



Water: The Call for a National Vision and Strategy

AWRA 2011
Albuquerque, New Mexico


Panel Discussion

Sponsored by AWRA Policy Committee

- ▶ Cheryl Ulrich, PE – Weston Solutions
 - Review of AWRA Board Approved Policy

 - ▶ Andrew Szojka, PE – CWRA President
 - Update and Lessons Learned from Canada's Similar Efforts to Launch a National Vision and Strategy

 - ▶ Ada Benavides – HQUSACE
 - Update of USACE Water Resources Visioning Project

 - ▶ Michael Campana, PhD – AWRA President
 - Recommended Implementation Path Forward
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Our Population Reality

31 October 2011


- ▶ World's population – **7 billion**
- ▶ Fastest increase in our population ever
- ▶ If you were to start counting to 7 billion out loud, how many years would it take you to finish?
- ▶ Think about the impact this has on our natural resources, specifically **WATER!**





After people, water is our most critical and strategic resource and yet we have no national vision for its management.

Now is the Time Ensure a Sustainable Supply

- ▶ Planning and regulation are fragmented – No clear sense of the federal role and little understanding of the gaps and overlaps amongst agencies.
 - ▶ Significant threats to water resources exist across the US due to
 - Aging infrastructure
 - Effects of climate change
 - Increasing urbanization
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Now is the Time

Ensure a Sustainable Supply

- ▶ Need a roadmap for planning and resource deployment – Our nation's future growth and prosperity will depend upon the sustainable management of its water.
- ▶ Need to keep up with our global trading partners...who already have overarching water policies and strategies:
 - New Zealand, Australia, South Africa,
Brazil and European Union

AWRA Policy Update

Water – National Vision and Strategy

- ▶ November 2010 – AWRA Annual Meeting
 - Carol R. Collier – AWRA Dialogues and USACE–State
 - Howard Neukrug – Clean Water America Alliance
 - Tony Willardson – Western Prospective
 - Dennis Barnett – Southeast Perspective
 - Andrew Szojka – CWRA – Advice/lessons learned


- ▶ AWRA 2010 Annual Meeting BUZZ

- ▶ January 2011
 - AWRA Board of Directors approved policy statement

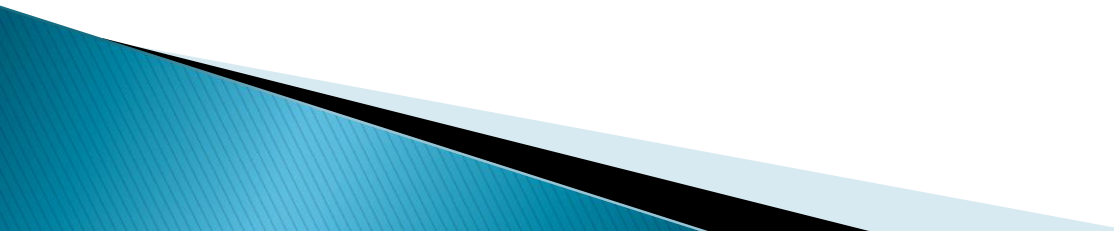
How to Best Use, Protect and Manage our Water Resources

- ▶ AWRA's Position on a National Water Vision and Strategy
 - Clear framework for sustainable management,
 - Clearly define roles and responsibilities,
 - Increase accountability,
 - Reduce conflict,
 - Improve the integration of resources,
 - Provide water security for future generations, and
 - Save public funds by more effective use of resources.

Immediate Need

- ▶ National Assessment
 - Current status of the resource
 - Future needs for water
 - Identification of gaps that exist in fulfilling these needs
 - ▶ Policy-makers need a way to accurately assess risks, so they can prioritize the resources necessary to protect the nation's water resources.
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Critical Elements

- ▶ Clean water is a basic human right
 - ▶ Integrated water resources management
 - ▶ Shared values
 - ▶ Broad stakeholder participation and leadership
 - ▶ Communication and branding strategies
 - ▶ Watershed-based collaborative planning and decision-making
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AWRA Policy Statement Available on Website



So What's the Next Step for AWRA??

Stay tuned for Michael's presentation but first let's hear what our neighbors in Canada are learning as they implement a National Vision and what USACE has been up to.....