



### **Summary of “One Water Management” Meeting**

On June 20, more than 60 leaders convened to discuss One Water Management and the role of a growing network of supporters. The U.S. Water Alliance in cooperation with the Water Environment Research Foundation, Water Research Foundation, and WaterReuse Research Foundation hosted the meeting with three goals in mind:

1. Develop an Initial Action Plan to drive One Water Management (OWM) implementation forward
2. Inform and be informed by on-going research in this area
3. Expand the OWM network

Represented at the conference were a wide variety of organizations and perspectives from around the country. Executives from government agencies, NGOs, and industry described their plans to work together towards improved, more integrated water management. There was a particular focus on the “Water Resources Utility of the Future” and the role of OWM in it.

Several presentations drove much of the discussion. Ken Kopocis, EPA Senior Advisor, discussed current national needs, EPA actions, and underscored the points that technology innovation and water-reuse are the future of OWM. Steve Stockton, Director of Civil Works for the Army Corps of Engineers, described their many efforts to advance integrated water resource management (IWRM), including pilot projects and public awareness campaigns. Karen Pallansch, CEO of Alexandria Renew Enterprises, gave a unique insight into what the future of OWM will look like as she presented her design for Alexandria Renew Enterprises that inspired the attendees.

One of the successful aspects of the meeting was that WERF, WRF, and WRRF presented and received feedback on their research on integrated water management. Bringing these groups together in one room created a unique opportunity for them to work cooperatively to complement and leverage each other’s objectives in order to maximize the value of their research. It was noted that future research should pay some attention to the cost of doing nothing. Another item for further research was to look at the long-range costs and success rates of green infrastructure. Comparing these figures with the costs of new innovative management will be vital in OWM’s quest for integrated and sustainable water management. Carol Howe, Director of ForEvaSolutions, described her recently launched research project funded through WERF, WRA, and Water Quality Research Australia to identify institutional barriers of one water management. These research foundations are crucial for providing science and technical data on which the policy objectives of OWM can be based off of and their efforts are of great value.

Another successful outcome was the opportunity for each participating organization to share individual perspectives on One Water Management. This gave every group a chance to voice their own opinion so that representatives and members could get a sense of the activities and goals of each organization in the network. In general, there were a lot of positive comments on the progress and support of the OWM network. However there were several comments regarding the definition of OWM, the role of scale, and how, where, and to what levels of governance it applies. Finally the group discussed various action items to drive OWM forward and sustain a useful network of supporters:

1. Create an information sharing database for OWM network supporters so that projects, presentations, and contacts can be viewed
2. Pick indicators/metrics so we can monitor progress of the OWM movement
3. Identify barriers and potential “disadvantages” of OWM, including green infrastructure
4. Focus on planning/building design as it is a rapidly moving industry with a direct correlation to the goals of OWM
5. Educate and learn from policy makers at the Federal level
6. Broaden the network to include more business/industry, Mayors, agriculture, urban land and building planners (e.g. AIA & APA)

A general consensus of the group was to keep coordinating in some fashion. The U.S. Water Alliance is willing to host the next face-to-face meeting; Periodic conference calls to update each other on progress and share cutting edge technologies, activities, and ideas would also be of great value to the OWM network. The group also agreed to continue to advance the notion of integrating and collaborating work within the network. Support for a One Water Management network remains strong.

A statement of collaboration has been sent out along with the updated perspectives and the attendee list from the meeting.