
2018



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



Spring Newsletter

Message from the Past Chair



It has been an honor to serve as the Global Water Stewardship Chair since taking on the role in 2015! Over the past three years of being the Chair, I have watched the group grow, change, focus, and prioritize. What began as a group of four people looking to make a difference using our everyday skills became a group of over 100 people who have stretched the boundary of their skills to make a program for wastewater treatment in Costa Rica.

We started providing designs for wastewater collection and treatment, then moved to working with local and country-wide governments to design facilities, work on obtaining permits and acquiring land, and most recently started setting up a country-wide wastewater training program. As the group was approached by interested passersby, we generally found a role for them on a committee and within the organization. We have found a wonderful group of volunteers to help GWS progress in its mission. We have also been generously supported by donors who have believed in the work of GWS since the very beginning. Many consultants and manufacturer representatives belonging to CSWEA took the first leaps in supporting our mission financially, and we work every day to prove the benefits of their donations. We are extremely grateful for their support.

Thank you to everyone – volunteers, committee chairs, donors – who have made this organization grow into what it has become. Thank you for a wonderful, educational, and successful three years as Chair of Global Water Stewardship. I look forward to continuing work with GWS under the various committees.

Message from the Chair



Spring is the season associated with new beginnings. Flowers bloom, baby animals are born, students graduate and move on to the next phase of their lives. So it is an appropriate time for the changing of leadership positions here at GWS. At our Board Meeting held on May 15, I moved from the Vice Chair position to become the Chair of GWS. Our tireless and enthusiastic Chair of the past three years, Amanda Heller, assumed the role of Past Chair. Amanda's dedication to GWS has inspired many of us to volunteer our time, talent and money to the



organization. Her positive influence on GWS has been essential to the organization’s growth over the past few years. I’ve got some big shoes to fill. As Chair of GWS, I hope to continue working towards our goal of providing centralized wastewater treatment in the developing world through education of wastewater professionals in Costa Rica. I also hope to focus on connecting people who approach us expressing interest in helping GWS with projects that they enjoy, in order to increase our base of active volunteers.

The current list of officers, committee chairs, and vice chairs is below. It’s not too late to join a committee or even volunteer to be a vice chair! To help you determine the best ways for you to help GWS, a description of each committee’s role is included in the following sections of this newsletter.

<i>Executive Director/Founder</i>	Mohammed Haque
<i>Chair</i>	Maureen Durkin
<i>Past Chair</i>	Amanda Heller
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Tim Bronn
<i>Second Vice Chair</i>	Liz Bohne
<i>Treasurer</i>	Matt Streicher
<i>Fundraising Chair</i>	Rich Hussey
<i>Marketing Chair</i>	Liz Bohne
<i>Social Media Chair</i>	Matt Castillo
<i>Student Design Chair</i>	Zack Wallin
<i>International Programs Chair</i>	Manuel de los Santos
<i>QA/QC Chair</i>	Jennifer Svennes
<i>Research & Development Chair</i>	Elizabeth Brown
<i>Research & Dev. Vice Chair</i>	Anna Munson

I’m looking forward to working with this dedicated leadership team and with our many volunteers this year to help achieve the goal of implementing wastewater treatment throughout Costa Rica!

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer has been busy recently with getting everything in order to file GWS’ 2017 taxes. Much time was spent gathering all the necessary material and working with our accountant in order to properly file taxes with both the federal and state governments per requirements for 501(c)3 organizations. While filing for 2017, our accountant was made aware that despite sending in the proper documentation to the State to file for 2016, the State never completed the filing, and therefore expedited 2016’s filing as well so that 2017 could be completed. As a result, GWS is up to date with our tax-exempt status filings.



GWS has seen a sizeable amount of transactions going both in and out of our bank account and is holding a healthy balance, higher than we've ever seen before due to some generous donations late in 2017. As previously reported, the Treasurer had been working with a different local accountant to get our budget and other accounting information set up into QuickBooks accounting software. That was completed in late 2017/early 2018, and GWS has been functioning using QuickBooks since then. This allows for better tracking of income, expenditures, and budgeting. QuickBooks will also allow the Treasurer to create reports and better communicate the status of our finances to the GWS Board.

As reported during the GWS meeting at the CSWEA Annual Meeting, the Treasurer serves on the Finance Committee, which at the moment is a committee of one. Additional volunteers are welcome. The Finance Committee oversees the financial activities of GWS, such as preparation of the budget and advising the Board of Directors on the status of finances. A couple of people did speak up during the meeting showing interest to volunteer, but more are always welcome, as the bigger GWS grows – the more involved our finances become.



Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee raises money to fund GWS' activities through seeking donations, organizing events, and applying for grants. This quarter, the Fundraising Committee worked with the Local Arrangements Committee for the CSWEA Annual Meeting in Oakbrook, IL. A silent auction of items donated by various vendors that attendees can bid on was held. GWS worked the Silent Auction to help raise money. Thank you to all Silent Auction participants for helping to fund GWS' activities.

In addition, we are exploring several new options through larger corporations that are involved with supporting water and wastewater causes. We have a meeting scheduled with one company to initially present and discuss the cause of GWS.

We continue to welcome any volunteers who would enjoy the challenge of spreading the word of GWS and helping to pursue additional GWS financial partners.



Marketing & Social Media

The Marketing Committee is responsible for promoting the mission, goals, and achievements of GWS. This committee creates t-shirts, banners, pamphlets, brochures, and leave-behind items. The committee also prepares marketing and business plans, advertises events, and shares GWS progress through social media. The Social Media Committee focuses on sharing news about GWS, and about relevant wastewater topics, on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

This Spring, the Marketing team has been working on updating our marketing content. We are hoping to increase our presence in Costa Rica through improved Spanish language brochures and hoping to partner with some tourist attractions in the areas where we work, similar to our partnership with



Terraba Tours. We are also working on updating our marketing content to target operator participation. Our first operator training seminar will be held in August in San Jose, Costa Rica, so we are looking for operators who are interested in helping us out there! We are looking at different methods to translate the content that will be presented at the operator training conference as well.

The Social Media Committee is planning some great photo contests that will be on Facebook and Instagram over the next couple of months. This includes best operations photo, best example of clean water, best lift station photo and more! Be on the lookout for these photo contests and make sure you participate to win some fun GWS swag!

Student Design

The Student Design Committee collects and presents data on the selected project location for the year to participating students. This committee works closely with CSWEA's Student Design Committee to run the annual Student Design Competition, held in April. This involves contacting universities to inform them of the competition and determine which will have participating teams, gathering data about the project site, and preparing a problem statement document. In the months leading up to the Student Design Competition, this committee hosts conference calls with participating students and answers their questions.



The most recent Student Design Competition was a great success. This April, teams presented their hard work on designing a solution for Palmar Sur's sanitation issues to a panel of judges. The teams presented designs for wastewater treatment facilities and their respective collection systems. All of the teams involved did a great job, and should be proud of their efforts. Ultimately, the judges deemed University of Wisconsin-Platteville to be this year's winner. UW-Platteville's design and report has been sent to the QA/QC Committee for review as we continue to move toward implementing a centralized treatment system for Palmar Sur. We are pleased to report that Costa Rica's environmental protection agency, AyA, will hold a meeting in early June at which they will discuss how to push this project forward and obtain funding. This development may be the furthest any student design project has gone towards implementation.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
PLATTEVILLE

With the end of 2018's design competition, the Student Design group is moving toward collecting data and putting together 2019's competition.

International Programs

This committee was created to serve as the connection between local project contacts and the GWS project team in the US. The International Programs Committee works to ensure all current projects are moving forward. This can be a multi-year effort since it includes finalizing designs, obtaining permits or surveys, and suggesting treatment solutions. This committee also coordinates biogarden planning, design and construction.

The International Programs Committee is excited to work on this year's new projects. Spring is probably one of the busiest times due to the need to get ready for the upcoming August trip. We have been working on collecting data for the project site for the 2019 Student Design Competition. This involves looking at the plan view drawings for the area and asking the right questions of local officials. The project site is in Monteverde.



One of the primary activities of the 2018 August trip will be conducting educational workshops for professionals on topics related to wastewater collection and treatment. Planning for these workshops has started; we are communicating with the locals on the logistics to make sure all goes smoothly.

As we've done on our August trip in recent years, we will construct a biogarden at a school while we are in Costa Rica. The Committee is currently very deep into the design of the biogarden.



QA/QC

The QA/QC Committee takes the lead on updating and adapting student designs for implementation at the project sites. Work may involve verifying calculations, making changes based on new information about the site, and working in conjunction with the International Programs Committee to coordinate implementation with stakeholders in Costa Rica.

Most recently, the QA/QC Committee started reviewing the winning student design team's final report for the 2018 project in Palmar Sur. The committee is checking the design calculations, considering the feasibility of the design, and coordinating with other GWS committees to understand the community of Palmar Sur's needs and desires to ensure the design is sustainable. The QA/QC team would like to thank David Arnott, the previous Chair, for his leadership on the committee over the past few years.

Research & Development

This committee leads the charge on discovering new wastewater treatment technologies that are appropriate for the developing world, while making contacts within the industry. The Research and Development (R&D) Committee also works closely with the Marketing Committee on developing educational materials for use on our August trips.

Following the annual meeting, the R&D Committee Chair is now Elizabeth Brown, and the R&D Vice Chair is Anna Munson. They are both still adjusting to their new roles and responsibilities. The R&D Committee is continuing to help GWS with its shift in focus to education. Right now, they are helping prepare educational materials for the August trip. They are also continuing to develop a technology matrix with an emphasis on options that will work in developing countries.

	Criterion A	Criterion B	Criterion C	Criterion D	Total
Option 1					
Option 2					
Option 3					
	Criteria Weights				

A **decision matrix** is a list of values in rows and columns that allows an analyst to systematically identify, analyze, and rate the performance of relationships between sets of values and information. Elements of a decision matrix show decisions based on certain decision criteria.

Source: Wikipedia



Closing Remarks

Although we are fortunate to have a dedicated group of talented volunteers leading GWS' committees, we welcome your help! Please consider which committees are the best matches for your skills and interest and contact GWS (chair@globalwaterstewardship.org) to get involved today! What will be your water legacy?

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 or check the agenda 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
Make a donation at www.globalwaterstewardship.org
Primary contact: Chair@globalwaterstewardship.org
Follow us! @H2OStewards, Global Water Stewardship

Image credits:

http://files.blog.turbotax.intuit.com/2013/01/istock_000020399553medium.jpg
http://assets.graduateprograms.com/assets/school_logos/u_of_wisconsin-platteville.png
<https://hunterswritings.files.wordpress.com/2014/06/decision-matrix-300x197.png>



