Please consider joining us to participate in a Preliminary Water/Wastewater Workforce Risk Assessment that will be sponsored by the Water Environment Federation, WSSC Water, Chesapeake WEA, and Virginia WEA.

Friday March 27th
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
WSSC Water Room LK120
14501 Sweitzer Ln
Laurel, MD 20707

WEF is acutely aware that one of the most significant challenges facing water/wastewater utilities today is workforce reliability. It can be difficult to find qualified candidates for mission-critical jobs, provide staff with the training and information they need to do quality work, optimize use of staffing available, and collaborate with others to make cost-effective investments in workforce resilience. In the San Francisco Bay Area, water and wastewater utilities have formed a consortium, BAYWORK, based on the premise that operational reliability depends on workforce reliability. By working together, they have been able to achieve much more than they could have accomplished individually. Many WEF members have expressed a desire to explore the potential benefits of this type of collaboration in their own regions. In response to this interest, WEF is sponsoring a risk assessment process that will help water and wastewater utilities in the Chesapeake Bay Area consider whether they may be able to address their workforce risks more effectively by working on them together.

An agenda will be forthcoming, but the basic components of the Preliminary Risk Assessment Event will be the following:

I. Background information on the workforce roadmap and achievements of BAYWORK;
II. A high-level self-assessment by participating utilities of their own workforce risks; and
III. Discussion of shared challenges and next steps.

If you are not familiar with BAYWORK, we would encourage you to visit BAYWORK’s website at http://baywork.org.

Survey results and notes on this discussion will be compiled in a Preliminary Needs Assessment Report that will be provided by WEF to all utilities that participate in the Workforce Risk Assessment Event. (Survey findings and notes will be described in aggregate, with no identification of individual agencies.) This report can be used by Chesapeake Bay utilities to determine whether they see value in further investigation of the option of creating a workforce consortium for water/wastewater utilities in the Chesapeake Bay Area.

Please RSVP to Steve Harrison at sharrison@wef.org or (703) 684-2400, x7715. Lunch will be provided. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Steve Harrison or Cindy Sullivan at cindy.sullivan@wsscwater.com or (301) 206-8777.