

EPA Alumni Association News

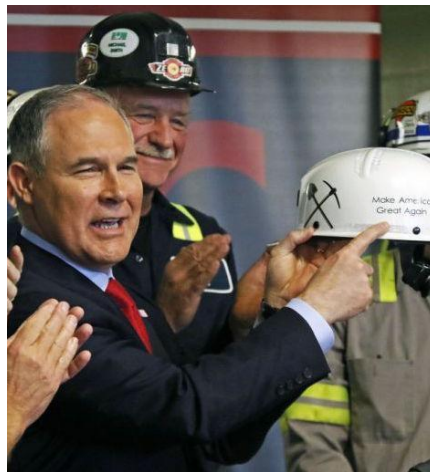
June 2017



President's Message

Since our March 24 newsletter, things seem to have gone from bad to worse. Although there was significant push-back, including from members of the President's own party, the final 2018 President's Budget maintained the severe cuts in dollars and FTE for EPA that had first been floated in the "skinny budget." The Congressional Review Act was used to repeal important environmental rules. Effective dates of several EPA final rules were delayed, in one case after a 5 day comment period. Administrator Pruitt and President Trump announced their intention to repeal the Clean Power Plan at an event attended by coal miners at EPA Headquarters.

Most recently, and after hundreds of thousands marched in hundreds of locations in support of the Paris Climate Agreement, the President announced he would pull the US out of the landmark pact because it would be bad for the US economy. He was elected to serve the citizens of Pittsburgh, he declared, not Paris. Of course, the international agreement was signed in Paris not to benefit citizens of France, but to benefit citizens all over the world, including all cities and people in the United States.



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Membership Tops 1,510

Welcome to the new members listed below who joined the Association since March 24, 2017:

[Edward Ambrogio](#)

[Roger Anzzolin](#)

[Dale Bates](#)

[Cathe Bell](#)

[Bonnie Bellow](#)

[Joanne Benante](#)

[Kathleen Blinebury](#)

[Dianne Briggs](#)

[Lynda Buie](#)

[Michael Cairns](#)

[Glenn Cekus](#)

[David Chin](#)

[Stephen Clark](#)

[Michael Cox](#)

In light of these actions, and having received no response to the overture the Association made to the Administrator on the day he took office, I believe the Board should take another look at how best to support EPA, consistent with our non-partisan tradition, when we next meet.

Bob Wayland

p.s. Thanks almost entirely to Steve Weil's efforts, we recently sent out the 20th edition of Transition Update, a weekly roundup of news about regulatory, budget, and personnel actions at EPA and other Federal environmental agencies. This newsletter is sent only to members who request it - now over 650. Back Issues can be downloaded from our web site, www.EPAalumni.org. If you have not subscribed but would like to receive future Updates, [click here](#). Steve would also welcome story leads - send them to him at srweil@earthlink.net.

State Executive Directors: Environmental Federalism

Panelists Alexandra Dunn, Environmental Council of the States, Julia Anastasio, Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA), and Bill Becker, National Association of Clean Air Administrators (NACAA), described the perspectives of their members on the regulatory and budget proposals and actions of the President and Administrator Scott Pruitt on May 23 at the DC get-together.



Panelists Dunn, Becker, & Anastasio

[Tony Diecidue](#)
[Joan Ebzery](#)
[Ira Feldman](#)
[Robin Fletcher](#)
[Joseph Freedman](#)
[James Hahnenberg](#)
[Marguerite Hall](#)
[Willie Harris](#)
[James Heller](#)
[Donna Heron](#)
[Thomas Jones](#)
[Alan Katz](#)
[Glenn Kistner](#)
[Elaine Koerner](#)
[Ken Kopocis](#)
[Ellen Kurlansky](#)
[Jessica Lavash](#)
[Wayne Leidwanger](#)
[Tina Levine](#)
[Susan Lewis](#)
[Nora Lopez](#)
[Caren Madsen](#)
[Wendy Marshall](#)
[Peter Marx](#)
[Richard Mays](#)
[Mary Lou Melley](#)
[Cindy Metzger](#)
[Philip Metzger](#)
[Meredith Miller](#)
[Kathi Moore](#)
[Brenda Mosley](#)
[Jendayi Oakley-Gordon](#)
[Stephen Perkins](#)
[Donna Perla](#)
[Peter Preuss](#)
[Lois Rossi](#)
[Pam Russell](#)
[Michael Shepherd](#)
[Kitty Sibold](#)
[Jon Silberman](#)
[Randy Smith](#)
[Everett Spencer](#)
[Fred Stiehl](#)
[Alexandra Teitz](#)
[John Warren](#)

Dunn indicated her members are looking forward to stepping up their game in response to the challenge and are keen to reframe the Federal-State relationship in a way that recognizes the competence of state programs that are 45 years old. They do not need to be micromanaged. State Secretaries also recognize that EPA plays a key role in undertaking research, setting standards and exercising oversight. But being pragmatic about working with the Administration and because many of the Governors who appoint her members are supporters of the new President, ECOS is not over-emphasizing its collective focus on the proposed budget cuts. They believe they will be more effective playing on the field the Administration has set.

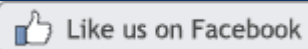
Anastasio indicated that her members are enthusiastic about the rhetoric concerning Federalism but the cuts to State and Tribal Assistance Grants will hamper realizing cooperative federalism. When resources are constrained, eliminating "nice to do" programs in favor of core programs is necessary. ACWA has asked Administrator Pruitt to engage in joint priority setting, to have a high level person with deep state experience in the Office of Water to serve as a liaison to state water directors and to make greater use of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act to foster exchanges between EPA and state agencies.

Becker opened by calling *Environmental Protection: A Half Century of Progress* a "really well done report on progress the environmental movement has made and what you are about and what a great Association you are to be able to get together and tell stories like that." When necessary the Air Administrators were critical of the Obama Administration and have also been critical of the Trump Administration as appropriate. With 25-40,000 people dying from air pollution every year, and you look at Executive Orders, budget proposals, and rescissions, you have to consider how those proposals will affect public health and welfare, Becker said. Many NACAA members see the need for a robust EPA to issue standards, to develop research, to conduct oversight, and resolve interstate disputes. "Cooperative Federalism is EPA sitting down with states and asking how can we do better," Becker said, "not how can we cut cut your grants by 30%."

A lively half hour of questions and comments from attendees followed. We are preparing a video of portions of the discussion for members who were not able to attend or listen by 'phone. [Click here if you'd like to be notified of when it is available.](#)

[Anne Weinberg](#)
[Carol Wood](#)
[Lois Woodward](#)
[Jim Woolford](#)
[James Younger](#)

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Thank You Donors

Thanks to these members who have donated since March 24, 2017

Herb Barrack,  
Donald Bliss,  
Fred Burnside,  
Helga Butler,  
Lawrence Cullen,  
Kathy Daniel,  
Michael DeBusschere,  
J David Foster,  
Marius Gedgaudas,  
Anne Giesecke,  
Alan Goodman,  
Philip Gray,  
John Gustafson,  
Ed Hanley,  
Jeff Hart,  
Stephen Hogye,  
Thomas Kelsch,  
Kathleen Knox,  
Barry Korb,  
Debra Kovacs,  
Walter Kovalick, Michael  
Levin,

## New Board Members

We annually ask members who might be interested in helping run the Association and work on its behalf to nominate themselves for the Board or another member who is willing to serve. Every nominee who steps forward is included on the ballot. Election results were announced at our May 23 meeting. The current Board is listed here, with the names of new members highlighted in bold: [Phil Angell](#), [Dave Calkins](#), [John Bachmann](#), [Candy Brassard](#), [Chuck Elkins](#) (ex officio), [Penny Fenner-Crisp](#), [Phyllis Flaherty](#), [Bhrat Mathur](#), [Dave Menotti](#), [Margo Oge](#), [Fran Phillips](#), [Tom Voltaggio](#) (Vice President and Treasurer), [Marylouise Uhlig](#), [Ingrid Wadsworth](#), [Bob Wayland](#) (President), and [Steve Weil](#) (Secretary). Click their names to read their profiles.

We also wish to thank these members who completed their service following the election: Walt Barber, Helga Butler, Chuck Findley, Nanci Gelb, Marianne Froehlich, Jane Souzon, and Len Miller (ex officio).

If you are willing to help, you need not be a Board Member to join one of our committees:

*Response to Challenges to EPA*, (Chair TBD)  
*Communications*, (Steve Weil, Chair),  
*Training and Mentoring EPA Staff*, (Phyllis Flaherty, Chair),  
*Membership*, (Marylouise Uhlig and Dave Calkins, Co-chairs),  
*EPA History*, (Phil Angell & Dave Calkins, Co-chairs)  
*Half Century of Progress*, (John Bachmann, Walt Barber, & Vic Kimm, Co-chairs)

## Helping EPA Employees

While we hope that the very severe budget cuts and FTE reductions proposed by the Administration for EPA are not ultimately enacted, there will probably be a significant number of employees leaving EPA as a result of buy-out and early out offers or unhappiness about directions the Agency is taking. Some will be able to retire but many may be seeking new jobs. We are exploring establishing an online employment clearinghouse at which prospective employers could post job announcements and former EPA employees could post information about their experience and qualifications. If you are interested in working on this project, please [click this link](#) to tell us you'd be willing to help.

## Success Story Success!

Brook Madrone,  
Sam Morekas,  
Norine Noonan,  
Martha Prothro,  
Marvin Rubin,  
Katherine Sibold,  
Linda Smith,  
Judy Stober,  
Alexandra Teitz,  
Ingrid Wadsworth,  
Edward Woo.

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The Association is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. If you have not given, or are able to make an additional donation, please click the link below.

[Click Here to Make a Secure Online Donation Now](#)

If you prefer to send a check, please make it out to EPA Alumni Association and mail it to 628 Chester River Beach Rd., Grasonville, MD 21638

Thank You!

In February we asked Members to suggest specific EPA actions that illustrate how the Agency has protected public health and the environment. We received several suggestions, one of which was submitted by Jim Hahnenberg. The retired Region V employee nominated the cleanup of PCB contaminated sediment on the bottom of the Fox River.

Using information from EPA's web site, Wisconsin DNR, and Bruce Baker who had worked on the site for the State, the Association developed an "infographic," below, a video storyboard, and drafted an OpEd.

EPA's Superfund Program
Protecting Public Health & Revitalizing Communities
Lower Fox River, Wisconsin

Steps you can take to reduce your contaminant intake:

- ✔ Eat smaller, younger fish - keep smaller as the main part of your diet
- ✔ Choose and cook wisely - choose fish that are low in fat and cook thoroughly
- ✔ Remove fish bones - fish bones contain more contaminants than the flesh
- ✔ Eat fish from other waterways - Wisconsin's Lake Superior and Lake Michigan fish are safe to eat
- ✔ Don't eat shellfish from the Great Lakes
- ✔ Don't use shellfish in recipes or garnishes

From the 1950s to early '70s paper mills along the Fox River discharged pollutants including about 40 tons of cancer-causing PCBs which contaminated about 11 million tons of sediment on the river bottom.

Wisconsin encourages people to eat less fish from the Fox river to avoid exposure to PCBs. Women and young children are at greater risk.

In 2001 Wisconsin DNR & US EPA develop a Remedial Action Plan to address PCB contaminated

Contaminated sediment is dredged, then treated and disposed in lined landfills. Areas with less contamination are capped with sand and stone to immobilize contaminants.

Throughout, over a decade of cleanup work as many as 140 people have been employed locally in cleanup activities.

Enough sediment to fill Lambeau Field 8 times over has been dredged from the Fox River, treated, and landfilled. Fish advisories have been relaxed, & health risks reduced.

Through negotiation and legal action, nearly all costs to cleanup the Fox have been borne by the entities which polluted it in the first place, not taxpayers.

Hundreds of contaminated sites across the USA have been cleaned up by or under the direction of US EPA.

The Administration's 2018 Budget proposes to reduce funding for contaminated site cleanup by about 1/3 or \$330 million which will delay reducing the health risks they pose.

[click to enlarge](#)

We contacted a current Wisconsin Senator who agreed to be quoted in the article. Former DRA Dave Ullrich and retired Wisconsin DNR Secretary Scott Hassett submitted the piece to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel -- Wisconsin's largest circulation newspaper. The article noted that risks to those in the area of the Fox River had been reduced, fish advisories relaxed, local people employed, and that virtually all costs had been borne by those who had discharged toxic effluent to the river. It also described the national impact of the Superfund program, including how many businesses now operate at formerly contaminated sites, how many people are employed at these businesses, the payroll of employees, and the revenue generated by the businesses (all readily available on the EPA web site). The newspaper published it in its online edition on May 22 ([click to view](#)) and in the physical paper on May 23. A Facebook version of the story was posted and \$32 in advertising resulted in it being viewed by 4,938 Wisconsinites,

50 of whom shared it on their pages so it was seen by their friends.

If you are interested in developing one of the other suggested success stories so that it reaches the public, please contact us [***by clicking this link***](#) . If you have a suggestion you didn't submit previously, please click the link to suggest a story the Association can develop.

Potential Grant Support

The Association has been approached by a Foundation that may be willing to make a significant grant to fund some of our efforts. Their support would make it possible to:

- develop professional videos from success stories,
- use social media to broadly share information on EPA accomplishments, & the serious environmental challenges that remain,
- publicize the consequences of budget cuts or regulatory rollbacks,
- more broadly publicize Half Century of Progress and make more of the program-specific material appealing and readable in e-book format (as Tetra-Tech did *gratis* for the Overview).

This is a preliminary contact and receiving these funds is by no means assured. But it is gratifying that our credibility and capability have been recognized. The Board will be discussing how to most effectively deploy some of the additional resources from Member donations, currently our sole source of funds, to these tasks as well.

Environmental Protection Network

The newly formed Environmental Protection Network is looking for people interested in putting their skills, experience and institutional memory to work to make sure that EPA survives to fight another day. EPN is a bi-partisan group working to deepen the understanding of established green groups, policy makers, legislators, journalists, public health advocates and religious groups engaged in environmental matters by providing information and analysis. EPN works from the position that there have been legitimate differences of opinion over the years about policy objectives and how to achieve them, but that we are united in defense of the basic

institutions of environmental protection. Several EPA-AA members are involved. Additional information may be [found here](#).

EPA Alumni Association

P.S. If you would rather not receive these newsletters, please email us at newsletter@EPAalumni.org rather than using SafeUnsubscribe, below.