

January 18, 2017

CHARTER

The Environmental Council of the States hereby establishes

The Infrastructure Work Group

ECOS has long identified water infrastructure as a key priority – as reflected in *ECOS' Priority Areas for a Time of Political Transition (2016-2017)* and *ECOS Resolution 16-5 Addressing Serious Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Investment Needs*. Water infrastructure is critical to the provision of clean and safe drinking water and to the management of wastewater and stormwater that is protective of public health and the environment. Federal collaboration with the states to advance innovative funding and technical support for our nation's aging drinking water & wastewater treatment systems, and stormwater management systems, is critical to the U.S. population. ECOS is committed to being a constructive part of these conversations by providing a forum to share successes, best practices, and case studies in innovative funding and effective partnerships. It is essential that ECOS continue this discussion so that we can meet the demands of the future and be part of the effort to support the infrastructure needed to provide all Americans with clean and safe water and protect our water resources.

As documented in ECOS' resolutions and Political Paper, and in the cited U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA's) *clean water and drinking water assessment reports*, the U.S. needs about \$660 billion in investments for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure over the next 20 years. Current available funding sources are not sufficient to meet these extensive national water infrastructure needs. This underscores how critical water infrastructure is now and in the future. We can no longer postpone taking care of our nation's aging infrastructure. It is of the utmost importance that we work together in partnership with all levels of government, water utilities, industry, and other organizations to explore long term solutions to this enormous challenge.

The U.S. EPA announced on January 10, 2017, the availability of approximately \$1 billion in credit assistance for water infrastructure projects under the new Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. As we look ahead, the new Administration's vision is to make clean water a high priority by developing a long-term water infrastructure plan with city, state, and federal leaders to upgrade aging water systems. The new Administration also is supportive of triple funding for state revolving loan fund programs to help states and local governments upgrade critical drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. ECOS can fulfill an important role in providing recommendations for long-term water infrastructure planning and the appropriate funding levels needed to implement those plans.

The Work Group will be established under the auspices of the Water Committee. Roles for this Work Group include:

- Serve as a focal point within ECOS for dialogue on infrastructure issues;
- Conduct such research on these issues as the Work Group deems necessary;
- Serve as a sounding board and provide advice to ECOS on a variety of infrastructure proposals; assess and respond to time sensitive requests on infrastructure;
- Share success stories, best practices, and case studies on infrastructure with ECOS members;
- Collaborate with various levels of government, associations, and organizations as needed to accomplish the goals of the Work Group.
- Identify speakers on these issues for upcoming ECOS meetings;

Authority:

The ECOS Organizational Structure and Bylaws as amended on April 11, 2016, state that ECOS Work Groups are established at the direction of the President or a Committee Chair. In this case, both President John Linc Stine (MN) and Water Committee Chair Craig Butler (OH) support the formation of this Work Group.

Member Composition:

The proposed Chair is Robert Martineau (Commissioner, Department of Environment & Conservation, TN) and the proposed Vice-Chair is Drew Bartlett (Deputy Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection, FL). We are proposing approximately ten ECOS members for this Work Group. The ECOS members can have a proxy at the Deputy level if they are periodically unable to participate in meetings/calls. The Work Group will be supported by Alexandra Dunn (ECOS Executive Director & General Counsel) and Sonia Altieri (ECOS Senior Advisor, on loan from U.S. EPA).

Which duties it will carry out until:

January 31, 2018, unless extended or disestablished earlier by vote of the Executive Committee.

Established this 20th day of January in the year 2017 by direction of ECOS President Stine and Water Committee Chair Butler.