

# **ICWP STRATEGIC PLAN**

## **2015 - 2018**

### **ICWP MISSION STATEMENT**

It is the mission of the Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) to enhance the stewardship of the nation's water resources. We accomplish this mission by:

- Serving as the national policy voice for the state and interstate water resource managers.
- Providing a national forum for the evaluation of policy issues and the development of solutions to water resource challenges.
- Providing leadership in the promotion and implementation of national policies supporting integrated water resource planning and management.
- Providing opportunities for members to engage federal agency and Congressional leaders in shaping national water policy.

### **ICWP Membership and Water Policy Focus**

The Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) is the national water policy organization of state, interstate, regional, and other water resource management agencies. In the ICWP, members develop unified positions on national policy issues and promote them to policy makers in Washington. ICWP members benefit by having this presence in Washington to keep informed about national policy initiatives and opportunities. In addition, ICWP members also benefit from the professional networking, and the exchange of information and ideas to enhance their water planning and management capabilities.

### **ICWP Strategic Plan**

This Strategic Plan guides ICWP's water policy development through research, communication and collaboration, and focuses our effort in three areas: 1) National Water Policy Development; 2) Integrated Planning for Sustainable Management; and 3) Water Data and Science to Inform Policy and Planning.

Our Strategic Plan format emphasizes ICWP organizational outcomes, roles and metrics, to realize its overarching goal of working with partners to enhance the stewardship of our nation's water resources. In applying ICWP talent and energy to these three focus areas, we will inform and engage other water community organizations to effectuate policy change, encourage water planning and infrastructure assistance at all levels of government and advocate for more effective participation by states and interstates in federal policy and program decisions. ICWP is striving to build staff and committee capacity, so that more insight, opportunities and benefits can be delivered to our Members. We will also enhance Member strength for the policy recommendations we advocate in Washington, DC.

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### Focus Area 1. National Water Policy Development

Desired Policy Outcome	ICWP Role	Metric for Success
Federal policies concerning water resources are aligned with & reflect state & interstate authorities, needs & capabilities	Alert Members to proposed federal policy and legislation	Membership is alerted to upcoming policy & legislative issues
		Members are informed in advance of Committee meetings
	Provide critical review/analysis of federal agency programs & initiatives	ICWP provides assessments & timely comments on federal programs & proposals
	Communicate our position back to federal agencies & Congress	Board & Membership adopt resolutions & deliver them effectively
	Build coalition to increase impact of state/interstate participation (strength in numbers + unified voice)	ICWP aligns position statements with other NGOs

Examples: alert & organization of comment letters on the 2014 WRRDA, the USGS Water Strategy, budget priorities for USGS water programs, CEQ Climate Change Adaptation Task Force recommendations, the Interior Department's "9506 Report" recommendations concerning data gaps that limit our ability to understand climate trends, an *ad hoc* committee established by ACWI to guide redesign of the proposed National Water Census

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### Focus Area 2. Integrated Planning for Sustainable Management

Desired Policy Outcome	ICWP Role	Metric for Success
Effective national water policy that supports integrated planning for sustainable water resource management	Advocate for federal support of state & interstate planning efforts	ICWP policy positions, other action based on committee recommendations
		Enhanced federal funding supporting state & interstate planning
	Coordination of state/interstate plans with federal agencies that have planning or regulatory authority	State/interstate plans are recognized & supported by federal agency decisions
	Identify impediments & opportunities	ICWP Committees develop assessment of impediments & recommend action
	Organize/promote large-scale watershed collaboration	Feature “interstate track” in the annual planners conference
	Provide the forum for Members to learn from others, identify needs & drivers	Water planning panel session at Annual Meetings that address integrated consideration of uses and hydrologic components
		Federal agencies’ plans adapt to state/interstate priorities
		Establish an annual “planning conference” for water planners to enhance tools and practices, share lessons learned

Examples: a full day of program content has been added to the Washington Roundtable, focusing on Member’s recent experiences (including interstate watersheds) and on the new tools available to support those planning processes and decisions; 2014 letter to Congress urging support for the Corps’ PAS program; policy statement urging federal agencies to include states in planning and rulemaking that affects state and interstate planning, and to give greater recognition to those plans when they are adopted officially.

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### Focus Area 3. Water Data & Science to Inform Policy and Planning

Desired Policy Outcome	ICWP Role	Metric for Success
Effective integrated water science tools for making water resource decisions	Advocate for robust data collection/analysis programs (well structured & funded)	Full implementation of NSIP (substantial progress toward backbone monitoring network)
		Panel discussion of NSIP & CWP priorities at Ann Mtg leading to Committee recommendations
	Provide a forum for Members to identify & prioritize enhancements to existing water science services and products	USGS establishes scientific characterization of uncertainty and relative confidence for data, estimates, models and interpretive studies needed in water resource policy
		Committee assessment of gaps & limitations in federal monitoring networks and interpretive science needed to inform water resource policy
	Promote more direct state/interstate and tribal involvement in federal agency & congressional initiatives (collaboration on planning & design of programs, tools and regulations, not just reactive)	Federal agencies show mid-way development for ICWP and other NGO input representing non-federal viewpoint

**Note:** the reference to “**tools**” is intended to include data collection networks, data management & access, models, GIS and other decision support elements that inform water resource management decisions and the public understanding/support of those decisions.

Examples: coalition letters to Interior & Congress leading to stronger budget support (specifically, +\$6M for expansion of the National Streamgauge Network in FY-2014); NWIS workshop at St Louis Meeting, WD&S Committee inventory of the federal toolbox, IWRSS workshops; leadership in ACWI, including establishment of ACWI Climate Science Subcommittee and leadership in the “Shrinking Budget” workgroup recommendations to Interior.