Water Sentinels Leadership Team (WSLT) members: Elaine Packard, Chair; Eric Weck; Debbie Neustadt; Elaine Giessel; George Cunningham; Dan Mayhew (added in 2019)

Volunteers/ Associates: Hank Graddy (lead on Mississippi River Sub-team), Albert Ettinger (CWA consultant), Olivia den Dulk, Anne Finneran, Richard Kurtz, Kevin Krietscher, Jason Zheng

1. Enhance Communications and Visibility:

Quarterly calls:

February 26, 2019: “Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)” – Good attendance (see chart below) and excellent speaker with broad expertise on this issue that is a problem nationwide. Invitations to join the webinar included opportunity to submit questions beforehand. The speaker and individuals on the WSLT responded.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13alrgQjbdokwtpuUEGYvrSpr6DHOIr-q/view

June 6, 2019: Leadership Team call on the mechanics, workplan and sub-teams of the Water Sentinels (WS) Grassroots Team, with invitations sent to club-wide water leaders and GRN. Limited numerics available since this was before we began using Zoom, nor was the call set up using GotoWebinar. About a dozen water activists from around the country attended and were invited to participate in our work.

Later Quarterly Calls: announcements sent via Campfire Event, FaceBook invitations, Salesforce/CORE/Marketing cloud emails, and Listserv & Attendance Metrics from previous Quarterly Calls. Eric Weck administers the use of GoToWebinar for delivery of quarterly conference calls and engages with presenters and Water Sentinels (WS) hosts. Campfire events were created and direct email invitations sent out via Eric Weck's gmail account for the two 2019 quarterly WS club-wide educational engagement calls: HABs and Rollback of Clean Water Act (CWA) 401.

Water Sentinel Quarterly Call Attendance Metrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Webinar Name</th>
<th>Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) and You</th>
<th>EPA's CWA 401 Rollbacks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Start Date/Time</td>
<td>February 26, 2019</td>
<td>October 9, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # Registered</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # Attended</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Names who Registered</td>
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<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Names who Attended</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New as % of all Registered</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>New as % of all Attended</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Names on Quarterly Call Distribution Before Webinar</td>
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<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Names on Quarterly Call Distribution After Webinar</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Views of Webinar Recording by those who DID NOT attend webinar</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monthly WSLT calls: These 1-1½ hr. calls have occurred with an agenda posted before the call and minutes taken and approved on the next call. Facilitated by Chair Elaine Packard.

Update and manage National WS website page and Grassroots Network (GRN) page: We have submitted comments and pictures to national staff on how we would like our pages to look. Lisa Reiser got back to us in January 2019. This is an area where we need more help; little has been accomplished despite efforts to do so.

Newsletter: Our new volunteer Olivia den Dulk has agreed to work on a newsletter with Elaine Giessel. Packard discussed this with her at the Santa Fe training. Olivia met with the Food & Ag (F&A) volunteers also in Santa Fe who are working on the F&A newsletter. She is working with SC staff Alexander Rony. A WS NEWS listserv has been created and is being filled. Working to make a comprehensive list of all known water activists. First newsletter should go out this spring.

Administrative oversight of communication tools/create consolidated list; list management to be maintained on CORE. The administrative tools employed by the WS team were reviewed and an active list of them created. A list of the WS distribution lists maintained in CORE (Salesforce) was developed.

Debbie Neustadt owns WS Discussion listserv with over 120 members. Posted memos from Circle of Blue and other news sources.

AddUp outreach: National prepared AddUp petitions on Waters of the US (WOTUS) and rollback of CWA Section 401. Engagement on the WOTUS hearing impressed national staff.

Maintain Facebook presence: Members are posting; Facebook page has over 800 followers.

Proposal to publish a Club-wide article about the Water Affordability Summit in Baltimore; has not been submitted but Lisa and Gwyn are trying to help.

2. Capacity Building

Identify water contact in each Chapter: Identify method for communicating with Chapters: Debbie Neustadt has created Chapter Water Contact Emails List, which was expanded to include group contacts. The list in excel went from 87 to 169 with adding group water quality leaders from WILD. The Chapter/Group list was employed to send the following: 10 memos on protecting WOTUS; 6 memos on section 401 of CWA; 1 memo explaining two letters Sierra Club signed onto (opposing H.R. 1764, which would extend the terms of Clean Water Act permits issued to state and municipal dischargers from five to ten years; the other, asking Senator Murkowski and Udall as chair and ranking member of the Senate appropriations committee that handles interior and environment to support the CWA's 319 program at the level of 200 million dollars); one memo on rollback to Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELG) regulations for coal plants.

Establish a list of water experts/consultants: Ongoing (focus now on CWA legal issues; toxi; water affordability)

1. Cheryl Johncox, Beyond Dirty Fuels Organizer. Area of Expertise: fracking, pipelines, and dirty fuel extraction, indigenous collaboration, grassroots organizing with frack groups. Email: cheryl.johncox@sierraclub.org; Phone: 740-360-0420
2. Sandy Bahr, Arizona Chapter Director. Area of Expertise: water quantity and quality, water related legislation, water sentinel organization. Email: sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org; Phone: 602-253-8633

3. David Conrad, Bridgepoint Consulting, LLC. Area of Expertise: floodplain management. Email: David Conrad (conrad.david.r@gmail.com)

- Work with Chapters to build effective water committees: Debbie contacted Maryland Chapter Water Committee Chair regarding a workshop on water affordability in Baltimore, which would also help build water committees. Elaine P had long conversations with Dan Mayhew in Utah and Gary Beverly in Arizona regarding their Chapters’ efforts on water quantity.
- Elaine P. formed a Water in American West sub-team in October to work on both water quality and quantity issues. They have had three team conference calls.
- Increase Leadership Team participation: Added a new core member Dan Mayhew; contacted three volunteers, two of which seem interested to continue with us.

3. Connections to other teams and organizations

- Build a tracking document to capture other organizations and contacts we wish to liaise with on a priority basis: Eric’s spreadsheet is located at https://drive.google.com/open?id=1F5XQllnVw7XAYy5rdsz0bSmPbDUWPqYHfYXjHa6vrfM.
- Packard, Weck, Neustadt, and den Dulk networked with other GN teams at Santa Fe GN meeting. Need to collaborate on water issues across the board, including Marine Team and Food & Ag Team working on Club industrial aquaculture policy. Opportunity to work with LWW teams.
- Participate on conference calls/email lists with other teams in the Club and other organizations:
  - Elaine P: monthly calls with Dalal Aboulhosn on federal water policy; attends monthly calls of GN Food & Ag Team; attends monthly calls of Off-shore Aquaculture Coalition and the Clean Water Working Group to discuss policy; tracks water issues as Core Member of the Climate Adaptation & Restoration GN Team; coordinates with GN teams--Toxics, Wastewater Residuals, Marine, Food and Agriculture; on listserv of Sierra Club California Water Team.
  - George: Food and Agriculture GN team and Clean Water Working Group calls; Missouri River Team
  - Elaine G: WILD (OWA/LWW), Marine Team
  - Debbie: Mississippi River Team, Missouri River Team, listservs of CA and Atlantic chapters

4. Work out relationship with OWA/LWW Team

- Giessel participates on WILD calls monthly. MOU was accepted but liaison has not worked with us. Water is clearly not a priority for LWW. We have attempted to maintain a working relationship with our LWW liaison but progress is lacking. This is a challenging goal and we need to be persistent.

Summary: Continue to canvass Chapters and Groups for water quality monitoring details. Update Tool Kit with information. Finalize Monitoring Planning Framework, see Comments. Establish a simple, off-the-shelf approach for basic, repeatable nitrate, nitrite and phosphate testing. Submit Grant Proposal to fund the testing tools and training materials. Write a white paper.

Throughout 2019 the Water Quality Monitoring Sub-Team (“MST”) continued collecting monitoring details and artifacts from various SC WS groups across the US. It has become evident, based on interactions with WS monitoring teams spanning two years, that the most resilient regional water monitoring efforts include participation by SC members with multiple ally organizations. Inputs from WS monitoring groups and MST members went into development of a water quality monitoring planning framework intended to provide guidance to nascent monitoring teams as they deliberate, design and implement their approach to monitoring.

On several occasions members of the broader MST have been called upon, and ably provided, expert consultancy with SC Chapter groups who raised region-specific questions pertaining to water monitoring processes and campaign engagement tactics.

A 2020 grant proposal was submitted, to outline the MST ongoing “offer” to the broader SC. It includes:

1. Structure for water quality monitoring consultancy through MST members and with the wider SC WS quality monitoring population
2. Guidelines for planning and executing a new water quality monitoring project
3. Basic, middle school / high school level, off-the-shelf instructions and sample testing media to enable young people’s experience with, and understanding of, rudimentary water chemistry, water quality and water contamination
4. Funding for future translation into Spanish

6. Support the development of Sierra Club Watershed Teams

- We developed guidelines for sub-teams to develop watershed teams, https://drive.google.com/open?id=1c43S9pyPrTAI9fxN3CywnPQyxKVXkBvBMW9uVfHfRw.
- We continue to support efforts to re-establish the Mississippi River GN Team and coordinated with the existing teams, such as the Missouri River Team and the Great Lakes Team.
- Packard led on formation of a Water in the American West sub-team in October which has met three times. We have representatives from: California (3), Arizona (2), Utah (2), New Mexico (1), Kansas (1), Colorado (1), Iowa (1). The team has a mission statement. It is working on feasible actions and will probably apply for a GN grant mid-2020
- Debbie, George and Elaine G are on the Missouri River Team; Debbie is a member of the Mississippi River Team.

7. Elevate water as a National Sierra Club priority: Another big challenge for us

- Packard and Neustadt coordinated a successful Water Affordability Summit in Baltimore; Neustadt submitting separate grant report on this project.
- Grant for 2020 Water Affordability Workshop in Detroit submitted by Neustadt
- Water monitoring “model” grant submitted by Weck.
- Packard talks about water on all her GN team and coalition calls (and have definitely raised the Club’s involvement on water outside the Club).
- Giessel participates in WILD calls, focusing on water issues
In Baltimore and Santa Fe, Debbie and Elaine P. spent time with Robin Mann, whom we see as a water advocate for us. Debbie, Eric and Elaine P brought up water a lot in Santa Fe and met with other teams.

8. Federal Policy and Legislation

- Track federal policy and legislation:
  - Elaine P has a monthly call with Dalal Aboulhosn, Legislative Director, regarding federal legislative action and networking within the SC National organization.
  - Follow SC Washington Tracker reports and disseminate to Leadership Team. Use Circle of Blue as a source of information.
  - Disseminate this information to chapters, post to listserv, etc.
  - CWA, WOTUS: Cunningham, Neustadt and Giessel provided testimony and helped organize turnout for February 2019, EPA hearing on the proposed change in definition of the “Waters of the US” in KC, KS. Cunningham and Giessel worked subsequently with national staff to do follow up organizing. Giessel served as local point person in KC metro area.
  - CWA, Section 401: Neustadt worked with national staff in September 2019, to organize Club-wide response (AddUp petition; formal comments) to proposed changes to the rule that would severely limit the time and tools available to states and tribes to properly evaluate the effect federally permitted projects, like pipelines or fossil fuel facilities, would have on waterways.
  - Coal Ash & Steam ELG rollbacks: Following November 2019 proposal to rollback protections against pollution from coal-fired power plants – the “Toxic Water Rule” or Steam Electric ELGs and a rollback to coal ash protections that would delay the closure and cleanup of hundreds of leaking, toxic coal ash ponds around the nation.

9. Sierra Club Water Policies

Review Sierra Club Policy and Positions, compile and post on GRN page and National website page. Packard is tracking water issues under the new Climate Adaptation & Restoration GN Team. The new Western Water sub-team might draft a policy related to water quantity. We are reviewing all the existing SC water conservation policies.

10. Develop a Resource Library

- We decided we need another web page in the Grassroots network site. This page would have a title similar to Resource Library. We have a sample of what a "toolkit" on an issue would be.

11. 2019 Grassroots Network Grant

- Elaine P. and Debbie worked with local and national staff to host a successful “Water Affordability” summit in Baltimore. Debbie is submitting a separate report and building on that event to hold a workshop in Detroit this year.