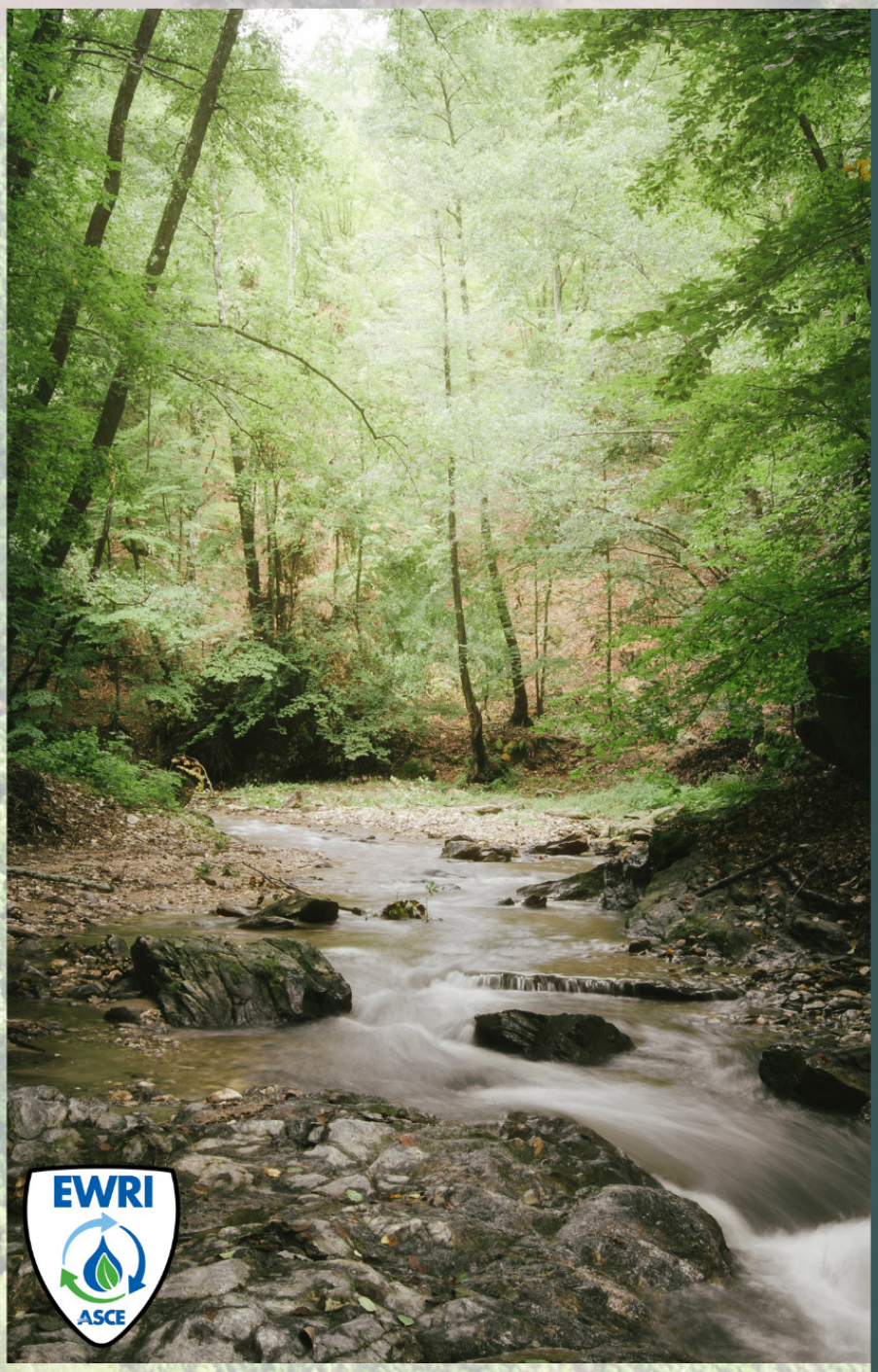
VOL. 27 NO. 3

Currents



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jennifer Sloan Ziegler,
2024-2025 EWRI President

While summer heat and humidity may be slowing things down where I live, ASCE-EWRI is charging full speed ahead. In fact, both the past and current quarters are shaping up to be among our busiest yet!

In May, we successfully concluded the **2025 EWRI World Environmental & Water Resources Congress** in Anchorage, Alaska, where we explored Cool Solutions to Hot Topics. We also announced the exciting location for the **2026 Congress: Mobile, Alabama**, taking place slightly earlier than usual—**April 26–29, 2026**—to ease the transition for ASCE2027 in March of the following year. While Mobile has many fascinating attributes, one of my favorites is that it's the birthplace of America's Mardi Gras (1703). We're looking forward to bringing EWRI's *Krewe of Innovation* to the city next spring!

Recent flood events in Texas, North Carolina, New Mexico, and other regions serve as stark reminders of the importance of planning for future conditions. In June, the **ASCE-NOAA Task Force**, led by EWRI members, hosted a workshop in Reston, VA, focused on the business case for infrastructure resilience and the future of federally available data and predictions. This initiative is a key part of ASCE and EWRI's broader efforts to address the engineering challenges of tomorrow. During the workshop, engineers, economists, financiers, and climate scientists explored economic efficiencies and strategic advantages. As workshop co-lead Bilal Ayyub noted in a *Civil Engineering Source* article, "The challenges we are facing with a changing climate and the increase in hazard frequency and intensity cannot be dealt with by engineering means only."

In response to numerous challenges and opportunities, the **EWRI Governing Board** is launching three ad hoc committees to explore key areas of growth:

- **Communications** – This group will collaborate with the Communications Council to develop a strategy that supports EWRI's Strategic Plan and enhances member engagement.
- **Conference Metrics** – Tasked with defining success metrics for EWRI's participation in ASCE2027 and future events, this committee will help guide decisions around conference planning and evaluation.
- **Content Delivery** – Focused on improving the accessibility, effectiveness, and impact of technical content, this committee will explore innovative delivery methods and gather member feedback.

If you're interested in contributing to one of these committees, please use this link to volunteer. Finally, we're pleased to announce that David Chin has been elected as EWRI's incoming Vice President. Congratulations, David! We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Sri Kamojjala for his dedicated service on the EWRI Governing Board.

Wishing you a strong and fulfilling close to the summer season. As you continue your work, take a moment to reflect on the meaningful impact you're making in the world around you—and don't forget to stay hydrated along the way!

EWRI Vice President Election

EWRI is pleased to announce the election of **David Chin, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, F.ASCE** as Vice President-Elect of the Institute's Governing Board. Having been voted to the position by his peers in EWRI, Dr. Chin will participate in a leadership role for the next four years, rotating through the positions of Vice President, President-Elect, President, and Past-President. During his tenure on the Governing Board, Dr. Chin will maintain a variety of roles and responsibilities that vary with each title he assumes.

Please join EWRI in congratulating David Chin, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, F.ASCE on his new appointment as EWRI's next Vice President!

Thank you to our candidates, and to all EWRI members for voting in the election.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Emma Sutherland,
Chair, Communications Council

Greetings! As summer reaches its peak, so does the energy across EWRI! This issue showcases the momentum of our members and technical committees as they push forward with innovation, collaboration, and community-building.

In this issue, we celebrate the election of Dr. David Chin as EWRI's next Vice President (Congratulations, David!). We also spotlight standout efforts from across the institute, including ongoing work of the Watershed Council's TMDL Task Committee, whose initiatives are helping redefine how we protect our waterbodies.

The WDSA Graduate Student Committee hosted their annual social event during the EWRI Congress in Anchorage, connecting the next generation of researchers with mentors and peers in a fun, relaxed setting. In addition, the EWRI Dallas Chapter continues to impress with their technical programs, university outreach, and STEM engagement. They were recently recognized as this year's Outstanding Small Chapter Award. Congratulations to the Dallas Chapter!
As always, thank you to our contributors and volunteers who make this newsletter possible.

If you have an article you would like to contribute for a future edition of Currents, or if you would like to learn about opportunities to get more involved with EWRI, please reach out to me (emma@drummondcarpenter.com) or Jennifer Jacyna, Senior Manager, EWRI (jjacyna@asce.org).

ASCE Government Relations Update

Matthew McGinn, Senior Manager, Federal Government Relations

ASCE submits letters on federal funding priorities
ASCE has submitted letters to the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittees on Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 funding for a number of federal agencies. While Congress just recently completed work on FY 2025 funding, work is under way pulling together the 2026 budget. ASCE's letters touched on federal agencies involved in infrastructure and called for Congress to continue the funding levels of recent years which helped increase the nation's infrastructure grade in the most recent ASCE Report Card.

The letters promote funding for the Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The letters also express support for critical research and data collection at the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and U.S. Geological Survey.

ASCE questions proposed federal cuts to NOAA and NIST
In two letters sent to Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick on April 21st, ASCE advised against proposed and on-going funding cuts to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). One letter expressed the importance of continued support and robust funding for NOAA. ASCE noted that NOAA is indispensable in protecting public safety and ensuring that limited federal spending is dedicated to building infrastructure that is resilient to increasingly severe weather events.

In the second letter, ASCE raised concerns over decisions to cut funding and personnel at NIST. Noting that NIST is the premier, and in most cases, the only federal institution conducting resilience research focused on the impact of multiple hazards on buildings and communities.

Trump administration fires climate report scientists and cancels EPA grants
At the end of April, the Trump administration fired nearly 400 scientists tasked with producing the next National Climate Assessment, a report which details the effects of climate change on the United States and, is mandated by Congress to be written every four years. The last National Climate Assessment, released in 2023, warned that the effects of climate change would continue to worsen over the next 10 years and that increasingly severe weather events were the result of a warming climate. The next assessment is due to be released in 2027, but its future remains uncertain in light of the administration's actions.

It was also reported that the Trump administration was in the process of canceling nearly 800 previously approved Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants, including all grants provided through EPA environmental justice programs. Many of these grants support communities disproportionately affected by climate change in combatting the effects of increasingly severe and unpredictable weather. The number of grants reported to be headed toward cancellation is more than twice the number of grants cancelled than the administration had previously reported.

House subcommittee holds hearing on brownfields program
On May 7th, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources & Environment held a hearing focused on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program. The Brownfields Program provides grants to communities to support cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated former industrial sites.

In his opening remarks, Subcommittee Chairman Mike Collins (R-GA) expressed support for the program, but stated his belief that providing additional funds for the program should be accompanied by environmental regulatory reform to improve program efficiency. The hearing follows the release of an overview of the White House's budget for the 2026 fiscal year, which proposes a cut to EPA of approximately $5 billion- or nearly 55% of the agency's budget.

ASCE strongly supports continued financial assistance for redevelopment of brownfields sites. This includes support for full funding for the EPA's Brownfields Program.

ASCE sends letter to Congress in support of National Climate Assessment
On May 12th, ASCE sent a letter calling on Congress to ensure that federal law is followed and the sixth National Climate Assessment be completed by 2028. The National Climate Assessment details the effects of climate change on the United States. On April 28th, the Trump Administration announced that nearly 400 scientists working on the National Climate Assessment had been dismissed from their positions.

In 2023, the fifth National Climate Assessment warned that the effects of climate change would continue to worsen over the next decade and that increasingly severe weather events were a direct result of a warming climate. Under federal law, the National Climate Assessment is required to be released approximately every four years; however, in light of the recent dismissals, it is unclear whether the administration will meet this deadline. ASCE's letter notes the importance of being able to assess the effects of climate change to design and build sustainable, resilient infrastructure systems that can stand up to increasingly harsh conditions.

EPA announces $31 million in grant funding for rural drinking water and wastewater infrastructure
On May 20th, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the provision of nearly $31 million in grant funding for training and technical assistance to improve water quality in small and rural communities. Funding will support technical, financial, and managerial needs for small public water systems and assist in achieving compliance with the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.

These funds are being provided through EPA's Training and Technical Assistance to Improve Water Quality and Enable Small Public Water Systems to Provide Safe Drinking Water Grant Program. Grants are expected to be awarded to the National Rural Water Association, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, and the University of New Mexico's Southwest Environmental Finance Center.

Supreme Court rules in favor of limiting scope of NEPA reviews
The United States Supreme Court issued an 8-0 ruling in *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County* that will narrow the scope of environmental review allowed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Specifically, the court ruled that environmental reviews conducted pursuant to NEPA do not need to consider certain broader downstream impacts when evaluating an infrastructure project. Writing for the court, Justice Kavanaugh noted how some federal judges have wrongly applied NEPA and turned into a "blunt and haphazard tool employed by project opponents" to halt or otherwise delay "new infrastructure and construction projects."

In Seven County, the court ruled in favor of a coalition of local counties supporting the construction of 88-mile rail project that would link Utah's Unita Basin to the national freight rail network. The court's verdict is not the final hurdle for the local county coalition – the project must undergo additional review by the federal Surface Transportation Board before it can proceed. Justice Neil Gorsuch did not join

his colleagues in the court's decision - he recused himself from the matter in December before the court heard oral arguments.

Administration's proposed 2026 budget aims to slash discretionary spending
Late afternoon on May 30th, the Trump administration published additional information on its proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026. The latest documents build on the "skinny budget" request—released May 2nd — and provide more details on how the White House would like Congress to fund the government in the coming fiscal year. Overall, the Trump administration is asking lawmakers on Capitol Hill to cut the federal government's discretionary spending by 22 percent in FY2026 when compared to funding levels enacted for FY2025.

Among the requested cuts are a 54 percent decrease in funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a 17 percent cut to the overall Department of Commerce budget, and an 11 percent decrease in discretionary funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act at the Department of Transportation. The proposed spending cuts are not uniform department wide. The White House is seeking greater reductions at certain programs housed within larger departments, such as the proposed 27 percent cut to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and a 28 percent spending cut at National Institute of Standards & Technology for the coming fiscal year.
The White House's proposed budget for FY2026 is not a done deal - Congress has ultimate authority on government appropriations.

As FAA nominee advances, Trump taps Katherine Scarlett to lead CEQ
The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on June 25th approved Bryan Bedford's nomination to lead the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) by a 15-13 party line vote. Senate Commerce Committee Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Aviation, Space, and Innovation Subcommittee Ranking Member Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) expressed opposition because Bedford declined to commit to maintaining the FAA's requirement that commercial pilots receive 1,500 hours of flight training.

Bedford currently serves as CEO of Republic Airways. Since the Senate Commerce Committee's June 11th hearing on his nomination, Bedford has acknowledged that he does not possess a commercial pilot's license, despite previously claiming to have one. Bedford's nomination awaits confirmation by the full Senate.

As his picks for agency leadership continue to advance, President Donald Trump nominated Katherine Scarlett to lead the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). During Trump's first administration, Scarlett worked at CEQ and later served as a staff member for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW). Scarlett's nomination was received in the Senate and referred to the EPW Committee on June 16th. If confirmed, Scarlett will play a major role in overseeing the federal environmental review process that impacts various infrastructure projects.

ASCE-NOAA Summer Workshop 2025 Success

ASCE-NOAA Task Force Newsletter. (2025, July). ASCE-NOAA Summer Workshop 2025 Success.

The ASCE-NOAA Summer Workshop 2025 brought together leaders from engineering, climate science, policy, and infrastructure to explore collaborative strategies for advancing resilient, sustainable development. Grounded in the shared goal of harmonizing built and natural environments, participants focused on aligning hazard data with infrastructure standards, expanding outreach to decision-makers, and identifying emerging priorities in climate resilience.

ASCE highlighted its evolving Codes & Standards and Manuals of Practice, including the newly endorsed ASCE 24-24 standard for designing infrastructure with a 75–100 year horizon. A key theme was the desire to integrate NOAA's localized data into engineering practices and planning tools. Participants discussed implementing a user cycle modeled on NOAA's Industry Proving Grounds to improve feedback loops between data providers and end users.

Advocacy remained a major point of discussion, with ASCE and partner organizations underscoring the importance of defending federal science funding and engaging with Congress and the Office of Management and Budget. The workshop also stressed the economic and social value of resilient infrastructure, with several speakers emphasizing return on investment, resilience dividends, and the need for new financing models and public-private partnerships.

Speakers addressed the importance of training the next generation of engineers, integrating AI ethically into the profession, and improving accessibility of engineering content. There was broad agreement on the urgency of translating historic climate data into forward-looking models and tools that support decision-making.

Finally, the group acknowledged the critical role of cross-sector partnerships in addressing compound hazards, refining modeling techniques, and simplifying complex data for use by engineers, builders, and policymakers. Participants emphasized continuing to build a coalition of standard-setting bodies, advocates, and practitioners to push for actionable, equitable, and future-ready resilience efforts.

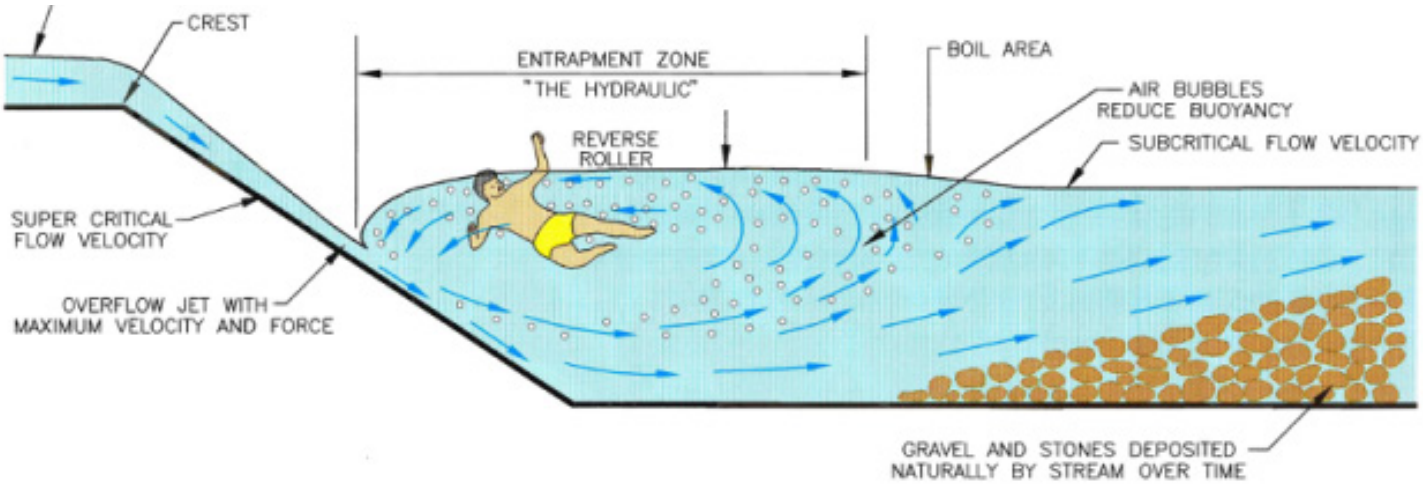
Read the article published in ASCE Source.

Increasing awareness of low head dam dangers with a revamped website and database

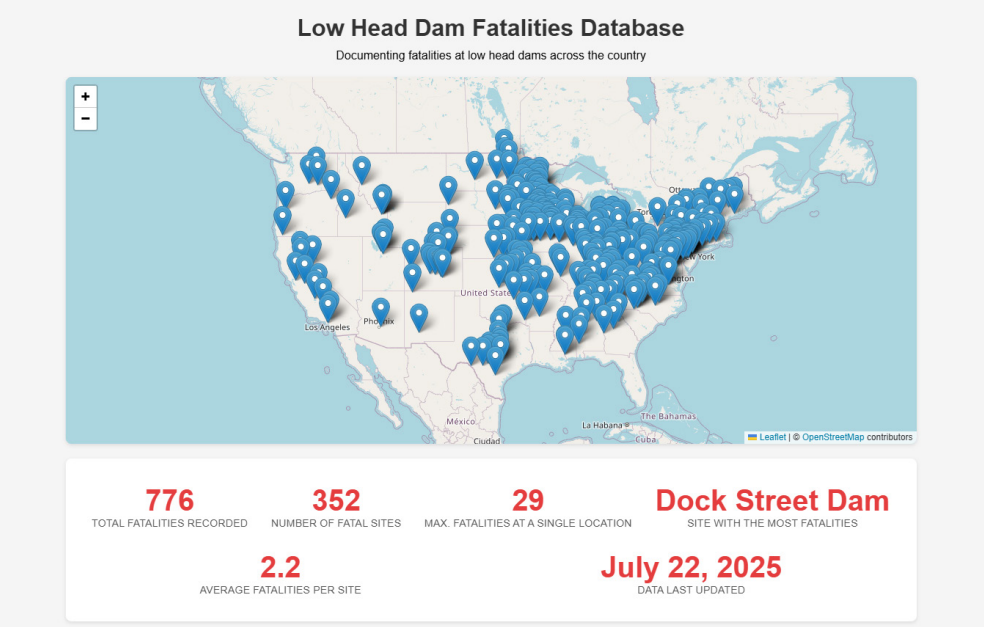
Paige Gordichuk, S.M.ASCE and Rollin H. Hotchkiss, Ph.D., P.E., BC.WRE, F.ASCE, Brigham Young University

Low head dams are structures built across a river or stream that allow water to flow continuously and uncontrolled over the crest[1] and are generally between 6 inches and 25 feet high. They represent an important public safety issue because recreationalists can be deceived by the smooth and tranquil appearance dam's upstream pool (Figure 1). Once over the crest, the recreationalist risk being caught in a recirculating current if a submerged hydraulic jump occurs (Figure 2).

Awareness about the dangers of low head dams has been increasing in the past decade[2] due to the increase in online information and statistics[3]. In 2015, Brigham Young University published a website to increase awareness about low head dams. The website has been updated in 2025 with the same goal to increase awareness and provide information for water resources professionals and state legislatures.



The new website is run through google products and hosted on git hub pages. It includes an interactive map to view low head dam sites where fatalities have occurred, a searchable list of low head dams and their incidents, a statistics bar with total numbers for fatalities and sites, and a google form for users to report incidents (Figure 3).



The website is searchable by state, county, city, name of dam, river, date of incident, and incident description, allowing users to find information pertinent to their needs and local area. The website can be found at www.lowheaddamfatalities.org. In addition to the fatalities database website, the ASCE-EWRI hosts the national inventory of low head dams. This vital resource showcases over 13,500 low head dams and is a tool for engineers, researchers, and recreationalists alike.

References/image sources:

[1] Federal Register. 2017. Vol 82(4): 1997
[2] https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=all&geo=US&q=low%20head%20dam accessed 23 July 2025.
[3] Kern, Edward W., Rollin H. Hotchkiss, and Daniel P. Ames. "Introducing a low-head dam fatality database and internet information portal." *JAWRA Journal of the American Water Resources Association* 51.5 (2015): 1453-1459.

EWRI Water Distribution Systems and Analysis (WDSA) Graduate Student Task Committee (GSTC) News

Oluwabunmi Iwakin, S.M.ASCE

Cheers to Sunset with drinks and the EWRI GSTC Social at The Broken Blender

Each year the EWRI WDSA Graduate Student Task Committee (GSTC) hosts an in-person social for graduate students and post-doctoral researchers attending the EWRI Congress, giving them a relaxed space to connect with the WDSA research community. This year's Congress was held in Anchorage, Alaska - a city surrounded by breathtaking natural scenery. Immediately after the Congress "Welcome Reception" on Sunday, May 18, the WDSA GSTC gathered attendees at "The Broken Blender" cocktail bar, just a short walk from the conference venue. The social event gave graduate students and post-doctoral researchers a relaxed chance to keep networking after the Congress icebreaker event. WDSA GSTC treated everyone to a complimentary round of drinks, and the "Sunny Side" mocktail quickly became the crowd-pleasing favorite of the night.

With over 40 attendees at the social event, the WDSA GSTC also had the privilege of hosting other industry professionals and faculty members who supported us in attendance, contributing to the event's energetic and enjoyable atmosphere. The event also served as a welcoming occasion for graduate students who were new to the WDSA GSTC and wanted to learn about the committee's mission and activities. The relaxed format of the evening helped break the ice for new members and fostered a sense of camaraderie among attendees.

The WDSA GSTC would like to express its sincere gratitude to our sponsors for their contributions to the success of this event, whether financial or through their publicity support. We would also like to thank the EWRI Congress organizers, attendees, and the WDSA community at large for their continued support of graduate student events at the conferences and beyond.

While we aim to host more social events at future conferences, we hope to stay engaged with the community. The WDSA GSTC has several events lined up in the coming months, including virtual meetups, technical webinars, and tutorials from some of the leading voices within the WDSA community. If you would like to contribute or collaborate with the WDSA GSTC on our future events, please reach out to the committee chair, Oluwabunmi Iwakin (omi222@lehigh.edu), or vice-chair, Nazia Raza (nar522@lehigh.edu), for more details.

Watershed Council Spotlight: The Task Committee on Total Maximum Daily Load Analysis and Modeling is Advancing its Science and Practice

Deva K. Borah, Ph.D., P.E., F. ASCE, F. EWRI, Chair of the EWRI Watershed Council & TMDL Analysis and Modeling Task Committee

The Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL refers scientifically to the maximum amount of a pollutant a waterbody can have without harm, whereas in regulatory context, it is a document or plan of action to restore impaired water bodies. Developing such a document (TMDL) is challenging as there exists no clear guidance in selecting from numerous models and analytical approaches used, among many others. The TMDL Analysis and Modeling Task Committee | ASCE was formed in 2011 to address these challenges and to fill the gap of a guidance document on selecting and applying analytic and modeling tools in TMDL development and implementation planning.

The Task Committee first reviewed the current practices of analysis and modeling in TMDLs and documented its findings in an ASCE EWRI book, "Total Maximum Daily Load Analysis and Modeling: Assessment of the Practice" in 2017. Secondly, members of the committee published a Special Collection on Total Maximum Daily Load Analysis and Modeling: Assessment and Advancement: Journal of Hydrologic Engineering | ASCE Library during the period 2018-2021. These articles provide state-of-the-art and state-of-the-practice overviews of 15 relevant topics on TMDL analysis and modeling, of which five articles were published by authors external to the Task Committee.

Based on the above publications and further research, the Task Committee published the ASCE Manual of Practice 150, "Total Maximum Daily Load Development and Implementation: Models, Methods, and Resources," in 2022. It reviews and evaluates current practices and potential future approaches to TMDL analysis and modeling. The primary goal is to support more comprehensive and effective TMDL development and implementation that will prove to be beneficial to the public through eliminating current and future impairments to waterbodies and improving water quality for designated uses with more confidence and certainty.

The Task Committee continues to work towards advancing the science and practice of TMDL by addressing climate resilience, socio-environmental systems, and holistic concepts as applicable to TMDLs and watershed management and documenting its work in a Special Collection on Total Maximum Daily Load Analysis and Modeling Advances: Connecting Climate Resilience, Socio-Environmental Systems, and Holistic Watershed Management: Journal of Environmental Engineering | ASCE Library. The collection is open to all other authors outside of the Task Committee as outlined in the Call for Papers: Total Maximum Daily Load Analysis and Modeling Advances: Connecting Climate Resilience, SocioEnvironmental Systems, and Holistic Watershed Management | ASCE Library with a manuscript submission deadline of December 31, 2025. The purpose of this Special Collection is to showcase recent advances in analysis and modeling for TMDL development and implementation. So far, it includes the following published articles:

- Advancing Surface Water Quality Modeling for TMDL Application: Enhancing Sediment-Associated Processes, Atmospheric Reaeration, and Bed Layer Interactions
- Rethinking TMDLs: Perspective Based on Community Survey
- Large-Scale Geospatial Analysis of Suitable Siting for Green Stormwater Infrastructure: An Open-Source Tool for Promoting Sustainability and Environmental Justice in Urban Communities

- Advances in Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Planning by Modeling Best Management Practices and Green Infrastructures
- Comprehensive Insights into Harmful Algal Blooms: A Review of Chemical, Physical, Biological, and Climatological Influencers with Predictive Modeling Approaches
- Removal of Contaminants in Stormwater via Subsurface-Flow Wetlands: A Review with Focus on Nutrients, Heavy Metals, and PFAS
- Effect of Increasing Discharge on Municipal Storm Sewer Systems: Exploring the Connection to Total Maximum Daily Load
- Using Analytical Hierarchy Process for Excess-Chlorine Risk Assessments in a Water Distribution Network: A Case Study

Potential articles under review or preparation are:

- Are Mitigation Measures for Nutrient Pollution Working – A Data-Driven Analysis of Selected United States Waters
- Advances and Research Gaps for PFAS Modeling in Watersheds and Receiving Waters
- Improving the Integration of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Goals in Total Maximum Daily Load Models and Projects
- Overcoming Data Scarcity in Total Maximum Daily Load Modeling
- Machine Learning: The Future of TMDL Modeling
- Critical Evaluation of Total Maximum Daily Load Development Through Completed Reports
- Next Generation of Water Quality Management Models
- An Enhanced Approach to Modeling for Total Maximum Daily Load Development and Implementation
- Evaluation of Different Approaches to Watershed Management

EWRI Dallas Chapter: Advancing Environmental and Water Resources Engineering Through Outreach, Education, and Collaboration

Fatima Aliyari, Ph.D., CFM, Sushban Shrestha, P.E., M.ASCE, Yangbin Tong, P.E., M.ASCE, Ramesh Srinivas Chintala, P.E., BC.WRE, M.ASCE

Figure 1: EWRI Outstanding Chapter – Small Award

The Environmental & Water Resources Institute (EWRI) Dallas Chapter was recently recognized with the Outstanding Technical Group/Institute Chapter — Small Award. This honor reflects the dedication and hard work of our members. This article provides an overview of the EWRI Dallas Chapter's recent activities, initiatives, and goals towards advancing the environmental and water resources engineering profession.

Inspiring the Next Generation Through STEM Outreach – ASCE Statewide Conference

Figure 2: CECON 2024 STEM Activity

One of the cornerstones of the EWRI Dallas Chapter's mission is to inspire students and young professionals to pursue careers in environmental and water resources engineering. To bring real-world engineering concepts to the classroom, we participated in a STEM outreach activity organized by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Dallas Branch at the ASCE Texas Section's annual 2024 Civil Engineering Conference (CECON) in Frisco, Texas. CECON brings together civil engineers from across the state of Texas, representing all of ASCE's technical institutes. A Stormwater Floodplain Simulation demonstration model was showcased to Frisco High School students, providing a hands-on learning experience and fostering interest in environmental and water resources engineering.

Strengthening Professional Connections - ASCE Joint Branch Regional Meeting

The EWRI Dallas Chapter maintains strong collaborative relationships with the ASCE Dallas Branch and Fort Worth Branch. A highlight of this partnership is our involvement in organizing EWRI-focused tracks every other year at the annual Dallas and Fort Worth Branch Joint Regional Event. We take an active role in curating technical sessions, identifying expert speakers, and moderating discussions.

This event serves as an important forum for addressing regionally relevant topics such as urban flooding, stormwater management, water supply, environmental sustainability, and ecosystem restoration. By bringing together practitioners, academics, and policymakers, the chapter seeks to facilitate the exchange of cutting-edge research, best practices, and innovative solutions.

Hosting Technical Meetings – ASCE Dallas Branch

The EWRI Dallas Chapter hosts an extended technical meeting each year in collaboration with the ASCE Dallas Branch. This meeting aims to inform members about the latest developments in environmental and water resources engineering, as well as regionally relevant projects and programs. Our meetings have featured presentations by industry experts, academics, and government officials on a broad range of issues.

Figure 3: 2025 ASCE-EWRI Dallas Chapter Technical Session

In April 2024, we hosted speakers from the North Central Texas Council of Governments to highlight regional programs related to water resources and the environment. In February 2025, we invited professors and researchers from the University of Texas at Arlington's Civil Engineering Department to present their research. These interactions have helped attendees stay informed about regional initiatives, research breakthroughs, and emerging trends, while also providing excellent professional networking opportunities.

University Outreach and Industry-Academia Collaboration

One of our key goals is to serve as a bridge that strengthens collaboration between industry and academia. To that end, we hope to support and engage students and faculty at prominent local universities, including Southern Methodist University (SMU) and the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) through campus visits, panel discussions, and mentorship programs. These activities are designed to promote student professional development, provide networking opportunities, and create a feedback loop between industry needs and academic curricula. We believe that such outreach is essential to safeguarding the future of our profession. By connecting students with practicing engineers and exposing them to real-world challenges, we hope to help build a workforce better equipped to meet the evolving needs of environmental and water resources engineering.

Figure 4: ASCE-EWRI Dallas Chapter Officers and UTA Water Resources Faculty during 2025 Technical Session

Establishing a Strong Organizational Foundation – Chapter Bylaws

Effective governance is essential for any organization. In the past, the chapter operated on an ad-hoc basis without an official set of bylaws. As our fledgling group has grown in recent years, the need to formalize governing rules has become increasingly apparent. Clear rules of procedure are essential for defining leadership roles, responsibilities, and operational practices. Accordingly, we have begun crafting bylaws and hope to adopt them formally in the coming months. These bylaws will provide a transparent operational framework that supports continuity, smooth leadership transitions, and alignment with EWRI's mission and values.

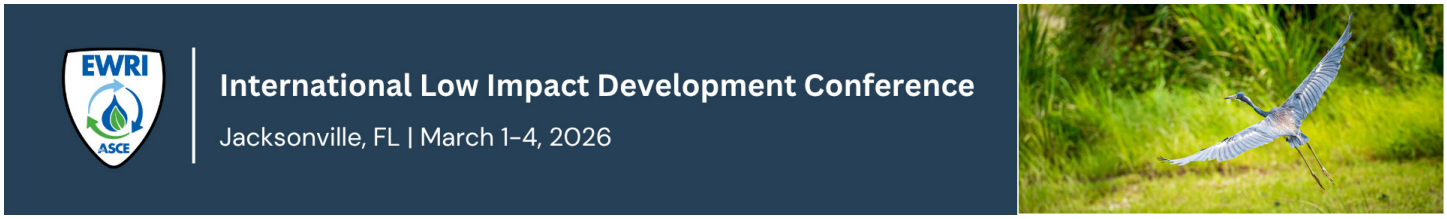
Looking Forward: Building on Success and Expanding Impact

The EWRI Dallas Chapter is excited about the future and committed to expanding its role in serving the local environmental and water resources engineering community. Upcoming initiatives include hosting workshops and training sessions on emerging technologies, launching mentorship programs for young professionals, and increasing engagement with local municipalities and agencies to support resilience and sustainability projects.

We believe that through continued outreach, education, and professional collaboration, our chapter can play a vital role in addressing the complex challenges facing our region and beyond. The Outstanding Technical Group/Institute Chapter - Small Award inspires us to uphold even higher standards of service and deepen our commitment to the community.

Connect with the EWRI Dallas Chapter

We invite local engineers, students, and professionals interested in environmental and water resources engineering to join us in advancing our mission. For more information on upcoming events, volunteering opportunities, or to get involved, please visit the EWRI Dallas Chapter LinkedIn page or contact our chapter leadership, ewri@dallasasce.org.



There is still time to submit your abstract to the 2026 International Low Impact Development (LID) Conference!

Submit your abstract and get ready for sunny Florida! Stormwater and urban drainage issues are becoming more and more prevalent in Florida as the region continues to be beset by hurricanes. We look forward to region-specific discussions, as well as domestic and international conversation on water concerns.

Abstracts are due August 1, 2025; don't miss your opportunity to join your colleagues and friends in Jacksonville, FL, March 1-4, 2026!

Additionally, EWRI has booked overnight sleeping rooms at a special group rate. Rooms are available at the Marriott Jacksonville Downtown from Friday, February 27, 2026 to Wednesday, March 4, 2026. A room reservation link is provided on the website for your convenience. If you are unable to secure your room within the block, please call the hotel directly.

The Global Infrastructure Resilience Survey (GIRS) 2025

ASCE has partnered with the International Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (ICSI) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) on the new Global Infrastructure Resilience Survey (GIRS), a global study that will gather perspectives from infrastructure professionals worldwide and deliver unprecedented insights into infrastructure resilience across regions, sectors, and institutional structures.

The GIRS will help assess how national infrastructure systems can better withstand disasters, adapt to changing risks, and serve communities when they need it most. It will seek to identify best practices in infrastructure resilience and influence future policy decisions.

The findings will be published in the second edition of CDRI's Report on Global Infrastructure Resilience, becoming a vital resource for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers worldwide.

This comprehensive survey will gather insights from professionals with hands-on experience in infrastructure - they might be designing it, building it, financing it, managing it, or creating policies for it.

We are seeking input from professionals who understand the realities of infrastructure resilience in their country. The short, multiple-choice survey takes only 10 minutes to complete, and responses will remain anonymous.

Take the survey here!

Nominate a Colleague for an ASCE or EWRI Award

Anastasia Chirnside, Ph.D., M.ASCE

Do you know a colleague that deserves recognition? There are many EWRI awards and ASCE awards that may provide that deserved recognition. Nominate your esteemed colleague to any of the prestigious awards listed in the table below. Some of the awards are governed by EWRI, while others are general ASCE awards. The nominations for most of the awards are due October 1st. The Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Award nominations are due on June 1st. The details for these awards can be found on the ASCE website. Honor your associate and nominate someone today!

Society (ASCE) Awards for Career Achievement	
AWARD	**COUNCIL**
Arid Lands Hydraulic Engineering Award	Hydraulics & Waterways; Irrigation & Drainage; Watershed
Hans Albert Einstein Award	Hydraulics & Waterways; Coasts, Oceans, Ports & Rivers Institute
Hunter Rouse Hydraulic Engineering Award & Lecture	Hydraulics & Waterways
Hydraulic Structures Medal	Hydraulics & Waterways
Julian Hinds Award & Lecture	Planning & Management
Karl Emil Hilgard Hydraulic Prize	Hydraulics and Waterways Council (paper award)
Margaret S. Petersen Award	Interdisciplinary & Education
OPAL Award (Outstanding Projects and Leaders Award)	Planning & Management
Royce J. Tipton Award & Lecture	Irrigation & Drainage
Rudolph Hering Medal	Environmental (paper award)
Samuel Arnold Greeley Award	Environmental (paper award)
Simon W. Freese Environmental Engineering Award & Lecture	Environmental
Ven Te Chow Award & Lecture	Watershed
Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize	
Wesley W. Horner Award	Environmental (paper award)
EWRI/ASCE Awards	
EWRI Career and Service Awards	
Lifetime Achievement Award	
Jeff Bradley Service to the Institute Award	
Service to the Profession Award	Planning & Management
Urban Water Resources Research Council Outstanding Service Award	Urban Water Resources Research
Urban Water Resources Research Council Founder's Award	Urban Water Resources Research
Pioneers in Groundwater	Groundwater
EWRI Special Achievement & Appreciation Awards	
Outstanding Technical Group/Institute Chapter Award	
Task Committee Excellence Award	
Standards Development Council (SDC) Awards	
EWRI SDC Service Award	Standards Development Council
EWRI SDC Merit Award	Standards Development Council
EWRI SDC Member Recognition	Standards Development Council
ASCE Codes & Standards Committee (CSC) Merit Award	Codes & Standards Committee
ASCE CSC Past Chair Recognition	Codes & Standards Committee
ASCE CSC Former Member Recognition	Codes & Standards Committee

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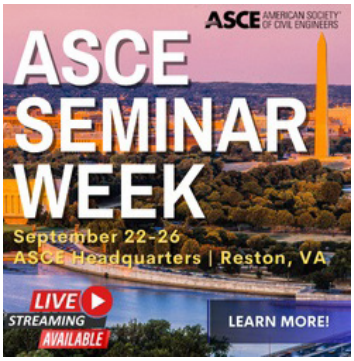
- Wastewater System Analysis and Design - Module 1: Design Flows and System Components - NEW | September 11, 2025
- Wastewater System Analysis and Design - Module 2: Collection System Design - NEW | September 11, 2025
- Wastewater System Analysis and Design - Module 3: Force Main Design - NEW | September 12, 2025
- Wastewater System Analysis and Design - Module 4: Pump Stations- NEW | September 12, 2025
- Wastewater System Analysis and Design Workshop - A 4-Part Series - NEW | September 11-12, 2025



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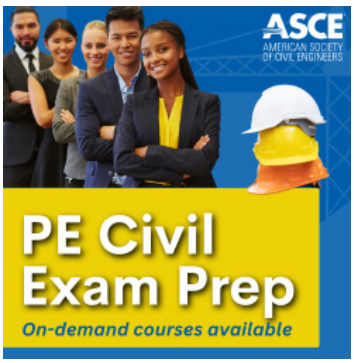

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