as a list of prioritized actions and goals that should guide future development and activities of NCWRA.

Other Announcements

While not affiliated directly with NCWRA, the Duke Water Network (DWN) was approved by the American Water Resources Association in 2015 as an AWRA student chapter. NCWRA congratulates the DWN on the formation of their organization's new status and we look forward to collaborating with the DWN to provide forums for discussion and exchange of ideas associated with water resources.

2016 Officers and Board Members

Based on results of elections in late 2015, following are positions for the NCWRA Board of Directors in 2016:

| Position | Name | Affiliation |
|------------------|--|--|
| President | Victor D'Amato | Tetra Tech |
| President-Elect | Mike Schlegel | Triangle J Council of Governments |
| Past President | Alex Nice | AECOM |
| Treasurer | Jason Doll | Moffatt and Nichol |
| Secretary | Dianne Reid | Dragonfly Resources LLC |
| Permanent Member | Nicole Wilkinson | NC WRRI |
| Members At-Large | Betsy Pearce Eban Bean Julie Coco Marc Recktenwald Phil May Cy Stober | Wake County Environmental Services East Carolina University Integra Engineering & Science Services PLLC City of Charlotte Carolina Ecosystems, Inc. Piedmont Triad Regional Council |