



February 2, 2023

CWCC VIRTUAL FLY-IN DETAILS – APRIL 25th

In our last report, we gave preliminary notice of our intentions to do an in-person event in DC during [Water Week](#) (April 23rd – 29th). We have become aware that CWCC members critical to the success of an in-person event are unable to make it in person during this time frame. In addition, long-time UTCA of NJ CEO Bob Briant Jr. has been chosen to be inducted into the [ARTBA Hall of Fame](#). He is being inducted by ARTBA during their annual Policy Conference/TCC DC Fly-In (May 15-17th) creating a need and desire for many of us to be in DC in person during that timeframe.

Therefore, we welcome you and your members to please participate in the **CWCC Virtual Fly-In and Business Meeting** on **TUESDAY, APRIL 25th 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM EST.**

National in-person activities planned for “Water Week” will still take place and we will share these details as they become available. You could choose to be in DC and join our event remotely. CWCC is in communication with our national partners and will share options for you to register for those virtual events and materials.

You will be receiving a calendar invitation with details on how to participate in this meeting via a virtual platform shortly, along with a draft agenda and supporting materials.

***** IN ADDITION *****

We welcome all CWCC members that will be in DC during the ARTBA Policy Conference / TCC Fly-In to join us to celebrate Bobby’s lifetime achievement in his service to the industry at a private event we are planning. **Details to be shared in the coming weeks.**

118th Congress Leadership

See attached for a full summary of leadership in the House and Senate. Sante has provided insights on how shifts in leadership will impact CWCC priorities, including unfinished business from last year’s lame duck session.

Key Advocates Report

Included with this notice is Key Advocates recent report which is current to January 31, 2023.

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Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

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February 2023 Insights

118th Congress

Composition

At this time, in the House of Representatives there are 222 Republicans and 212 Democrats, with one vacancy owing to the passing of Congressman Donald McEachin, Virginia's 4th congressional district. A special election will be held on February 21 to fill the seat. The Democrat is heavily favored to win/hold the seat. Should that be the result, Democrats would then have 213 Members.

In the Senate, there are 51 Democrats, and 49 Republicans.

Leadership

House of Representatives:

Speaker – Congressman Kevin McCarthy (R-23-CA)
Majority leader – Congressman Steve Scalise (R-1-LA)
Minority Leader – Hakeem Jeffries (D-8-NY)
Minority Whip – Katherine Clark (D-5-MA)

Senate:

Majority Leader – Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY)
Majority Whip – Senator Dick Durbin (D-ILL)
Minority Leader – Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
Minority Whip – Senator John Thune (R-ND)

Committee and Subcommittee Assignments (as of this writing)

Committee and subcommittee assignments are still a work in progress.

In the House, we are tracking the following: the Natural Resources Committee and its Subcommittee on Water and Oceans (with jurisdiction over Title XVI) - note: Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-AR-4) is the new Chair and Congressman Paul Grijalva (D-AR-3) is the top Democrat; the Energy Committee (with jurisdiction over the Safe Drinking Water SRF) – note: Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA-5) is the new Chair and Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ-6) is the Ranking Democrat; the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (with jurisdiction over the Clean Water SRF, the Alternative Water Source Program and surface transportation) – note: Congressman Sam Graves (R-MO-6) is the new Chair and

Congressman Rick Larsen (D-WA-2) is the Ranking Democratic; and, the Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittees on the Interior (with jurisdiction over SRF funding), and Energy and Water (with jurisdiction over the USBR including Title XVI), and Transportation (with jurisdiction over surface transportation funding) – note: Congresswoman Kay Granger (R-TX-12) is the new Chair and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-3) is the Ranking Democrat.

In the Senate, we are tracking the Environment and Public Works Committee (with jurisdiction over the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SFR's, the Alternative Water Source Program and surface transportation) note: Senators Thomas Carper (D-DEL) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) are the Chair and Ranking Member; the Energy and Natural Resources Committee (with jurisdiction over Title XVI) – note: Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and John Barrasso (R-WY) are the Chair and Ranking Member; and, the Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittees on the Interior (with jurisdiction over SRF funding), Energy and Water (with jurisdiction over the USBR including Title XVI) and Transportation (with jurisdiction over surface transportation funding) - note: Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) are the Chair and Ranking Member.

Legislative and Investigative Priorities

None announced by either party in the Senate or by the House Democrats. The House Republicans have announced the following legislative priorities –public debt, crime, inflation, abortion, energy, term limits and government mandate – and the following investigative priorities – the southern border, Afghanistan withdrawal, COVID origin, DOJ and the FBI, Hunter Biden, and President Biden's classified documents.

Lame Duck Session Unfinished Business

The Coalition supports action on the following in the new Congress:

1) “Build Back Better” Bill: Round Two?

The effort by Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) to extend the child care credit and pair it with the renewal of an expired R&D tax break for businesses and other non-controversial items (not disclosed) did not materialize as agreement could not be reached with Senate Republicans. Their plan is to try again in the new Congress. If so, we would continue to advocate for funding for the Alternative Water Source Program and large scale water recycling projects, inclusion of H.R. 5118 or some variation, and any other items of interest.

Included in the House-passed “Build Back Better” bill of interest to the Coalition (see bold):

- \$30B for Safe Drinking Water SRF lead service line replacement projects;
- \$100M for state public water systems;
- \$700M to reduce lead in school drinking water;
- \$100M for large scale water recycling projects;
- \$1.15B for emergency drought relief;
- \$125M for Alternative Water Source Program grants;
- \$2B for sewer overflow and storm water reuse grants;
- \$4B for reduction of carbon in the surface transportation sector;
- \$4B for affordable and safe transportation access; and,
- \$6B for local surface transportation projects.

No funding for the Clean Water SRF is included in the House BBB. It does include new taxes.

Unofficially, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee released its BBB title which includes \$9B for SDWSRF-funded lead remediation projects, \$225M for rural and low-income water assistance grants, \$125M for Alternative Water Source Program grants, and \$500M for sewer overflow and storm water reuse municipal grants.

NOTE: Brown/Bennet's staff say that the plan is still to push forward on this. Now looking for Republican support.

- 2) H.R. 5118, the "Wildlife Response and Drought Resiliency Act" and S. 4231, the "STREAM Act" (Support to Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture and Municipalities Act)

No action in the lame duck session. H.R. 5118 passed the House. S. 4231 was introduced in the Senate. The Coalition supports enactment of H.R. 5118 or some variation.

H.R. 5118 authorizes \$600M for WIIN grants. This is in addition to the \$550M appropriated in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for both traditional Title XVI and WIIN grants. The bill also increases the Federal share from \$20M to \$50M, provides priority project funding and authorizes \$700M (again, this is in addition to the \$450M appropriated in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) for large water recycling projects with total estimated cost of at least \$500M.

S. 4231 authorizes \$300M for FY24-28 for WIIN grants. These funds are over and above the BIF WIIN grant appropriated amount of \$550M. The Federal share is \$20M. Priority funding is given to projects that meet certain criteria.

NOTE: Checked with Cong. Napolitano's staff regarding plans for this Congress. Told too early to know. Check back in 2-3 weeks. Also waiting on Senator's Feinstein plans re the STREAM Act.

Funding Items

President's FY24 Budget and the FY24 Congressional Budget Resolution – support highest funding levels for programs of interest.

FY24 Appropriations Bills - support highest base funding levels for programs of interest with earmark funding over and above the base and not as a takedown.

Title XVI WIIN Grants – the USBR announced that \$150M plus what is provided in the FY23 appropriations bill would be available for 2023 WIIN grants. Was contacted by the USBR on Jan. 23. Said as far as the anticipated schedule for FY23 WIIN Act funding opportunities, they are still developing the schedule, but the plan is to first release the funding opportunity for the large-scale water recycling program in the spring with funding opportunities for WIIN grants and desalination construction to follow in the summer.

Earmarks – track consideration for possible opportunities.

EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grants – track announcements and opportunities.

Alternative Water Source Program grants – pending action on a second round of infrastructure spending.

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

For review, included in the FY23 omnibus appropriations bill is \$1.639B (state allotments and earmarks) for the Clean Water SRF, which is in addition to the \$2.750B provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act aka the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, \$1.126B (state allotments and earmarks) for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, which is in addition to the \$2.750B provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act aka the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and “not less than \$20M” for WIIN grants.

Also included for transportation programs - \$800M for national infrastructure investments (RAISE/TIGER/BUILD), \$1.145B for bridge replacement and rehabilitation, \$150M for PROTECT grants, \$800M for local and regional projects, \$19B for the FAA, \$62.9B for the FHWA formula programs including \$3.4B for discretionary highway programs and projects, \$873.6M for FMCSA, \$1.2B for NHTSA, \$3.4B for FRA including \$555M for the Intercity Passenger Rail grant program, \$560M for CRISI grants, \$2.45B for Amtrak, including \$1.26B for the Northeast Corridor and \$1.19B for National Network grants, \$16.9B for the FTA, including \$13.6B for buses, \$2.6B for capital investment grants, and \$542M for transit infrastructure grants; and, \$896.1M for MARAD.

Bill Tracking

Bills of the 117th Congress not enacted into law by the conclusion of that Congress must start anew (if still being pursued by Members) in the 118th Congress – starting at the beginning of the legislative process with introduction. We will note bills of interest, focusing on those that are marked up by committees and/or come to our attention.