
2017



Resolving sanitation issues in the developing world by educating people and engineering sustainable centralized solutions that keep waterways clean and communities healthy.



Fall Newsletter

Message from the Chair



Fall is a season of change. Leaves turn from a bright green to a golden red, the nights turn from a warm breeze to a cool chill, and the animals prepare for the upcoming winter. Just as these environmental changes are necessary in the life of an ecosystem, changes to an organization are also required for its continued growth and development as it moves through its “seasons.”

GWS has begun this season of change by altering a few ways in which we approach our business. Our Treasurer role has begun use of a new program – QuickBooks, which will help GWS track income and expenses more efficiently. We are excited to support this change and ultimately make the Treasurer role easier and more transferrable as terms expire and new treasurers take over.

GWS has also begun revising the existing Business Plan. The original was developed a few years ago as a part of a business competition. We placed very high and received prize money for our quality plan and well-thought-out approach. However, much of the plan was focused around the requirements of the competition. Therefore, several members of the GWS Board have begun to restructure the Business Plan to make it more inclusive and specific to the day-to-day operations of GWS. We are excited to release a revised Business Plan in early 2018!

We look forward to the new life this season of change will bring to the organization and its growth as a developing business!



Treasurer Report

The Treasurer role has slowed in activity due to lack of transactions. However, the end of the year will ramp up with tax season around the corner. Besides routine duties, the Treasurer recently met with a local accountant that works with non-profit organizations. The purpose of this meeting was to assist GWS in starting to use the Quickbooks accounting software program



to better manage the budget and track spending. The local accountant will be inserting the GWS budget that was in Microsoft Excel format into Quickbooks, as well as updating the ledger within the new accounting program. All costs for the accountant are being covered through donations specifically intended for those purposes.

Coming up towards the end of 2017 and into early 2018, letters will be sent to those who donated in 2017, in order to provide documentation for tax returns, as well as a nice “thank you!” In early 2018, the Treasurer will work with the accountant in order to file taxes for our 501(c)3 organization.

Fundraising

The Fundraising committee is pursuing avenues and opportunities to secure larger corporate donors. There are a number of submissions that the committee is preparing, each one unique and requiring preparation of different information packets.

For 2018 events, the committee is exploring the possibility of social events geared towards participant donation, while also continuing GWS involvement in the larger silent auction which takes place annually at the CSWEA Annual Conference in May. We encourage vendors to bring donated items to bring attention to both their booth but also for the cause of GWS. Fundraising is a key component of ensuring our proposed solutions can become a reality for communities in need.

Marketing & Social Media

The Marketing committee was busy developing materials for the August Costa Rica trip this fall. We brought t-shirts, stickers, temporary tattoos, and educational materials down to share with students and community members alike. We are working on improving our marketing and business plan so it can be used to apply for grant applications. We



also are busy writing articles and keeping our supporters up to date. We have been featured in WEF's World Water Magazine and UIUC's alumni magazine and have been keeping up to date with donors and volunteers through our quarterly Volunteer and Donor spotlight articles. Check them out in CSWater!

From building biogardens to giving presentations on the importance of wastewater collection and treatment, our members care about giving back to the environment, improving public health, and increasing public awareness. Our social media goal is to highlight our members' efforts as well as educate the public about the value of water. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn to learn more about what we do and how you can volunteer your time and expertise.

Student Design

During the Fall of 2017, the student design team made a few minor revisions to the student design problem statement for Palmar Sur. Upon making the changes, the problem statement was sent out to interested schools in order to get the GWS project on the lists for potential class



or student organizational projects. The student design team has been preparing for the kick off meetings (with schools that request meetings), and design information calls.

The Student Design Committee has also been working with colleges within the Central States to help establish the problem statement for use for capstone and senior design projects.

International Programs

After a great trip this summer and success of the built biogarden, this fall we are back at work on long terms projects. After some meetings at the town of Palmar Sur during the August trip, the IP team is eager to prepare the groundwork for the design competition in conjunction with the Student Design group. While some of the long term projects have slowed down this fall, the town of Palmar Sur seems to have all the



ingredients for a fast paced project, including designated land for a new treatment plant; something that is the main obstacle on other projects. The IP group continues to maintain communication with local Costa Rican authorities in order to keep the projects on track.

QA/QC

The committee's largest focus is reviewing student project designs and refining them based on the needs of the local entities. Because reviewing designs typically takes place in the spring and summer, the committee spent time in the fall continuing to learn more about the design and construction of wastewater treatment plants in Costa Rica, reflecting on the successes and areas for improvement of past projects, and helping out other committees as necessary.

Research & Development

The end of 2017 brought some new faces to the R&D committee, allowing us to get to work building a technology matrix for appropriate technologies. The matrix considers factors such as energy requirements, operations & maintenance tasks, space needs, and a brief technology description along with how it works. There are various ways to be creative under the constraints of appropriate technologies for development work, and a crowd-sourced, extensive technology reference will be helpful when designing new projects. Additionally, the R&D group continues to seek opportunities for collaboration with other committees at GWS and outside organizations.



Closing Remarks

Bringing new life to GWS this season means great effort and teamwork by our members and supporters. Please join our cause and help us work to be the best organization we can be while working to resolve sanitation issues across the world. Contact the Chair if you are interested in assisting any of our committees!

Stay tuned through our social media pages (@H2OStewards) and **don't miss our monthly conference calls, scheduled for the first Friday of every month at 12 pm!** Contact a Chair for call-in information.

Our team is so thankful for the continuous support of our donors and volunteers. Check out our next newsletter for further updates!



Monthly call, open to all: first Friday each month, 12 pm, 224-501-3318, access 133-059-333
Make a donation at www.globalwaterstewardship.org
Primary contact: Chair@globalwaterstewardship.org
Follow us! @H2OStewards, Global Water Stewardship

