

AWWA award goes to Rep. Trudi Williams

The Florida Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) presented its "Legislator of the Year" Award to Florida State Representative Trudi Williams. The award recognizes leadership and dedication in developing water supply legislation for the people of Florida. Williams is also CEO of TKW Consulting Engineers, a civil engineering firm she founded in 1989.

"Protecting Florida's waterways and water supply has been a major focus of my work for many years. I am thrilled to receive this award, which reflects not only my dedication to this issue, but also that of the AWWA and many Floridians across the state. It is truly one of the defining issues of our time," commented Williams, who is also an environmental engineer.

Williams previously served on the South Florida Water Management Governing Board and in numerous other public roles and is recognized at the state and federal level as an expert

on water management issues. She was elected to the Florida House in 2004, re-elected in 2006, and has been an advocate of good management of the State's water resources. She currently serves as Chair of the Committee on Environmental Protection.

Mueller Water Products fills senior vp role

Mueller Water Products has appointed Robert P. Keefe to senior vice president and chief information officer. In his new role, Keefe will be responsible for the overall direction of all systems and technologies in order to build the company's information systems across business segments. Keefe will report directly to Gregory E. Hyland, chairman, president and CEO.

Most recently, Keefe was the corporate vice president and chief information officer for Russell Corp. and for ConAgra Refrigerated Foods. He also held progressively responsible systems positions with Kraft Foods and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. He holds a master's

degree in Business Administration from Pace University, as well as a Bachelor's Degree from the State University of New York at Oswego.

WEF releases new TMDL tool kit

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) has released a new tool kit for third-party Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). Developed under a cooperative agreement with U.S. EPA, the Tool Kit is the final document in a series of outreach products developed by WEF's Third-Party TMDL Development Task Force to educate stakeholders and encourage greater third-party participation in TMDL development.

"There are several reasons why different groups are interested in doing Third-Party TMDLs," said Libby Ford, member of WEF's Third Party TMDL Task Force. "Aside from the fact that permitting agencies simply don't have the time or the resources to do all these TMDLs in a timely manner, local players may have strong opinions on the project and may be more likely to develop TMDLs and allocations that are more workable in the short- and long-term."

A third-party TMDL is where an organization or group other than the lead water quality agency takes responsibility for developing the TMDL document and supporting analysis. Often very familiar with local watershed issues, these groups – including watershed groups, local government and landowners – can provide valuable insights to the TMDL process and help leverage state funds, as well as the resources and expertise of other agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Third-party involvement in TMDL decisions may improve the level of stakeholder support, increase the likelihood of effective implementation of pollutant controls and increase the degree of public understanding of TMDLs and water quality protection issues.

"WEF hopes that the Tool Kit will encourage both state agencies and third parties to consider this innovative approach as a way to hasten the development and implementation of TMDLs across the country," said Task Force Chair Dick Schwer.

The Tool Kit is available for download at www.wef.org/ThirdPartyTMDL. Printed copies can also be obtained at no charge by requesting Stock Code P07001 from WEF Customer Service at 1-800-666-0206 or pubs@wef.org. ■