

Government Relations Committee

January 27, 2016
2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern

Minutes

- **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by GRC Chairman Matt Mahoney.

- **GRC**

- New Chairman Matt Mahoney spoke about his recent meetings with member companies (couldn't meet with all – but stopped in to meet with a handful) to get a sense of their priorities and vision for the GRC.
 - Agenda needs to be sent out with more advance time—3-4 working days before the call.
 - Want more opportunities to broaden industry footprint in DC—opportunities for hearing testimony.
 - Align with more organizations.
 - More board engagement—important policy discussion at board level.
 - Understand that federal issues will be a core group of issues since most of our industry sector's engagement is on the state and federal level. Some of these issues have been on the radar for a long time—but it is important to advance for our industry's overall profile.

- **Legislative and Regulatory Activities**

EPA

Petra and Matt discussed recent meeting with EPA Office of Water to discuss how private water sector can be part of a solution to beleaguered smaller water systems, and some of the issues the private sector faces when it comes to PPPs.

- NAWC is seeking opportunities to better educate drinking water regulators regarding P3s—essentially help demystify the process—and explain the relationships, roles and responsibilities of the owner and operators, standard contractual provisions regarding O&M of wastewater plants.

PABs

Petra and Tucker Shumack (Ogilvy GR) provided general update on PABs. Latest development is agreement to drop the PABs bill along with the recycling legislation language in the near future.

Flint

A lot of hearings expected. NAWC to meet with Congressional staffs of Energy & Commerce Committee to be a resource and to distinguish our industry sector and technological resources we bring to bear.

Presidential Budget

Expected in early February with anticipated increases in SRF funding and continued support for QPIBs.

Truth from the Tap

How do companies engage TFFT in advocacy efforts from a communications stand point.

- **In person meetings**

NAWC planning more in-person GRC meetings in the future. First one is planned to take place in March.

- **Meeting Adjourned**

Meeting Attendees

Justin Skarb, Chair, *California Water Services Group*

Matt Mahoney, *United Water*

Tim Leahy, *American Water*

Matt Chiller, *CH2M*

Staff & Consultants

Petra Smeltzer

Grace Soderberg

Tuck Shumack

Jim Gould

Kathy Ruffalo

Brent Fewell