

Outgoing President's Message

Like our parent organization, the American Water Resources Association, our focus is not on any one discipline, but on the broader field of water resources. As I reflect upon my time as President, I think about my contributions to this field and to the Association, and those who have helped with this endeavor since my membership started in 2011. This year, we continued our mission of providing a forum for water resource practitioners, students, and regulators to meet, discuss, and exchange ideas by organizing and sponsoring popular programs and events. Over the summer, we met to revisit and reaffirm our Strategic Plan goals. We outlined internal procedures, developed a Purpose & Need statement, and organized and refreshed the look of our website. We sought ways to collaborate with outside professional and student organizations who shared our goals, found a way to offset our increasing operating costs, and nurtured our relationship with the Water Resources Research Institute. As a result, our Association has improved communications both internally and externally. I am proud to have contributed to the AWRA IMPACT magazine, allowing us to showcase our activities within the North Carolina chapter to readers nationwide. The steady increase in event registrations during 2018 is positive and tangible evidence of our endeavors.

We remain indebted to WRRI 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 the NCWRA and your President, please accept my sincere gratitude to all those associated with NCWRA and WRRI for your many efforts and contributions in making our organization a success. As past-president, I can say that the Association remains strong. The Board and Committee members remain engaged in their work and in their members. If you would like to learn more about how to get involved with NCWRA, please free feel to contact any Board or Committee member listed on the NCWRA website (www.ncwra.org). We hope that you will consider *Joining the Conversation* with us in 2019. Following this message is a short report on the NCWRA activities and initiatives for 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Coco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julie" and last name "Coco" clearly legible.

Julie Coco
2018 NCWRA President

Membership Committee

As of this writing, the NCWRA has 201 active members and continues to grow. Registrations for forums steadily increased this year starting with 61 in February, 72 in September, and 111 in December. Under the leadership of the Membership Committee, NCWRA continued to offer networking activities with an increasing focus on student outreach and the engagement of young professionals. The Membership Committee organized two social networking events in 2018: the Spring social event was held in April at the Oak & Dagger Public House in Raleigh, while the Fall social event was held in November at the Fullsteam Brewery in Durham. Both events were attended by a diverse group of NCWRA members, potential members, professionals, and students. NCWRA also co-sponsored a Students and Young Professionals social event in September at the Level Up Bar-cade in Raleigh. The Membership Committee, led by Co-Chairs Corey Cavalier and Matthew Hornack, initiated plans to continue to develop young professionals through NCWRA-led mentoring, and those efforts continue to be planned and put into action in 2019.

Programs

Under the leadership of Committee Co-Chairs Amy Crowley & Daniel Wiebke, The Program Committee organized popular programs and events in 2018.

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

- February 5, 2018. Wake County Efforts to Protect Private Well Users from Contamination. *Evan Kane, Wake County.*
- September 24, 2018. Propagation of Sediment Pulses after Dam Removal. *Celso Castro-Bolinaga, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Biological and Agricultural Engineering, North Carolina State University.*
- December 3, 2018. NCDOT Hydraulics Unit 2.0. *Stephen Morgan and Andy McDaniel, North Carolina Department of Transportation*

This year, the NCWRA coordinated another student mentorship program as part of the 20th Annual WRRRI Annual Conference held in March. In addition to oral and poster presentations, several panel discussions, hands-on participatory sessions, and ample networking across professional sectors were available to participants.

Student engagement opportunities included a "Careers in Water Resources" session and a session on "Effective Visualization, Design and Communication of Your Research." The conference also offered a Mentorship Program to pair students, recent graduates and those re-entering the workforce with professionals in water resources.

Also as part of the WRRRI Annual Conference, NCWRA co-sponsored the student poster competition in 2018, by providing judges and a portion of the award monies. The winners of the 2018 poster competition included:

- **FIRST PLACE:** Guy Iverson, East Carolina University, "Evaluation of a Bioreactor to Remediate Nutrients in a Septic-dominated Watershed in the North Carolina Piedmont"
- **SECOND PLACE:** Christa Sanderford, East Carolina University, "Comparison of Stream E. coli and Enterococci Concentrations in Watersheds Served by Different Wastewater Treatment Technologies"
- **THIRD PLACE:** Samuel Blackman, NC State University, "Characterizing Timescales of Estuarine Water Quality Covariates Across Brackish Habitats to Aid the Development of Aquaculture Initiatives"
- **HONORABLE MENTIONS:**
 - Lindsay Wickersham, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, "Comparison of multidrug-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in surface waters with and without commercial swine production"

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who participated in the poster competition and to those who helped make the competition possible!

Communications

During 2018, the Communications Committee along with the President, continued efforts to update and organize content on the NCWRA website and through social media.

We advertised forums, socials, conferences, and outside water resource-related events to the public through our website (www.ncwra.org) and LinkedIn group – the *North Carolina Water Resources Association*. This group has been online since 2011 and as of this writing, has 170 members.

Other News and Accomplishments

- We held a strategic planning retreat in July. Members of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons met for a half of a day in Morrisville, NC to reflect on the organization's overarching goal, and to revisit their 2015 logic model for accomplishing desired outcomes. Mike Schlegel, Nicole Wilkinson, and Julie Coco teamed to plan the event. Mike provided the graphics and Nicole engaged the attendees with a group exercise, while Julie quizzed the members on their history and current events related to the Association. The meeting concluded with specific goals to reach within the next one to two years, which included outreach to students and young professionals. It was an eventful as well as enjoyable day for all!
- Some members-at-large sought positions as officers: Amy Crowley ran for Treasurer and Daniel Weibke as President-Elect. Rob Hopper will be the reigning new President in 2019.

- In addition, we were able to bring on a new member. Seth Barefoot is an associate attorney with a firm in Raleigh. Congratulations to Amy, Daniel, Rob, and welcome Seth!
- After years of dedication, some members took a back seat to their positions as officers and others cycled off the Board altogether. Although we are sad to see them go, we appreciate their many years of combined service on the Board and in a variety of leadership positions.

2018 Officers and Board Members

Your NCWRA Board of Directors in 2018 were:

Position	Name	Affiliation
President	Julie Coco	NC Department of Environmental Quality
President-Elect	Robert Hopper	CDM Smith
Past President	Mike Schlegel	Whiteboard Academy
Treasurer	Jason Doll	KCI Associates of NC, PA
Secretary	Jen Schmitz	Triangle J Council of Governments
Permanent Member	Nicole Saladin Wilkinson	NC WRRI
Board Members At-Large	Crystal Moore	Stantec
	Marc Recktenwald	City of Charlotte
	Phil May	Carolina Ecosystems, Inc.
	Corey Cavalier	RK&K
	Daniel Wiebke	AECOM
	Amy Crowley	Wood Group

Based on results of elections, the following are positions for the NCWRA Board of Directors in 2019:

Position	Name	Affiliation
President	Rob Hopper	CDM Smith
President-Elect	Daniel Wiebke	AECOM
Past President	Julie Coco	NC Department of Environmental Quality
Treasurer	Amy Crowley	Wood Group
Secretary	Jen Schmitz	Triangle J Council of Governments
Permanent Member	Nicole Saladin Wilkinson	NC WRRI
Board Members At-Large	Seth Barefoot	F. Bryan Brice, Jr.
	Marc Recktenwald	City of Charlotte
	Phil May	Carolina Ecosystems, Inc.
	Corey Cavalier	RK&K
	Matthew Hornack	ESP Associates
	Jason Doll	KCI Associates of NC, PA

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!*