

# Progress Report to GWPC Board of the Produced Water Work Group

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September 10, 2018

# Chronology to Date

- April 2017 – GWPC Board passes Resolution 17-1



## RESOLUTION 17-1

### **Creating a National Study Group to Focus on Regulatory, Scientific, and Technological Challenges concerning the Beneficial Use of Produced Water from Oil and Gas Production**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the Ground Water Protection Council is a unique organization representing members from  
2 state oil and gas, underground injection control, drinking water, and water quality agencies; and
- 3 **WHEREAS**, produced (formation) water from oil and gas activities represents a significant quantity of  
4 water that presents opportunities for potential future beneficial use and for conservation of fresh water  
5 resources; and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, there currently exist many questions and challenges surrounding this potential future  
7 practice including regulatory, scientific, technological, environmental, health, and others; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, there is a need nationally for overarching direction on the necessary research to make  
9 practical and environmentally responsible use of produced water a reality; and
- 10 **WHEREAS**, the GWPC organization is a stakeholder focused group that has long-standing relationships  
11 with many of the key stakeholders focused on potential produced water use; and
- 12 **WHEREAS**, the GWPC intends to build on existing expertise and experience through past research and  
13 stakeholder dialogue to create an initial assessment articulating key challenges and scientific research  
14 requirements necessary to inform and define a path forward for produced water beneficial use;
- 15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Ground Water Protection Council hereby creates a  
16 National Produced Water Beneficial Use Study Group that may consist of stakeholders from state and  
17 federal agencies, national and interstate associations, national labs, industry groups, potential water  
18 use sectors, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders; and
- 19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the GWPC charges the study group to work collaboratively to  
20 refine the GWPC's initial assessment and develop a report articulating the key challenges and scientific  
21 research requirements necessary to inform and define a path forward for produced water beneficial use.

# Chronology to Date

- April 2017 – GWPC Board passes Resolution 17-1
- July 2017 – Initial work group organization and brainstorming, Salt Lake City
- August 2017 – Work group meeting in Oklahoma City – established module structure and leadership, individual module discussions of desired content
- September 2017 – Individual module discussions at GWPC Annual Forum in Boston, first progress report to GWPC Board
- February 2018 – Individual module meetings at GWPC UIC meeting in Tulsa
- April 2018 – Second progress report to GWPC Board in Sarasota, one-page fact sheet released
- August 2018 – Module leadership met in Denver to review individual module drafts, also met with EPA concerning their PW study
- September 2018 – Third progress report to GWPC Board and individual module meetings at Annual Forum

# Produced Water Working Group

- Multi-stakeholder
- Goals:
  - To identify opportunities and challenges associated with utilizing produced water as a resource
  - To provide suggestions that policy makers, researchers, regulators and others can use to address these opportunities and challenges
- Timeline:
  - Project began mid 2017
  - Draft report to GWPC Board of Directors by early spring 2019



# A Unique Collaboration

- State Oil & Gas Regulatory Officials
- State Water Quality Regulatory Officials
- Environmental NGOs
- Industry
- Academics
- Others



# Developing Solutions: Modular Approach

## MODULE 01

### Regulatory & Legal Frameworks

This module describes the current legal and regulatory frameworks that address produced water. It also addresses changes that may need to occur to facilitate the use of produced water.

**Leadership:**

John Baza, Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining  
Shellie Chard, Oklahoma DEQ, Water Quality

## MODULE 02

### Produced Water Use in the Oilfield

This module describes the current uses and potential future uses of produced water inside the oilfield. It defines the existing constraints of use and identifies the opportunities and challenges of expanded use.

**Leadership:**

Tom Kropatsch, Wyoming Oil & Gas Commission  
Scott Kell, Ohio Department of Natural Resources

## MODULE 03

### Produced Water Use & Research Needs Outside the Oilfield

This module describes current and potential use of produced water outside the oilfield and identifies the research needs that will need to be addressed to facilitate expanded use.

**Leadership:**

Ken Harris, California Department of Conservation  
Nichole Saunders, Environmental Defense Fund



## Next Steps

- Sept. 12th – Module leaders meeting with EPA PW team
- October 2018 – Module leadership team meeting in Denver
- November 2018 through March 2019 – Module drafts to be submitted for GWPC Board review in a “phased” approach, Board comments continually processed and incorporated in report modules
- April 2019 – GWPC considers full report for approval and publication



QUESTIONS?