



CWCC

Clean Water Construction Coalition
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ROBERT A. BRIANT, JR.
Chairman

June 5, 2018

- AGC of America
- AGC of Texas
- Alabama Utility Contractors Association
- Arizona Utility Contractors Association
- Associated Pennsylvania Constructors
- Associated Utility Contractors Of Maryland *
- Connecticut Construction Industries Association
- CIC of Westchester County & Hudson Valley *
- Engineering Contractors Association
- General Contractors Association Of New York
- Georgia Utility Contractors Association
- Indiana Constructors Inc.
- Long Island Contractors Association
- Maryland Transportation Builders & Materials Association
- Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association
- Minnesota Utility Contractors Association*
- National Rural Water Association
- New Mexico Utility Contractors Association
- Ohio Contractors Association
- Public Works Contractors Association of Maryland
- Tennessee Road Builders Association
- Underground Contractors Association of Illinois *
- United Contractors *
- UCA of Anne Arundel County
- Utility Contractors Association of New England *
- Utility & Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey *
- Contractors Association Of West Virginia
- Wisconsin Underground Contractors Association

* Steering Committee Member

Infrastructure Package or Smaller Pieces?

Coming off the heels of Coalition member-led hill visits and “Infrastructure Week,” Key Advocates met with House and Senate staff, Republicans and Democrats separately, of the House T&I and Senate EPW Committees to press CWCC priorities and ascertain priorities of their WRDA reauthorization efforts. Whether water infrastructure funding priorities are included in a “mega-bill” or through other smaller mechanisms remains unclear.

It is becoming clear that WRDA reauthorization is emerging as a real opportunity for progress to be made on water infrastructure priorities. Although the issue of SRF reauthorization levels (increasing from FY’18 levels) was raised by CWCC and others, absent from either version of WRDA is any meaningful discussion on that matter. So far, both sides have said that they could not “come together” on SRF reauthorization levels but pledged to continue discussions on the possibility of an Infrastructure bill.

House Meetings – WRDA Will Stay Focused on ACOE Projects

As previously reported by CWCC staff, discussions with House staff centered on the Committee’s recent markup of its version of WRDA reauthorization - H.R. 8, the “Water Resources Development Act of 2018.” The bill, as reported yesterday, is a “pure” Corps of Engineers bill - no extraneous matters. It was supported on a bipartisan basis in the Committee which is somewhat disappointing in that the hope was that the Dem leadership of the Committee would have pushed/insisted/prevalled on the inclusion of other “water programs.” That was not the case as evidenced by the fact that no Dems offered any amendments along those lines. After markup, Rep staff said the Chairman is still committed to a Corps only bill and that other water issues could be the subject of an infrastructure bill. When asked what the Committee majority’s position is on the Senate bill which is more than a Corps bill, staff said it was up to their Members to decide although they did point to what happened during the last reauthorization when the House held firm to a Corps only bill and the Senate caved in the end without getting any of its other issues - voluntary fee labeling, watersense, etc. Conversely, the Dem staff said that their Members “like” many of the add-ons in the Senate bill and that conference will be “interesting.”

CWCC Members Meet in DC During Infrastructure Week

Several members of the CWCC met on Monday, May 14th in DC during Infrastructure Week, concurrent with the ARTBA / TCC Policy Meetings. Coalition members heard from Joe Brown, Legislative Assistant to Senator Boozman (AR) on the “SRF WIN Act”. They also heard from Scott Berry, from the US Water Alliance on opportunities to coordinate our efforts moving forward. Sante Esposito of Key Advocates provided the latest information on legislation and Coalition activities on the Hill. Members had the opportunity to review the material prepared for Hill visits and discussed how they would approach their advocacy this year. Minutes are attached.

Senate Meetings – WRDA Will Included Water Infrastructure / SRF WIN Provisions

Discussions with Senate staff centered around EPW’s recent version of WRDA reauthorization - S. 2809, “America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018,” included in the Manager’s amendment we’re S. 2364/H.R 4902, the “SRF WIN Act,” with the following changes- the annual authorization level was reduced from \$200M to \$100M (and corresponding loan support totals); the duration of the new program reduced from 5 to 2 fiscal years; the \$7B per state cap deleted; and language regarding the funding relationship to the SRF’s included. The first two changes were scorekeeping driven in that the higher authorization amount and additional fiscal years could not be supported by offsets. Overall, the EPW reported bill has strong Committee bipartisan support. A summary of the “SRF WIN Act” provisions are included in attached report from Key Avocates.

FY 19 Appropriations Process

Congress has begun the appropriation process, having hearings and markups. The Coalition has agreed to support, at a minimum, the FY18 levels for both SRF’s. However, with an ask of \$4B for the Clean water SRF and \$2B for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, the hope is that with the increase in the budget caps for FY19, funding for the SRF’s will be above the FY18 levels.

AWWA CONFERENCE

Next week Dan Kennedy will be attending American Water Works Association’s National Conference for the UTCA of NJ and for the Coalition. This event creates a great opportunity for access to utility leaders / managers (private and public) and national contacts. State and federal Safe Drinking Water Act staff often attend.

If there are any issues (past what we already have targeted as policy priorities) that you want Dan to keep an eye out for, please email him at kennedy@utcanj.org by Friday, June 8th. Please send Dan an email if you or a member of your organization plans to attend. He would be glad to spend time with anyone from the Coalition to discuss issues of today or the future.

KEY ADVOCATES REPORT

Included with this notice is Key Advocates recent report which is current to the end of May.