
2017



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



Winter Newsletter

Message from the Chair



In early December, the GWS Board met to discuss several key operations of the organization. One topic was what we consider a “Win”. Our line of work requires a long process of complex steps to ultimately design, construct, and operate a wastewater treatment facility. Exactly what point in this process is considered a “Win”?

After the Costa Rican Government published their National Wastewater Policy, it was clear that GWS has impacted the country and their efforts on wastewater treatment, pushing them to prioritize the issue. Knowing that this national effort is being pursued by Costa Rica and that they are looking to GWS to help this industry grow, we developed new tasks for our organization that will prove just as important as the design of wastewater treatment facilities.

While GWS will continue to provide design documents for Costa Rican communities in need, the organization will also work with AyA and the ASADAs of Costa Rica to conduct a knowledge exchange, sharing expert advice on how to maintain and operate facilities that they are proposing to design and construct. As a group, GWS has presented to many schools and communities on the importance of wastewater treatment. We will now have the additional audience of future Costa Rican industry leaders. We will work with AyA and the ASADAs to determine the most imperative training topics. This may include educating them on the steps of a treatment process or understanding various parameters that must be met to maintain proper treatment.



Costa Rica is improving their infrastructure and recognizes the importance of wastewater treatment. We are excited to bring our knowledge to the table and to work with them to create a new generation of sanitation! This is a “Win” we are excited to move towards and excited to promote to future volunteers!



Treasurer Report

The end of 2017 was a busy time for the Treasurer, as it is towards the end of every year. Letters that are intended to be used for providing documentation of charitable donations for tax returns were sent out to any individual or entity that donated \$100 or more. If you made a donation and did not receive a letter, please contact the Chair (email in footing). Speaking of tax season, the Treasurer will soon begin to work with GWS' accountant to get taxes filed prior to the May 15 deadline for 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. In December, GWS officially started using QuickBooks, as the accountant that was hired to populate the database with past banking activity had completed their work. A short tutorial was given to the Treasurer, providing education on how to use QuickBooks moving forward and how to generate financial reports that will be of interest to the Board. The Treasurer is still in need of help, especially with QuickBooks skills, so any assistance would be much appreciated.

In February 2018, the GWS board officially approved the 2018 Budget, which included modifications that reflected new goals, and increased assistance for volunteers who participate in the service trips. It was found that the assistance to those volunteers was crucial in getting



good participation with that service work. GWS now officially has a PayPal account, so most of the future donations will no longer have to be channeled through CSWEA, but instead go directly

to GWS. PayPal offers the ability to sign up for an automatic monthly withdrawal as a donation method. If you are interested in donating in smaller increments, but throughout the year, please contact GWS and assistance can be provided to help get you started.

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee is working on updating the Business Plan to match the current vision of GWS. Completion is key to being able to submit to larger donors so that they may understand and appreciate the work GWS has completed successfully thus far and the vision for where the organization is headed. We will pursue corporate donors further in the first two quarters of 2018 so that we can expand the network of GWS. We appreciate anyone who would like to help, suggest potential donor avenues, or who would like to participate in marketing GWS. We have experienced numerous successes and we would like to expand our outreach.



Marketing & Social Media

This winter, the Marketing and Social Media team started a new push: #ThankAnOperator! Operators are constantly working behind the scenes at municipalities to ensure that when we flush it, it goes “away” and we don’t have to think about it. Those outside of the wastewater world typically don’t think twice about what’s going on under the streets and beyond the drain, so we are pushing to recognize operators and create awareness of everything that goes into operating and maintaining a centralized wastewater system. This goes along with our plans to offer operator training in Costa Rica this summer for our future plants. There is a lot of work that goes into maintaining the sewers, so we are working to develop materials to help the new operators be successful and sustainable after GWS returns home. We are also developing new marketing materials geared toward local operators who may be interested in helping us. We would love a few more operators to join our team. That being said, if you are an operator or interested in assisting in this effort, reach out to [Chair@globalwaterstewardship.org!](mailto:Chair@globalwaterstewardship.org)



Student Design

The student design competition has begun! After the problem statement for Palmar Sur was sent out, several kick-off meetings were held in January with schools attending or calling in from across the Midwest. Students came prepared, asking about additional resources available, the community, design guidelines and more. Some student teams have entered the project through a capstone design course, whereas other teams have entered through clubs or individually.

Throughout the weeks following the initial kick-off, more questions have been trickling in, as well as a couple of mid-term meetings. Mentors from GWS have been answering questions that the students have about the resources and community, but provide minimal design assistance to maintain the integrity of the competition.



Each team of students has until early April to enter the competition, during which they will give a presentation to several judges. It looks like 2018 will be another great year from some hardworking students. We are looking forward to seeing what each team of students presents as their solution to improving the sanitation in Palmar Sur.

International Programs

During this cold winter, International Programs (IP) volunteers have been planning next steps for existing GWS projects. We teamed up with Student Competition Chair Zack Wallin to discuss how to move the long term projects along. We created a key contact list for each project and have been communicating via email with the Costa Rican locals. In the meantime, we are pushing short term goals which include helping other Chairs on the creation of materials for August workshops in Costa Rica. This is very exciting and we are looking forward to passing on our design and operation knowledge to the local Engineers and Operators. Lastly, in the coming months, we will help on the arrangements for the next biogarden installation.



QA/QC

The QA/QC Committee spent the winter months gearing up for reviewing the 2018 student design for the community of Palmar Sur. The committee familiarized themselves with the problem statement and the information available so that they could respond to technical questions from the student teams and be prepared to review the winning design after the April 9th competition. The QA/QC team continues to grow and is always excited to welcome new members who can contribute their expertise to the GWS projects.

Research & Development

Heading into 2018, the R&D Committee is shifting focus along with the rest of GWS to provide educational material to our partnering communities in Costa Rica. These efforts will include the development of one-pagers and cut-sheets in both Spanish and English which expand on the Wastewater Appropriate Technology Reference (WATR) library currently under development. In addition to reference materials, the R&D committee plans to take the lessons learned from the February 2018 trip and work with other GWS members to build curriculum for in-country presentations in August.





Closing Remarks

Each committee within GWS will have a major role to play as we move forward with our new projects to provide a knowledge exchange to Costa Rica on wastewater treatment. As we expand and evolve into an organization that provides new access to sanitation knowledge, we look for more eager volunteers who are willing to make a difference. Please reach out to any one of our committee members about more information and how you can become involved with this exciting effort!

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
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