

WRI-59: West Virginia Water Conference 2004 Final Report

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Background

West Virginia has an abundant and valuable resource: water. Until recently, West Virginia essentially had no water law but was used on a first come first use basis. With rapid growth in the eastern panhandle and the large populations in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC, the rising need for more and more water in these areas may soon focus on West Virginia's water resources. As the Potomac River works its way into these areas, who really owns the water—those at the source or the end users? How can the state protect its water rights? Water is something we all use and take for granted until there is a shortage. We all want it for our own needs. It's free or cheap now but that could change as it has in the western states. If users in other states manage to get legal rights to West Virginia's water, there could be serious economic impacts.

These are some of the issues raised and addressed at the West Virginia Water Conference 2004 held in October in Roanoke, West Virginia. This was the third state water conference at which water rights have been much debated. These conferences have served as an avenue for networking among various groups including U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, WV Division of Environmental Protection, West Virginia Board of Public Health, academia, watershed groups, and private citizens.

Objectives

1. Objectives for the 2004 conference included:
2. Expanding the awareness of water issues in the state
3. Providing attendees with an awareness of on-going water research
4. Providing attendees with an awareness of on-going legislation underway to protect the State's water resources
5. Networking of the State's water stakeholders
6. Revisiting the issues listed above and prioritizing them in order of importance from the viewpoints of the participants
7. Presenting the prioritized listing of issues to the West Virginia Advisory Committee for possible inclusion in future WVWRI RFPs.

Methods, Procedures, Facilities

Lessons learned from the past two conferences were considered through the planning and development of this third conference.

Conference Planning Committee

This committee was comprised of representatives of key stakeholders from the following organizations:

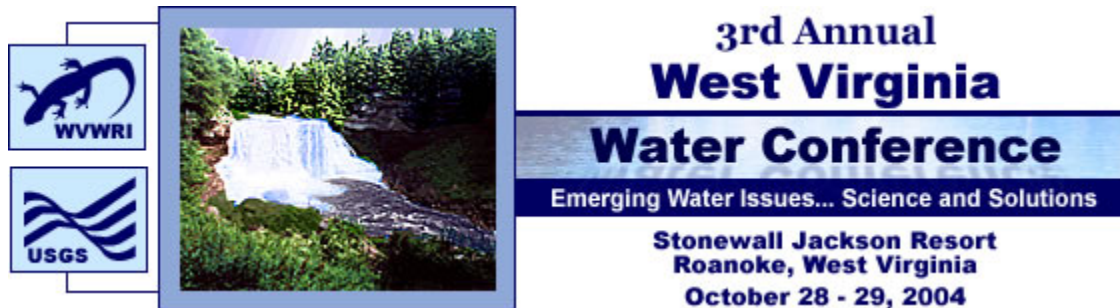
8. West Virginia Water Research Institute
9. West Virginia University College of Law
10. West Virginia Board of Public Health
11. West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection
12. Marshall University
13. Canaan Valley Institute
14. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
15. U.S. Geological Survey

Communications included physical meetings, conference calls, and email. This group worked together to achieve the following:

16. Developed a theme
17. Created an agenda
18. Selected a location
19. Selected and invited moderators and speakers
20. Enhanced the mailing list from the previous 2 conferences
21. Selected avenues for promoting the conference

The theme of the 2004 conference was *Emerging Water Issues... Science and Solutions*. The following is the final agenda:

Agenda



AGENDA

Thursday, October 28	
7:15 AM	Registration
8:00 - 9:30 AM	Plenary Session: Emerging Water Issues... Science and Solutions <i>Welcome and Introductory Remarks, Paul Ziemkiewicz, Director, West Virginia Water Research Institute, West Virginia University</i>

	<p>Joyce McConnell, Professor, Law Center, West Virginia University, Moderator</p> <p><i>Water security approaches and strategies</i>, Jerry G. Schulte, Manager, Source Water Protection and Emergency Response, ORSANCO</p> <p><i>Current water law in West Virginia</i>, David Flannery, Jackson Kelley PLLC</p> <p><i>Responding to Emerging Power Plant-Water Issues: DOE-NETL's R&D Program</i>, Tom Feeley, Technology Manager, U.S. Department of Energy–National Energy Technology Laboratory</p>
<p>9:30 - 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>10:00 - 11:30 AM</p>	<p>Session I. Urban Sprawl and Land Use Planning: David Clark, Watershed Circuit Rider, Canaan Valley Institute, Moderator</p> <p><i>An update on water issues as development increases in Berkeley County</i>, William Stubblefield, Board of Directors, Berkeley County PSC Water District</p> <p><i>Water resource asset protection through green infrastructure planning and investment</i>, Joe Hankins, Vice President, the Conservation Fund, and Director, the Freshwater Institute</p> <p><i>The Wastewater Treatment Coalition of McDowell County – Community-Based Assessment and Planning</i>, Matthew Sherald, Senior GIS Specialist, Canaan Valley Institute</p>
<p>11:30 AM - 1:00 PM</p>	<p>Lunch provided by the West Virginia Water Research Institute-Stillwaters</p>
<p>1:00 - 3:10 PM</p>	<p>Session II. Water Security and Contamination: Gary Wick, Unit Chief, U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Moderator</p> <p><i>Coal slurry impoundments in southern West Virginia</i>, Davitt McAteer, Attorney at Law and Director, Coal Impoundment Program, Robert C. Byrd National Technology Transfer Center, Wheeling Jesuit University</p> <p><i>Protecting our public water supplies</i>, Robert Hart, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources</p> <p><i>Coordinating emergency services in West Virginia</i>, Steve Kappa, Emergency Management Advisor, Office of Emergency Services</p> <p><i>Emerging contaminants in surface waters</i>, Frank Borsuk, Aquatic/Fisheries Biologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III</p> <p><i>Wastewater issues and alternative sanitation systems</i>, Clement Solomon, Program Coordinator, National Small Flows Clearinghouse, West Virginia University</p>

	<i>Nutrient criteria</i> , Ed Snyder, Director, Institute of Environmental Studies, Shepherd College
3:10 - 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 - 5:00 PM	<p>Session III. Next Steps, Paul Ziemkiewicz, Director, West Virginia Water Research Institute, West Virginia University, Moderator</p> <p><i>Next steps: What will it take to protect West Virginia's water resources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Constantz, Canaan Valley Institute • Stephanie Timmermeyer, Cabinet Secretary, West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection • David Flannery, Jackson Kelly PLLC • Senator John Unger, West Virginia Legislature
5:00 PM	Closing Remarks: Paul Ziemkiewicz, Director, West Virginia Water Research Institute, West Virginia University
5:15 PM	Adjourn

Friday, October 29, 2004	
7:15 AM	Registration
8:00 - 9:30 AM	<p>Session IV: Topical Research Presentations: John Quaranta, Associate Director, West Virginia Water Research Institute, West Virginia University, Moderator</p> <p>On-going Research: <i>Finding Solutions through on-going research</i>, Paul Ziemkiewicz, Director, West Virginia Water Research Institute, West Virginia University and Tony Szwilski, Chair, Division of Environmental Science and Safety Technology, Marshall University</p> <p>Hydrology: <i>The hydrogeochemistry of karst aquifers and springs: Case studies from three different West Virginia aquifers</i>, Dorothy Vesper, Research Professor, Geology, West Virginia University</p> <p>Landscape mapping: <i>Tools, mapping, and analysis for the urban sprawl landscape</i>, Julie Svetlik, PhD Student and Research Assistant, Natural Resource Analysis Center, West Virginia University</p>
9:30 - 10:00 AM	Break
10:00 - 11:30 AM	<p>Session V: Topical Research Presentations: Joseph Donovan, Director, Hydrogeology Research Center, West Virginia Water Research Institute, West Virginia University, Moderator</p> <p>Mine Pools: <i>How much water is in our underground mines and how can we use it?</i> Bruce Leavitt, Consulting Hydrogeologist, Washington, Pennsylvania</p>

	<p>Surface Water Gaging: <i>The West Virginia Water Gaging Council and the Water Gaging Program</i>, Hugh Bevans, District Chief, U.S. Geological Survey</p> <p>Droughts and Low Flow: <i>Water quantity assessments and trends in low flow</i>, Jeff Wiley, Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey</p>
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch provided by the West Virginia Water Research Institute-Stillwaters
1:00 - 2:30 PM	<p>Session VI: Topical Research Presentations: Rick Herd, Program Coordinator, West Virginia Water Research Institute, Moderator</p> <p>Agriculture: <i>Handling agriculture pollution</i>, Tom Basden, Nutrient Management Specialist, West Virginia University Extension Service</p> <p>DNA Tracking: <i>The latest on DNA tracking</i>, Pam Staton, Marshall University</p> <p>MTBE: <i>MTBE in West Virginia</i>, Dawn Newell, Geologist, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources</p>
2:30 - 3:00 PM	Break
3:00 - 5:00 PM	<p>Session VII: Topical Research Presentations: William Toomey, Manager, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Moderator</p> <p>Mercury: <i>Dealing with mercury from power plants</i>, Lynn Brickett, Project Manager, U.S. Department of Energy - National Energy Technology Laboratory</p> <p>Mercury: <i>Mercury in Fish-Regional Study</i>, Patrick Campbell, Assistant Director, West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection</p> <p>Endocrine Disruptors: <i>Endocrine Disruptors</i>, John Cicmanec, Veterinary Medical Officer, US Environmental Protection Agency, Cincinnati, Ohio</p> <p>Land Use Planning: <i>Land Use Planning</i>, Nancy Ailes, Executive Director, Cacapon Land Trust</p>
5:00 PM	Closing Remarks: Paul Ziemkiewicz, Director, West Virginia Water Research Institute, West Virginia University
5:15 PM	Adjourn

Speakers, panelists, and moderators all volunteered their time and covered their own expenses. The WVVRI provided speakers with AV equipment and assistance.

Facility

The Stonewall Resort and Conference Center was selected as the venue for this conference due to its location and availability. The Stonewall is located roughly in the center of the State making it within approximately 4 hours driving time maximum from anywhere in the State.

Registration and Materials

Registration was free to attendees. Lunches and materials were provided to approximately 150 attendees free of charge. Materials included a brochure on the activities of the WVWRI.

Exhibits

Although exhibits were not initially considered and never solicited for the conference, a few attendees requested that they be allowed to set up an exhibit of their organization. Those few were accommodated at no charge by having their exhibits placed in the back of the conference room.

Publicity/Technology Transfer

The conference was publicized and information disseminated in a number of ways as follows:

22. Press releases to television, newspapers, and radio.
23. West Virginia University and WVWRI web sites.
24. Post cards mailed to WVWRI conference mailing list.
25. Announcements provided to all on planning committee to distribute via their own agency web sites and mailing lists.
26. Channel 12 news, Clarksburg, WV attended the conference and interviewed WVWRI Director, Paul Ziemkiewicz, regarding the conference; a video clip was aired the evening of the second day of the event.
27. The conference agenda, directions to the facility, an on-line registration form, and presentations were placed on the WVWRI web site.

Student Support

One Ph.D. student presented at the conference.

One M.S. student assisted speakers and ran AV equipment.

One undergraduate student assisted with web site development and getting presentations on the web page.