

SEPTEMBER 2023 WEF MA NEWS

You are receiving MA News as you are a MA Board member, MA Committee Chair, MA Staff, MA Contact (Contact at MAs without staff), WEF Delegate, WEF Board of Trustee or a WEF Past President

HEADING INTO WEFTEC: MESSAGE FROM WEF INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

First, thank you for your hard work, dedication to craft, and your contributions to life free of water challenges. The WEF Executive Team, staff (especially Renee Kayal's talented and dedicated staff) and I are proud to be your partners.

I need to ask a favor, before I get to the substance of this note. There are some indicators that we might have a huge surge in day-of registrations. If we do, we will have longer, slower lines than WEFTEC attendees expect. We will be working the lines, helping and reassuring people. We could use your help in managing expectations and reactions. Help us celebrate, with them, the success of the show and celebrate, also, the events and features it allows us all to experience.

I reported in my note a week ago on the **intensive member/member association dialog** and education on which I have embarked. Only now do I feel sufficiently well informed of the basics of WEF's mission, strategy and work that I can begin to understand our member value proposition—what it is and what it should be. I hope to use this space and WEFTEC to seed the dialog that will educate me about that.

The E-Team and I have pledged to the WEF Board of Trustees that beginning in October, we will embark upon an intensive effort to build long-term strategies around each of the strategic goals (workforce, purpose-driven community, and circular water economy) and around our global strategy.

Circular Water (CWE) is far in front of the others as the result of an extremely successful July Summit. We are now positioned to be the sector's leader in convening people, far beyond traditional water, on these issues and to be one of the thought leaders (THE thought leader among associations) in this incredibly promising area. Circular Water is also confusing and elusive. I need to know your thoughts, concerns, frustrations and, above all, aspirations.

Workforce: A coherent approach to **workforce recruitment, motivation and retention, development and advancement** is a profound need that comes up in every conversation about what the sector must accomplish. The need is so huge that we will have to seek to be the co-creators of a sector-wide strategy and the leaders in a particular niche. How we develop that strategy and what niche we occupy, I will understand better when I know you better.

Purpose-Driven Community: The **purpose-driven community** is about you and your members. You are the inner circle in a series of concentric circles that extend from the utility operator out to the general public. You, the membership, the staff and I have to fashion this understanding together.

In the meantime, you may or may not know that the staff is working intensively and effectively on three

short-term goals. We are accountable for achieving certain metrics by September 30 (yep, 10 days from now!) related to:

- Informing our work (related to IT and databases)
- Streamlining our collaboration (enhancing our systems and processes)
- Expanding our circle (including and collaborating beyond our existing spheres)

We chose these because they serve as a kind of foundation for the things we will need to accomplish to implement our strategic plan. We MUST improve our system integration. We MUST streamline the way we make and implement decisions. And, we MUST expand our circle.

When we see one another in Chicago, and beyond, please tell us (Renee's team, the entire staff and me) of your aspirations and your frustrations. Tell us how you see the staff providing empathic customer service, and not. Tell us how you see us being collaborative (with you and others), and not. Tell us how you see us acting boldly and with agility, and not. Tell us how you see us centering diversity in everything we do, and not.

We will take these back to the staff team. We will report to the board. And we will get better at building, with you, a purpose-driven community. ~ Pat Nichols pnichols@wef.org

WEFTEC MA LEADERS FORUM

Registration: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RFJX9T7>

October 1 | 9:00 – 11:00 am

Hilton Chicago | Continental C, Lobby Level

Please join with fellow MA Leaders for interactive sessions built around topics on Collaboration, Workforce and DE&I through the lens of equity. President-Elect Aimee' Killeen will provide the opening message and WEF Board of Trustee Stephen Sanders will facilitate the sessions. A light continental breakfast will be offered. Presentations by Cari Ishida, Hawaii WEA, Scott Aurit, Nebraska WEA; Ellen Frketic, Chesapeake WEA, and Jazmin Goines, WEF

WEFTEC: GIVE BACK AND GROW AT WEFTEC 2023

Help us create a more sustainable WEFTEC! Find out how you can help increase our positive impact.

[Read more...](#)

MAUI WILDFIRES

Our hearts and thoughts are with the people of Maui after the devastating wildfires on the island. The Hawaii WEA is joining forces with other local engineering professional organizations to form **Kāpili Maui** (Kāpili translates to: build, put together, fit together, med, fix, repair, unite). Besides [Hawaii WEA](#), the other organizations include: American Council of Engineering Companies Hawaii ([ACECH](#)), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) [Hawaii Section](#), American Water Works Association (AWWA) [Hawaii Section](#), Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers ([HSPE](#)), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) [Hawaii Section](#), and Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii ([SEAOH](#)). The various organizations are committed to looking for ways to help the Maui community in the near-, mid-, and long-term. The group meets on a bi-weekly basis and is collaborating on ways to help the Maui community recover from the recent wildfire disasters.

One of the near-term support activities that has been identified by **Kāpili Maui** is to start a **scholarship fund for students that have been impacted by the Maui wildfires**. The primary goal and purpose of **Kāpili Maui** is to solicit a sufficient amount of financial donations to set up an endowment fund to support an entire generation of students whose lives have been impacted by the August 2023 Maui wildfires. Hawaii WEA will provide more information at WEFTEC, but those who are interested in contributing can do so by the following methods:

1. Venmo to the Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers, Maui Chapter:



2. Mail a check payable to “HSPE Maui Chapter”:

HSPE Maui Chapter
P.O. Box 4119
Kahului, HI 96733

3. Credit card donations can be processed by contacting the HSPE Maui Chapter Treasurer, Irina Constantinescu at 808.442.3305 or iconstantinescu@brwncaid.com. HSPE is a 501(c)6 non-profit corporation, Tax ID 99-6005842.

WEF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMUNITY (GAC)

Survey – [Click Here](#) to Participate

Each year, WEF's Governmental Affairs Community (GAC) surveys water policy experts and leaders across states and MAs gather to direct feedback on the topics most pressing to you and your EPA regions, states, and member associations. This survey helps to inform WEF regulatory and legislative focus and has been the subject of webinars as well as the impetus for the GAC's legislative and regulatory efforts.

Please take 5-10 minutes and describe what is happening at the local level for all that apply. We ask that you respond by Friday, September 22. If multiple respondents have been tapped from a single MA, would you work to consolidate responses into a single MA response.

The result will be discussed at the **WEF GAC MA Subcommunity meeting at WEFTEC 2023 on Monday, Oct 2, 9-10 AM, in room N226, level 2, McCormick Place**. If your schedule allows, we welcome you to attend and participate in the discussion. **Take the first step and [take the survey here!](#)**

WEF MEMBERSHIP CORNER

New Membership Booth Events @ WEFTEC

Join us at the Membership Booth in WEF Plaza (North Hall B) for two all-new events.

WEF Member Mixer | Monday, October 2 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Join your fellow members for complimentary beer and wine. This event is WEF member-only.

WEF Member Minute | Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (October 1, 3, and 4) at 10:00 am

Join incoming Membership Community Chair Thomas Bach for a quick 15-minute discussion on how WEF membership keeps you engaged with the water sector after WEFTEC.

New Member Drawing

Come by the membership booth (North Hall B, WEF Plaza) from Sunday – Wednesday to join WEF and then be entered to win a special prize. Drawings for the prize will take place daily: Sunday – Tuesday at 5 pm and Wednesday at 2:30 pm



Already a member? Come by for a special gift.