Mid-Year Meeting in Pittsburgh Recap

ASTSWMO’s Mid-Year Meeting in Pittsburgh focused on “Succession and Long-Term Planning.” The sessions featured speakers from State and Federal offices who were sharing their thoughts on how to best manage a transitioning workforce. The speakers emphasized encouraging younger generations to seek out challenges and mentoring opportunities. One of the highlights of the day was watching a group of 8th grade students from the Ellis School in Pittsburgh raise awareness about environmentally minded community planning with a presentation on their plans for a hypothetical town set in the future. The student’s creativity was a great example of how the next generation’s passion will lead to effective change in the future.

Another young voice from the meeting came from Maria Rose Belding, whose work with the MEANS Database has been successful in saving thousands of pounds of food from landfills across the country.

Click here for a full list of the Mid-Year Meeting presentations including videos from the Plenary and select breakout sessions.

Happy Memorial Day!

ASTSWMO would like to thank our men and women in uniform, and those who have lost their lives in service of our country.
The original study was undertaken to determine the nature and costs to the States of implementing the RCRA Subtitle C program, and evaluated the major RCRA C Program areas of (1) permitting, (2) remediation – closure and corrective action, (3) compliance, (4) enforcement, and (5) program development activities. The 2007 report was based on a representative 10-State pilot study; the update is seeking information from FY 2015 from all States and Territories (State). The Subcommittee appreciates State responses received thus far. If your State hazardous waste program has not yet responded and would like more information, please contact Kerry Callahan at kerryc@astswmo.org.

Superfund and Brownfields Symposium this Summer!
ASTSWMO will host a joint Symposium on August 3-5, 2016, in Detroit, MI. The Symposium will focus on hot topics in Sediments, Remedial Action, CERCLA Post Construction, Removals, Site Assessment and Brownfields.

Tanks LUST workshop
The ASTSWMO Tanks Subcommittee’s LUST & State Fund-FR Task Forces held a joint workshop on April 27-29, 2016 in Pittsburgh, PA. Over 100 attendees participated, which included representatives from 38 State and Territorial tanks programs, EPA OUST HQ, EPA Regions, private industry, and partner State organizations.

Technical trainings on vapor intrusion, forensics, and carbon based injection, and discussion sessions on abandoned tanks, fraud, and aging tank infrastructure were among the many sessions held at the event. For copies of presentations, visit: http://bit.ly/1sAUJ4i.

Federal Facilities
The Federal Facilities Research Center is planning to release two documents this summer: an issues paper and template checklist for States on performance-based contracting at federal facilities, and an issues paper on ensuring
**Federal Facilities (cont.)**

protectiveness at federal facility cleanup sites.

The FUDS Forum Working Group is planning to host a national FUDS Forum meeting during the week of August 15, 2016. All States and Territories will be invited. Specific dates and a draft agenda will be available soon, and distributed to all States by DoD and ASTSWMO.

The DSMOA Steering Committee is holding regional outreach calls in May and June 2016. Contact Charles Reyes (charlesr@astswmo.org) at ASTSWMO for dates, times, and more information.

### ASTSWMO State News

**MEANS Database-- Looking to network with food banks?**

A great new resource for States was introduced at the ASTSWMO Mid-Year Meeting by the Executive Director and co-founder of the MEANS Database, Maria Rose Belding. This online database maps out excess goods in an effort to “link those who have too much with those in need.” The EPA has set a goal to cut food waste in the United States by 50% by the year 2030. To learn more about how you can use the MEANS Database to benefit your own community and the communities of others, visit their website! [https://www.meansdatabase.com/](https://www.meansdatabase.com/)

**PFOS/PFOA**

ASTSWMO has organized a PFOS/PFOA workgroup in order to navigate recent news.

**Workgroup Members:**
- Bonnie Buthker (OH): bonnie.buthker@epa.ohio.gov
- Chuck Schwer (VT): Chuck.Schwer@vermont.gov
- Ken Kloo (NJ): Ken.Kloo@dep.nj.gov
- Tammie Hynum (AR): HYNUM@adeq.state.ar.us
- Monica Sheets (CO): monica.sheets@state.co.us
- Jennifer Roberts (AK): jennifer.roberts@alaska.gov

If you require more information regarding this topic, please email a Workgroup member, Dania Rodriguez (daniar@astswmo.org), or Charles Reyes (charlesr@astswmo.org).

**What is going on in your State and Territory?**

ASTSWMO wants to hear from you! Do you have programs that have had a recent success or milestone? Share it with us! ASTSWMO is committed to continuing to be a resource for our membership. So if you've done something, say something! ASTSWMO will share this information on our social media pages and newsletter! If you have news, please submit to Molly Lowney at mollyl@astswmo.org.
Question: How did you become involved in the foster care system?

My husband and I married in our mid to late thirties, and discovered that we were having trouble conceiving. In inquiring about options to have children, we gradually learned about foster care and adoption through our county agency. We took the thirty-hour training that most foster agencies require and became certified as a foster home in spring 2012.

Question: How long after you became a foster parent did you know that you wanted to adopt?

We went into the fostering program with a view of adoption if the child or children were a good fit with us and our neighborhood, school, extended family, etc. – and of course if the children wanted to be with us. Two fellows stayed with us for a whole year who we could not adopt due to legal and logistical barriers in the system. We'd come to be close with them, and fortunately they live not far away and we have been able to have them visit fairly often. Sometime after they had to leave us, we were asked to foster the group of four who are now ours. We seemed also to be a great fit both ways, but it was a big decision for my husband and I to take on all four (the State has a strong policy of keeping sibling groups together both in foster care and when placed for adoption).

Question: What is your favorite family activity?

There are many activities we do together: board games, singing along with the radio in the car, us girls doing hair and nails, cooking, and baking. In the summer we can visit the State park right next to our home, and swim at the little beach by the lake. My husband has begun introducing the boys to deer and turkey hunting and has shown the girls how to shoot, too. We have the fellows in Boy Scouts and the youngest has recently joined a Girl Scout troop. The three oldest go with me to youth group and choir at church.

Question: What advice would you have for another couple looking to potentially foster?

Be ready for a lot of training, background checks, inspection of your house, soul-searching, assessing finances, and discussion with your extended family about whether they support your fostering. There are usually several levels of commitment – it’s not all or nothing. If you are not ready to have children live with you all the time, you could still help by offering respite care for other full-time fostering families, or you could mentor kids through Big Brothers/Big Sisters or similar program. Consider opening your home to displaced older children and groups of siblings since these groups have probably been in the system a long time, and desperately need permanent families.

Question: Do we have any future environmentalist in the making?

I have done all I can do to get the kids to turn out lights when they leave their rooms! The children do care about issues and volunteer, especially my oldest, but not so much in the realm of recycling or other environmental issues. My youngest may be starting to get bit by the bug, though. She was lecturing me the other night on leaving my toothbrush plugged in after it was fully charged!
**ASTSWMO Gives Back**

**Mid-Year Meeting Donation Supports the At Risk Women of Pittsburgh**

The 2016 Mid-Year Meeting’s donation recipient was Sister Friend, an organization in Pittsburgh promoting feminine health. We raised a grand total of $1,150.00 for this amazing organization! ASTSWMO would like to thank meeting attendees for their generosity!

![Sister Friend Twitter](#)

@drodexec @ASTSWMO Thank You for your commitment to service! This is awesome!

*Above: Thank you tweet from Sister Friend!*

**ASTSWMO Reminders**

**Alumni**

Are you close to retirement? Do you know retired State managers who used to be active in ASTSWMO? ASTSWMO staff would like the personal contact information for retired or soon-to-retire waste managers. Staff continues to work on a plan to create a mentoring network for young professionals who work in RCRA C and D, Tanks, CERCLA, Brownfields, and Federal Facilities.

Send your contact information to Dania Rodriguez: 202-640-1061 or daniar@astswmo.org.

**Employment Opportunities**

Click [here](#) to check out opportunities in the field of environmental protection.

**Members in Action**

Are you interested in volunteering on an ASTSWMO Task Force or Focus Group? Fill out the [New Member Interest Form](#) and email it to one of our Staff!

The 2016 Members in Action Rotation has created many new openings. Check out the Subcommittee Rosters!

**Recent Publications**

**Superfund State Contracts:** A reference for States and Territories on how to get the most out of your Superfund State Contract.

**The Clean Water Act and Sediment Remediation:** Using the data quality objectives process to help assure that remediated sediment sites are not re-contaminated.

**ASTSWMO Website**

ASTSWMO has launched our new website and continues to update with great resources at [astswmo.org](http://astswmo.org).

**ASTSWMO Executive Committee**

ASTSWMO is now accepting candidates who are interested in running for Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. Please contact ASTSWMO Past-President Mike Forbeck (mforbeck@pa.gov) for more info!

ASTSWMO

Have questions or comments about ASTSWMO’s newsletter? Email Molly Lowney: mollyl@astswmo.org