

Outgoing President's Message

Thanks to the continuing efforts of the Board of Directors, Committee members, and other volunteers, it has been another great year for NCWRA. We 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. We officially approved our Strategic Plan developed the previous year, and continued to implement strategic actions resulting from the Plan. Additionally, we strengthened and formalized NCWRA's partnership with the North Carolina Water Resources Research Institute (WRI) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) early in the year. We remain indebted to WRI staff Nicole Wilkerson, Anna Martin, and Susan White who have played fundamental roles in the success of NCWRA over the years and continue to help our organization through their active participation on the Board and by providing logistical assistance for membership services and events.

On behalf of NCWRA, as 2016 President, please accept my sincere gratitude to all those associated with NCWRA and WRI for your many efforts and contributions in making our organization a success. As past-president, I am confident in saying that the future looks bright for NCWRA -- the 2017 Board and NCWRA members continue 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 Board or Committee members listed on the NCWRA website (www.ncwra.org). We hope that you will consider *Joining the Conversation* with us in 2017. Following is a short report on NCWRA activities and initiatives for 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victor A. D'Amato".

Victor D'Amato
2016 NCWRA President

Membership Committee

NCWRA had 161 active members in 2016, up from 142 in 2015. Under the leadership of the Membership Committee, NCWRA continued to offer membership networking activities with an increasing focus on student outreach and the engagement of young professionals. The Membership Committee organized two social networking events in 2016: the spring social event was held in April at the Busy Bee Café in Raleigh, while the fall social event was held in October at Tyler's Taproom in Durham. Both events were well attended by a diverse group of NCWRA members, potential members, professionals, and students. NCWRA also co-sponsored a Sustainable Spirits (<http://carolinacompost.com/sustainable-spirits/>) social event at the Frontier in RTP in October. The Membership Committee, led by Co-Chairs Phil May and Matthew Hornack, initiated plans to further develop young professionals through NCWRA-led mentoring, and those efforts continue to be planned and put into action in 2017.

Programs

Under the leadership of Committee Chair Betsy Pearce and her replacement Amy Crowley, The Program Committee organized great programs and events in 2016.

There were three luncheon forums at the McKimmon Center on the NC State Campus:

- February 8, 2016. SCITS, WRAPS and FOATS - New Tools to Satisfy Regulatory Needs and Track Water Restoration and Protection Efforts. *Cam McNutt, Environmental Program Consultant - Water Quality Assessment and Implementation, Division of Water Resources, NCDEQ.*
- September 12, 2016. Leading (and following) During Adversity: Lessons from Coal Ash. *Mark McIntire, Director of Environment & Energy Affairs, Duke Energy.*
- December 5, 2016. Green Infrastructure - The Future of Stormwater. *Dr. William Hunt, III, PE, WNR-Distinguished University Professor & Extension Specialist, BAE-NCSU.*

Again, NCWRA coordinated a symposium as part of the WRRRI Annual Conference in March. The topic of the symposium was *The Economic Value of Water*, which showcased a group of renowned speakers, including both academics and practitioners in the field of water resources:

- Lydia Olander, *Duke University*
- Oscar Wong, *Highland Brewing Company*
- Bobby Tucker, *Tetra Tech*
- Amy Annino, *RiverLink*

Also as part of the WRRRI Annual Conference, NCWRA co-sponsored the student poster competition in 2016, by providing judges and a portion of the award monies. The winners of the 2016 poster competition included:

- FIRST PLACE: Robert Mahoney, East Carolina University, "Nutrient and Bacteria Dynamics of Package Treatment Plants in Coastal North Carolina"

- SECOND PLACE: Vinicius Taguchi, NC State University, "Undervalued Stormwater Treatment by Undersized Disconnected Impervious Surfaces in Wilmington, North Carolina"
- THIRD PLACE: Adeline Lopez, NC State University, "Coal Ash Constituents at the base of aquatic food webs: Dynamic behavior of arsenic"
- HONORABLE MENTIONS:
 - Brent Serozi, East Carolina University, "Onsite Wastewater Systems Phosphate Treatment in the North Carolina Piedmont"
 - Jordan Jernigan, East Carolina University, "Evaluation of Surface and Subsurface Discharging Onsite Wastewater Systems in the North Carolina Piedmont"

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who participated in the poster competition! We thank Betsy for a job well done, and welcome Amy in her new role as Programs Chair.

Communications

During 2016, the Communications Committee continued efforts to streamline and institutionalize processes for managing, updating, and organizing content on the NCWRA website and through social media, and moved forward with other efforts to improve NCWRA's communication and increase our visibility. The Communications Committee:

- Began authoring state section news for the national AWRA IMPACT magazine (<http://www.awra.org/impact/>). Our first submission reported on the NCWRA Symposium at the 2016 WRRRI Annual Conference.
- Updated NCWRA's promotional banners.
- Created a web mapping application for the website, which graphically illustrates the extent of NCWRA's reach.

Thanks to Julie Coco's leadership as Chair and tireless energy as a volunteer to keep our web presence updated. Julie was also elected President Elect in 2017, which means that she will serve as President in 2018 -- Congratulations, Julie!

Other News and Accomplishments

- NCWRA formed an ad-hoc committee led by Jason Doll and Dianne Reid to enhance our relationship and better integrate with the national American Water Resources Association (AWRA, <http://www.awra.org/>). AWRA sent Martha Narvaez, AWRA President, to the NCWRA sponsored Symposium at the WRRRI conference and Jason graciously gave Martha a tour of downtown, with an eye toward North Carolina hosting a future national AWRA conference.
- The Board formally approved NCWRA's the Summary of Strategic Plan and Updated Logic Model.

- Jason Doll, NCWRA's longtime Treasurer (in addition to the many other hats he has worn over the years) updated our accounting software and rebuilt and modernized the NCWRA books, while also instituting new back-up procedures. Thank you, Jason!
- Eban Bean accepted a new position in Florida and accordingly resigned his position on the Board. Amy Crowley accepted the invitation to fill Eban Bean's position on the Board (her term will expire in December 2018). We thank Eban for his service and professionalism as a NCWRA volunteer and Board member and wish him well. Likewise, we thank Amy for accepting a position on the Board and are excited to have her!
- Betsy Pearce, Dianne Reid, and Alex Nice did not run for reelection and cycled off of the Board. Although we are sad to see them go, we greatly appreciate their many years of combined service on the Board and in a variety of leadership positions - thanks guys!

2016 Officers and Board Members

Your NCWRA Board of Directors in 2016 were:

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 Saladin Wilkinson	NC WRRl
Board Members At-Large	Julie Coco	Integra Engineering & Science Services PLLC
	Marc Recktenwald	City of Charlotte
	Phil May	Carolina Ecosystems, Inc.
	Cy Stober	NC DEQ Water Resources
	Eban Bean	East Carolina University
	Betsy Pearce	Wake County Environmental Services

Based on results of elections in late 2016, the following are positions for the NCWRA Board of Directors in 2017:

Position	Name	Affiliation
President	Mike Schlegel	Whiteboard Academy
President-Elect	Julie Coco	Integra Engineering & Science Services, PLLC
Past President	Victor D'Amato	Tetra Tech
Treasurer	Jason Doll	Moffatt and Nichol
Secretary	Cy Stober	City of Mebane
Permanent Member	Nicole Saladin Wilkinson	NC WRR1
Board Members At-Large	Crystal Moore	Stantec
	Marc Recktenwald	City of Charlotte
	Phil May	Carolina Ecosystems, Inc.
	Rob Hopper	CDM Smith
	Daniel Wiebke	AECOM
	Amy Crowley	AMEC Foster Wheeler

Congratulations and thanks to all of our Board members, Committee members and volunteers, general membership, and NCWRA event attendees - we are glad to have you *Join the Conversation!*