**CWEA Government Affairs Committee Update**

Hopefully all that see this are doing well!  Many of those who work in the water industry should be considered first responders and are definitely essential personnel.  With all that is going on around us; keeping the US waters safe is more important than ever! This was a part of the message that was delivered during the WEF Government Affairs webinar **Clean Water Act Regulatory Issues in a Pandemic** on Friday March 20, 2020.  However, to guarantee our citizens that their water is safe; means that the regulations of the Clean Water Act MUST continue to be met.  Presenting were: Melanie Davenport the Director of Water Quality from the Virginia DEQ, Shellie Chard Director of Water Quality for the Oklahoma DEQ, and Fred Andes from the law firm of Barnes abd Thornburg LLP. While each provided input from their regional perspective the main themes were repeated by all three….**Documentation and Communication!**  While there will be no reduction on requirements that need to be met; there is also an understanding that unusual times may cause unforeseen problems in meeting permit and regulatory requirements.  Should anyone believe that they are or anticipate having problems meeting these requirements; they MUST document the issues, the cause(s) and the results.  Additionally, it is best to stay in communication with your regulator as soon as possible to warn or report of any problems.  There will be no carte blanche forgiveness; however the more you document and the better you communicate there is likelihood that the regulators will work with you on the other side of this.  I encourage you go to the You Tube presentation https://youtu.be/yNQSzVDqE9M to hear the presentations directly; it is well worth the hour.

One additional note, the 2020 WEF Congressional Fly In has been cancelled this year due to COVD-19.

If you have any questions on this or other governmental affairs related issues, please contact the CWEA GA Committee Chair Marlou Gregory at marloutcg@gmail.com.  Stay Well!!