Compiled by *WWD* Managing Editor Caitlin Cunningham

Glen T. Daigger

Overcoming Constraints

Smart water management for today and tomorrow

Around the globe, today's water leaders face very real water constraints. WWD *spoke with International Water Assn. President Glen T. Daigger about these challenges and the steps being taken to promote positive changes.*

Caitlin Cunningham: What are the most significant water constraint issues that the world is up against today?

Glen T. Daigger: I will mention four: water scarcity, sanitation, resource constraints and governance.

Water scarcity is already present in important locations on every continent and is growing rapidly, driven by population growth, increased per capita consumption and climate change. Projections vary, but within the foreseeable future we may see half of the population of this planet living in water-scarce locations. This is creating conflicts between water users, along with political strife. This challenges water professionals' ability to meet one of our principal objectives—to provide clean and safe water for every individual on planet Earth.

Sanitation is generally not an issue for the roughly 1 billion people who live in developed countries, but it is for the vast majority of the 6 billion—growing to 8 or 9 billion—living in developing countries. A fundamental issue is that the Millennium Development Goals really only speak to providing toilets, while the real issue is management of the organic matter and nutrients collected in the toilets.

By the phrase resource constraints I mean the fact that, on a global basis, we are consuming the planet's resources at a rate greater than they are being renewed. Water scarcity is a symptom, along with energy scarcity and rising prices. But we are seeing scarcity of other items. Phosphate is one which has received recent attention by the wastewater profession. What this means for water utilities is that procuring the basic material needed to do our job may become more difficult in the future, but it also provides opportunities, as the waste stream contains resources which can be harvested and used.

By the term governance I mean support for the work of water professionals, both on a global basis but especially locally. In short, the issue is raising the profile of water so that the institutions responsible for delivering this service have the necessary resources to do their job.

Cunningham: How can water and wastewater professionals transform water management policies and practices to address these issues and protect supplies?

Daigger: The key issue is to develop effective governance for the delivery of water services. This entails, at its core, support by the public and at the political level for the job that utilities need to do concerning water and sanitation, and a willingness to fund. It also entails the consistent development of properly structured and managed utilities. Water professionals play a key role in this by communicating with the public the need for effective water and sanitation services and advocating for the institutions needed to accomplish this.

With the proper governance, water professionals have the tools to address the issues of water scarcity and to take advantage of the opportunities created by resource constraints to further develop and implement more water- and resource-efficient solutions.

Cunningham: What role will IWA play in conveying related information and developing solutions?

Daigger: Our Cities of the Future program is targeted directly at the development of higher-performing urban water and resource management systems which use water much more efficiently, recycle it extensively and incorporate a variety of approaches to dramatically increase resource utilization and extraction from the waste stream. Enabled by new technologies such as membranes, biological systems and advanced oxidation technologies, our Smart Water Portfolio cluster of specialty groups is focused specifically on further developing systems and tools to more consistently use the developing array of new water sources.

Our Water, Climate and Energy program focuses squarely on the impacts of climate change on water utilities and is developing proactive approaches. Our development solutions program is focused directly on the issue of global sanitation and working with an array of partners to accelerate both the development but especially the dissemination of effective solutions. Finally, we are working with a variety of international partners. WWD

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For more information, write in 1112 on this issue's Reader Service Card or visit www.wwdmag.com/lm.cfm/wd021112.

News Briefs compiled by *WWD* Associate Editor Kate Cline

EPA & SBA Launch Water Technology Cluster

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa P. Jackson and U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Karen Mills announced a new collaborative effort called the Water Technology Innovation Cluster (WTIC). The WTIC will develop and commercialize innovative technologies to solve environmental and public health challenges, encourage sustainable economic development and create jobs. It will focus on Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana and include businesses, suppliers, service providers and supporting institutions such as municipalities, chambers of commerce and universities.

Flow Research Study Finds $4.6 Billion Flowmeter Market

A new study by Flow Research found that the worldwide flowmeter market totaled $4.6 billion in 2009 and is projected to exceed $5.5 billion by 2014. The markets for newer flowmeter technologies, such as ultrasonic and Coriolis, are showing the fastest growth, while the positive displacement, turbine and variable-area flowmeter markets are declining. The most rapid market growth is in Asia and the Middle East.

HHS and EPA Announce New Fluoride Standards

The Department of Health and Human Services proposed that the recommended level of fluoride in drinking water be set at the lowest end of the current optimal range to prevent tooth decay, and EPA is initiating a review of the maximum amount of fluoride allowed in drinking water. The new proposed recommendation is 0.7 mg of fluoride per liter.

ITT Corp. to Separate Company Businesses

ITT Corp. announced that its board of directors unanimously approved a plan to separate the company's businesses into three distinct, publicly traded companies. The industrial products division will retain the ITT Corp. name, while the water and defense and information solutions divisions will be rebranded with new corporate names. ITT expects to finalize and execute the plan by year's end.

AWWA & WEF Sign Collaboration Agreement

The American Water Works Assn. (AWWA) and the Water Environment Federation announced an agreement to collaborate on programs, services and policy issues. The first event under the agreement will be the 2011 Water Matters! Fly In, when 150 leaders from both organizations will gather in Washington to inform Congress on key water issues.

Senator Announces USDA Funds for Water Management Project in Ohio

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown announced $2,540,470 in funds for Cairo, Ohio. The funds will be distributed through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program, and will be used to expand water services and wastewater treatment facilities for 250 users in the village.

Holyoke, Mass., & United Water Win National Infrastructure Award

United Water and the city of Holyoke, Mass., received the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships' Distinguished Infrastructure Award for the Berkshire Street Combined Sewer Overflow Treatment Facility. The award was one of six presented that recognize innovative public-private partnerships in the field of environmental services.

Third Annual WATERCON Set for March

WATERCON 2011, a joint conference hosted by the Illinois Section AWWA and the Illinois Water Environment Assn., is scheduled for March 21 to 24 in Springfield, Ill. The third annual event will feature presentations on a variety of water and wastewater treatment topics, plus more than 200 exhibitors showcasing the latest technology. For more information, visit www.isawwa-portal.com.

Networking News

Hatch Mott McDonald acquired Richard P. Arber Associates.

Cheryl Norton was named president of Kentucky American Water. WWD

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