**2021-2022 House of Delegates Work Group Charter**

**Work Group Title: Federal Advocacy Workgroup Charter**

**Work Group Leader(s): Kristiana Dragash and Alexie Kindrick**

**Work Group Description:** This workgroup will continue the work from 2020-2021 to assist with amplifying WEF’s advocacy messages and priorities and will collaborate closely with the WEF Government Affairs Committee (GAC). WEF has been able to, in collaboration with other organizations in Washington, DC, advocate for more resources for our communities and utilities. In the legislative side, advocacy efforts have been able to maintain appropriations by Congress to the Clean Water Revolving Fund (CW SRF), and recently was successful in getting the CW SRF reauthorized and funding levels increased. Additionally, Congress recently established several new infrastructure funding programs to address a variety of priority areas for wastewater and stormwater. Continued grassroots advocacy will be critical to maintain funding for these programs. In the regulatory side, WEF has been instrumental in providing technical comments and science-based evidence on matters related to permits, methods development and more recently, recommendations on worker safety. Our successes recently have been because of our members writing Members of Congress, visiting their representatives, and being informed on the issues.

But a sustainable advocacy effort requires greater engagement and understanding of the core messages needed to communicate with elected officials on legislative and regulatory issues. Therefore, this workgroup will focus on enhancing communication and advocacy through WEF’s Water Advocates program: [Water Advocates (wef.org)](https://www.wef.org/water-advocates).

**Work Group Objective(s):** The following workgroup objectives will further our impact in federal advocacy:

* Educate workgroup members on communication techniques, developing impactful messages, maintaining core messages for our audiences, and present at least 3-5 methods to communicate with Federal, State or Local legislators and regulators. Finalize Toolkit for rollout to WEF Membership.
* Support WEF efforts to enhance alerts on legislation along with avenues to share.
* Increase membership and engagement in the Water Advocate program by developing communication and enhancing approach to recruitment. Identify metrics for success factors and growth (e.g., HOD members in Water Advocates).
	+ Goals:
		- Water Advocates in every state (currently missing ***South Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico)***
		- Every HOD and Government Affairs committee member sign up as a water advocate by WEFTEC 2022.
		- DOUBLE the number of water advocates by WEFTEC 2022. Currently as of 10/5/21, there are 597 advocates. Goal of 1,200 Water Advocates by WEFTEC 2022
			* Actions to achieve goals
				+ Ask delegates to share benefits (& tool kit) at an MA Board or business meeting and invite participation. Ask delegates to share with their office and invite participation.
				+ Ask delegates to share toolkit and calls to action on social media
				+ Have WEF share a link and message about the Water Advocates Program on social media
				+ Present Water Advocates Program in HOD messages / monthly updates, WEFMAX
* Work with the WEF Government Affairs Committee (GAC) to keep the HOD up-to-date on the key issues WEF is focused on for the current legislative and regulatory issues (e.g., virtual HOD messages, monthly updates, WEFMAX).