



WEF BOARD BRIEFS

Fall 2008/January 2009



2008-2009 WEF Board of Trustees Rebecca West, President; Paul Freedman, President-Elect; Jeanette Brown, Vice President; Chuck Weir, Treasurer; Adam Zabinski, Past President; Bill Bertera, Secretary; Deborah Houdeshell; Judy Jones; Carl Janson; Betty Jordan; Ed McCormick; Ron Moeller; Sandra Ralston; Leslie Samel; Cordell Samuels; Chris Schmit; Bjorn von Euler; Jay Witherspoon

WEF and The Economy – In a briefing to the Board, Executive Director Bill Bertera reported that he anticipates that WEF will be affected by the recession at some point, and that he is regularly monitoring expenses and revenue and managing to minimize the effects. Mr. Bertera will brief the Board twice monthly and will attend WEFMAX meetings this spring and brief MA leaders on WEF and the economy. *Contact:* Bill Bertera: wbertera@wef.org

WEF/MA Relationship – Board and House Path Forward – The Board of Trustees reviewed the response letter sent to the Speaker of the House re: recommendations made by the House at WEFTEC 08. Click here to access the letter - <http://www.wef.org/MembershipCareers/MembersOnly/HouseofDelegates/>. Speaker of the House Tom Helgeson briefed the Board on the ongoing work of the House and discussed options of approaches to engage the Board and House in relationship discussions.

The Board of Trustees has devoted several hours at their two most recent meetings discussing the WEF/MA Relationship, and the results of the relationship survey. The Board is committed to working with the House to reach a definition of a successful relationship and to evaluate resources and services that can support the relationship. The March 2009 conference call meeting of the Board will include discussion of recommendations of the House and Board for an approach to quickly begin to bring the House and Board into discussions. *Contact:* Phyllis Ross: pross@wef.org; Tom Helgeson, thelgeso@ch2m.com

WEF Actions re: Potential Stimulus Funding
The Board was briefed on activities directed to the new administration regarding potential stimulus funding for water infrastructure. Of special note is the WEF Webcast scheduled for **February 2, 2009 – Stimulus Funding for Wastewater Infrastructure**. *Contact:* Tim Williams, twilliams@wef.org.

WEF/AWWA Joint Workforce Sustainability Initiative – WEF and AWWA have agreed to appoint a joint working group to produce recommendations for collaboration on shared best practices and common messaging on water sector careers by May 1, 2009. *Contact: Eileen O’Neill, eoconnell@wef.org*

“Hot” Technical Topics – The Board discussed and agreed on a set of three Hot Topics, Energy/Climate Change, Urban Energy/Water Management (“Cities of the Future”) and Biofuels. Identification of activities and opportunities in each hot topic area will be discussed at the March 2009 Board meeting. *Contact: Matt Ries, mries@wef.org*

WEF Awards – The Board of Trustees has given approval for two new WEF awards, the **National Safety Award** and the **Ralph E. Fuhrman Award for Outstanding Water Quality Academic-Practice Collaboration**. Information on the new awards is available at www.wef.org. *Contact: Kelsey Brown, kbrown@wef.org*

WEF/NACWA Pharmaceutical Peer Review Panel – The Board approved in-kind WEF participation with NACWA and AMWA on a peer review panel process to assess the potential implications for the water sector of low levels of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in the nation’s waters. *Contact: Eileen O’Neill, eoconnell@wef.org*

Alliance for Water Stewardship – The Board authorized WEF Executive Director Bill Bertera to enter into an agreement with the Alliance for Water Stewardship, an organization comprised of The Nature Conservancy, Water Stewardship Institute, and the Pacific Institute. WEF will participate as a partner in the AWS, providing a utility perspective and other sector input in the development of watershed certification standards. *Contact: Matt Ries, mries@wef.org*

2008-2009 Board of Trustees Meetings
*The Board meets **monthly by conference call** and will conduct in person meetings as noted below:*

Alexandria, Virginia
May 15, 2008
July 24, 2008