

# 2002 AWRA National Water Resources Policy Dialogue



## **The 2002 AWRA**

### **National Water Resources Policy Dialogue**

The Dialogue was held September 17-18, 2002  
at Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel  
in Washington, D.C.

**267** Persons, representing 42 States,  
the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico & Mexico  
were in attendance.



## Dialogue General Chair

Dr. Gerald E. Galloway, Jr.,  
Secretary of the United States Section  
of the International Joint Commission,  
served as General Chairperson of the Dialogue.

In 1994,  
Dr. Galloway led the White House study  
of the great Mississippi River flood of 1993.

# Sponsoring Agencies

The Dialogue was sponsored by the following federal water resources agencies:

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**

**NOAA, National Ocean Service**

**NOAA, National Weather Service**

**U. S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**U. S. Bureau of Reclamation**

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**U. S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**U. S. Geological Survey**



# Dialogue Co-Sponsors

The following organizations support the concept of a National Water Resources Policy Dialogue and have graciously lent their names as co-sponsors of the Dialogue.

## **American Rivers**

**Association of State Floodplain Managers**

**Delaware River Basin Commission**

**Geological Society of America**

**The Groundwater Foundation**

**Interstate Council on Water Policy**

**Missouri River Basin Association**

**National Association of Conservation Districts**

**National Watershed Coalition**

**National Wildlife Federation**

**Native American Rights Fund**

**Ohio River Basin Commission**



## Co-Sponsors (continued)

**Ohio River Basin Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO)**

**Red River Basin Commission**

**St. Johns River Water Management District**

**Sandia National Laboratories**

**Soil and Water Conservation Society**

**South Alabama Regional Planning Commission**

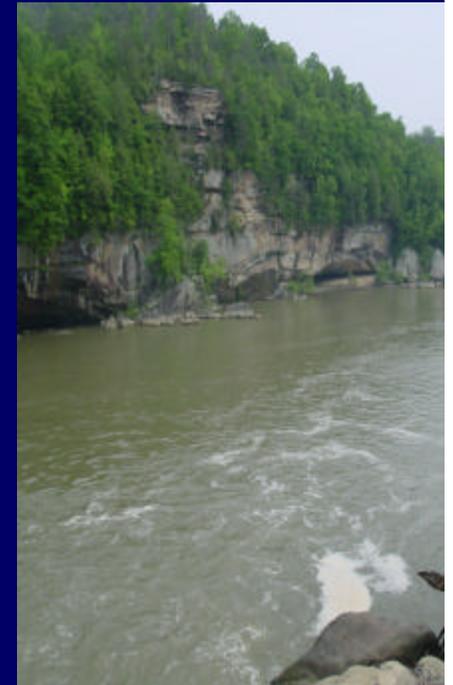
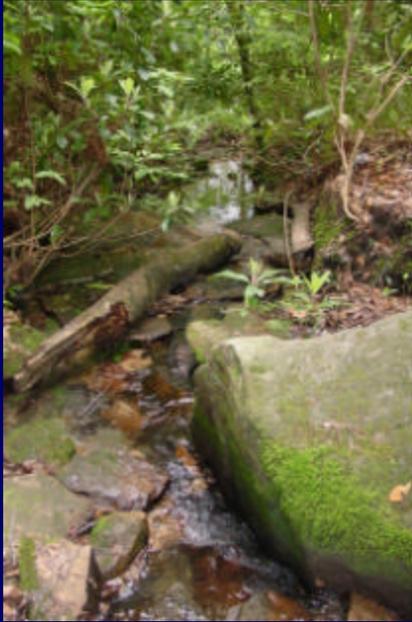
**Southeast Watershed Forum**

**Susquehanna River Basin Commission**

**Universities Council on Water Resources**

**Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission**

**Waterways Work!**



## SCOPE OF THE DIALOGUE

The American Water Resources Association (AWRA)'s Water Resources Policy Dialogue will be completely objective, and will provide each participant with a heightened awareness of **ALL** sides of important water resources policy issues primarily for the United States.

It will review existing federal water policies and how they impact state and local entities, and will look to identify future federal policy issues.

## SCOPE OF THE DIALOGUE (continued)

The participants will represent *all water resources disciplines*, and will include water resources policy makers from the executive and legislative branches of the federal government, and from all other levels of government including tribal governments; environmental groups; academics and researchers; industrial representatives; and the general public.



## Scope of the Dialogue (continued)

The meeting will be limited to discussions of 6 key issues in panels and working groups, with all viewpoints represented.

The National Water Resources Policy Dialogue will provide information to policy makers for their use in developing and/or fine tuning water resources policies for our nation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

A CD-ROM containing the transcripts of the keynote speeches and panel discussions, and a summary of the results of the discussion groups, will be distributed to each attendee.



# Keynote Speakers

## Honorable Parris N. Glendening

*Governor, State of Maryland*

## Honorable Harry Reid

*Senator, State of Nevada*



## Honorable James L. Connaughton

*Chair, Council on Environmental Quality,  
Washington, DC*



# Key Issues

## Key Issue No. 1

### Restoring and Protecting the Environment

#### *Charge to Panel*

Current water uses affect the environment through impacts on water quality, quantity, and biological and physical resources.

How can we best manage and meet current and future water needs while restoring and protecting the environment?

**Key Issue No. 2**  
**Water Resources Infrastructure**  
*Charge to Panel*

Investment choices and tradeoffs about the rehabilitation, replacement, and upgrading of our aging water resources infrastructure in the United States must be considered.

What are the alternatives, how can they be accomplished, and who pays?

**Key Issue No. 3**  
**Safety and Security of Water Resources**  
*Charge to Panel*

Water resources policies must address safety and security of our water supplies and storage facilities and provide contingency and response plans in the event of terrorist activity or natural disasters.

How can water resource policies best address this?

**Key Issue No. 4**  
**Managing Watersheds Holistically**  
*Charge to Panel*

Rapid population growth, loss of aquatic native diversity and a decline in the health of landscapes and ecosystems have led to increased conflicts among water users in watersheds of different hydrologic scales.

How can a holistic approach help resolve these conflicts?

## **Key Issue No. 5**

### **Sustainable Water Use and Drought Management**

#### ***Charge to Panel***

Sustaining and managing ground and surface water resources for future generations is becoming more difficult given increasing water demands especially during droughts and require difficult tradeoffs.

How can our management systems rise to these challenges?

## **Key Issue No. 6**

### **Flood Plain and Coastal Zone Management**

#### *Charge to Panel*

Continuing development of floodplains and shorelines may increase the potential for harming natural resources and putting residents and their property at risk.

Few communities have adequate protection measures.

How can future policy decisions mitigate potential losses of life and property?

# Environment Panelists

## G. Tracy Mehan, III

*Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, EPA*

## LTG Robert Flowers

*Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers*

## Rebecca R. Wodder

*President, American Rivers*

## Donald R. Wharton

*Senior Attorney, Native American Rights Fund*

## John R. Wehle

*Assistant Executive Director, St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida*

# Infrastructure Panelists

## Honorable John Linder

*Member of Congress, Georgia*

## Benjamin H. Grumbles

*Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of  
Water, EPA*

## Christopher O. Ward

*Commissioner, New York City Department of  
Environmental Protection*

## Ken Kirk

*Executive Director, AMSA*

## Christopher Brescia

*President, Midwest Area Rivers Coalition*



# Safety and Security Panelists

**Joan B. Rose**

*Professor of Water Microbiology, Univ. of South Florida*

**John W. Keys, III**

*Commissioner, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation*

**Ray E. Finley**

*Manager, Underground Storage Technology, Sandia Natl. Labs*

**Michael S. Marcotte**

*Chief Engineer, DC Water and Sewer Authority*

**Diane Regas**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, EPA*

# Water Use and Drought Panelists

## Judge H. Craig Manson

*Assistant Secretary, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior*

## Shaun McGrath

*Program Manager for Water Policy, Western Governors Association*

## Joseph K. Hoffman

*Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin*

## Denise D. Fort

*Professor of Law, University of New Mexico School of Law*

# Flood Plain and Coastal Panelists

## Margaret Davidson

*Acting Administrator for Ocean Services & Coastal Zone Management,  
National Ocean Service*

## Alfred H. Vang

*Deputy Director, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources*

## Michael F. Rippey

*Napa County California Supervisor  
Chairman of the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District*

## David Graham

*Vice President, Planning and Development, Bonita Bay Group, Florida*

## Michael Buckley

*Director, Hazard Mapping Division, FEMA*

# Provocateurs

The role of the provocateurs was to present perspectives on the previous discussions from the points of view of a developer, an environmentalist, and a representative of government.



# Provocateurs (continued)

Dialogue Provocateurs were:

**G. Edward Dickey**

*R. Dawson and Associates*

**Mark Van Putten**

*President, National Wildlife Federation*

**Brian Griffin**

*Secretary of the Environment, State of Oklahoma*

# Involvement of Attendees

After panel discussions of two key issues were complete, facilitated discussion sessions were held to enable all attendees to express their opinions on the previous issues.

Attendees in groups of ten developed two sub-issues.

All sub-issues were listed, and attendees were asked to vote on the most important sub-issues.

During the 2-day meeting, approximately 4 hours were devoted to attendee involvement.

# Main Conclusions

The following themes were recurrent throughout the discussions:

## Balance and Sustainability

- Environmental needs and economic requirements must be balanced, with a focus on long-term sustainability of the nation's water resources.

## Holism and Watersheds

- Decisions about water resources are most appropriate at the watershed level.
- Water resources decisions need to be based on a comprehensive consideration of the full range of factors that influence the resource.

# Main Conclusions (continued)

## Alignment and Integration

- Too many conflicting goals and mandates are being pursued at the local level, often in isolation.
- Greater synergy is needed among Federal agency programs.

## Collaboration and Cooperation

- All levels of government need to work in collaboration to achieve sustainable water resources solutions, including the use of incentives.

## Information and Education

- The public needs to be informed and educated about the looming water resources crisis and the need for action.
- There should be much more innovative information sharing among governmental agencies at all levels.

# Recommendations

Congress and the Administration were called upon to provide leadership for achieving the needed direction suggested by the key themes.



- Develop a national water vision: Working with all levels of government and the private sector, lay out a framework for the future for water resources, address competing goals and objectives, and establish broad priorities for resource expenditures.

# Recommendations (continued)



- Formulate policy principles for translating the vision into action: Focus on shared responsibilities at all levels of government as well as the private sector for addressing our water resources challenges in an integrated, holistic, and cooperative fashion.
- Insist that appropriate coordination and cooperation takes place among federal agencies and with other levels of government about water resources issues.

# Needed Institutional Actions

- ✍ Consortium among agencies
- ✍ Watershed coalitions & combined interagency efforts
- ✍ River Basin Commissions
- ✍ A Water Resources Council/National Water Commission
- ✍ Community/Watershed-based local initiatives

# Where Do We Go From Here?

## Coalition building

**Generate grass-roots support for the vision**

## Agenda building

**Dialogue steering committee should build a “next steps” agenda**

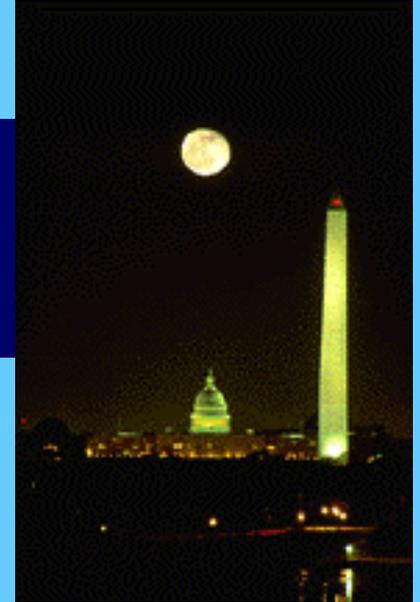
## Continue the Dialogue

**Additional dialogues could be focused on  
implementing a holistic watershed approach**

## Public education

**Inform the public about challenges, solutions, successful and  
unsuccessful strategies, and ways to sustain the resource**

# Letter to President Bush



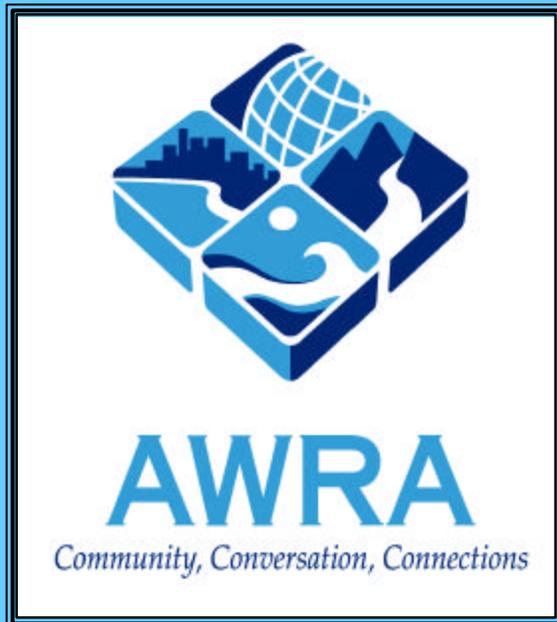
- ↴ On January 7, 2003, AWRA sent a letter to President Bush, Majority Leader Frist and Speaker of the House Hastert.
- ↴ The letter discussed the looming water resources crisis, and presented the recommendations generated by the Dialogue.
- ↴ To date, *no answer has been received.*

# Present and Future Actions

- ✍ Based on the recommendations from the Dialogue, the Steering Committee for the Dialogue continues to meet to build on the enthusiasm and momentum generated by the Dialogue.
- ✍ AWRA will sponsor future Water Dialogues probably on a two-year frequency.
- ✍ Dialogues may also be sponsored on a regional basis around the country.



## End of Presentation



- We hope you will make plans to join us at an upcoming AWRA meeting or conference.
- See our website [www.awra.org](http://www.awra.org) for the latest information on plans for a second National Water Resources Policy Dialogue.