

WNA Report and Request Form: Consideration of Dialogue Topic for 2017 WNA Membership Assembly

Topic to be addressed: Water Quality Availability

Submitted by: Katheryn Lammers on behalf of the WNA Wisconsin Environmental Health Nurses Coalition Mutual Interest Group

Background on the topic (research, data, survey, etc.)

Water disputes have recently been heightened due to lead contamination in Flint, Michigan, city water supply and pollution of wells from heavy agricultural usage in Kewaunee County, Wisconsin. In addition, water availability is threatened due to drought, severe flooding, high capacity wells and the central sands area of Wisconsin. Common sustainability practices have included buffer strip to lower agricultural run-off, minimization of pesticides, methods to reduce irrigation for crops, awareness about pollution of aquifers due to concentrated animal feedlots (CAFOs), and attention to excessive consumption in homes. Aging water systems need to be updated throughout the country. Wisconsin's nurses need to be informed and visible advocates for the availability of safe and quality water.

Rationale for why this topic should be discussed by the WNA members during the WNA Membership Assembly Dialogue Forum

The Wisconsin Environmental Health Nursing Coalition (WEHNC) remains concerned about the quality of Wisconsin's water supply. WEHNC would like to have the WNA membership identify and/or support recommendations for practices and strategies needed to promote effective and sustainable water quality while at the same time balancing the needs of economic growth and environmental health.

Recommendations for action to be taken by WNA (be specific)

WEHNC would like the members to consider the following recommendations:

1. Develop materials for distribution to nurses through WNA outlets, conferences, and newsletters
2. Align with partners such as Clean Wisconsin and Wisconsin Environmental Health to advocate for legislation and lobbying for water quality and availability.
3. Support initiatives that promote sustainability practices to water quality and availability
4. Support environmental health topics at the baccalaureate level of nursing education.
5. Promote environmental health topics at Nurse's Day at the Capitol.