



NATIONAL WATER ALLIANCE

Senator Dennis DeConcini, Chairman (D-Ariz.) • Senator Dave Durenberger, Co-Chairman (R-Minn.)

Leadership of the National Water Alliance

The six founding members of the Executive Committee of the NATIONAL WATER ALLIANCE form the nucleus of what will become a 30-member Board of Directors. Others will be added from time to time, representing all aspects of America's water world, public and private sectors, corporate and nonprofit interests, geographic and partisan concerns.



Representative Robert Roe
(D-N.J.)

"Very few Americans have yet come to realize the intricacies and magnitude of the water resource problems that confront us today. The very future of America depends on a continued, adequate supply of clean, usable water that will be available when we need it and where we need it."



Representative Thomas Foley
(D-WA)

"We are all in the water business. Not only is water essential to each of us in our daily lives; it is crucial to our national life—it is the life's blood of agriculture and indispensable to industry, energy and transportation. It is the most heavily used of all of our natural resources."



Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt
(R-AK)

"Water is a vital and precious natural resource that must be managed in the wisest possible manner. The National Water Alliance can assist in advancing this objective through its symposiums and public information and education dissemination activities."

SOLVING OUR WATER CRISIS

(Text of a speech before the Western Regional Conference on December 17, 1983)
By Senator Dennis DeConcini, Chairman
National Water Alliance

Water to America is like blood to the human body. Without it, we cannot grow or even survive. And we are quickly reaching the point of crisis.

Unless we begin an orderly process of conceptualizing the water problem and developing adequate policy solutions, we may find all America — from the deserts of Arizona to the lakes of New York — in a real quandary.

Our potential water resource crisis threatens to make the Arab Oil Embargo look like child's play. But this crisis is building from within, not without. There is no enemy, no cartel, no OPEC. The coming crisis is not a scarcity of water, but of useful and useable water.

A decade ago, something we took for granted, oil, was suddenly denied, and we were shocked — for a while almost paralyzed. But we managed. We found ways to conserve. We walked more, we began the search for alternative energy, we turned the thermostat down.

We now look back with the notion that we had a problem, but we somehow fixed it. I fear we are bringing that same attitude to water resources problems. It's too easy to say, "Sure, we have problems, but we'll fix them."

Let me tell you, as someone who sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee, the "fixes" are very expensive, and the money simply isn't there to do everything we want to do. In fact, many problems can be solved without money, but in any case we are going to have to work together as a country.

In Congress, the disagreements on water have not been partisan—they have been regional disputes. We are building fences and fighting each other for scarce resources: water, money, and knowledge. The politics of government extend the uncertainties of the electoral process to public law and certainly to public policy.

We need to get outside the structure of the Federal government to establish consistent water policy alternatives, and I have found that many of my colleagues agree with me. We have started a policy forum that we hope can knock down some fences and offer real life alternatives to conflicts we will continue to be faced with nationally.

This new organization is the NATIONAL WATER ALLIANCE, and I have been joined by Senator Durenberger of Minnesota, Senator Dole of Kansas, Congressman Tom Foley of Washington, Congressman Bob Roe of New Jersey, and Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt of Arkansas.

We come from different political parties, different regions of the country, different committees in the Congress and different political viewpoints, but we all agree that all of this country's problems cannot be solved in Washington alone.

For example, we could move forward a lot faster with the settlement of Indian Water Rights, if we had a better data base, if we had reliable information on all water supplies and resources. That was the first problem we faced with both the Ak Chin settlement and Papago settlement.

And we need to study not only water, but the institutional barriers that prevent us from using and reusing the resource in the most cost-effective and beneficial ways. The important, and difficult, part is doing this without interfering with basic rights, and with consideration of our social and political values.

I offered an amendment to the Supplemental Appropriations Bill to add \$600,000 to initiate a study to actually plan a National Center for Water Research and a National Clearinghouse for Information related to conservation and other water management practices.

The amendment was supported by all the members of the WATER ALLIANCE, with a great deal of help and advice from Senator Jake Garn of Utah, who is the Subcommittee Chairman.

The study is being funded through the Council on Environmental Quality in the Executive Office and has been supported by the Administration.

This is not a new idea, and the WATER ALLIANCE is not the first to make these recommendations. There were similar proposals in the 1961 Kerr Commission report and in the 1973 National Water Commission Report. Also, the General Accounting Office and the Office of Technology Assessment have just recently made these same recommendations.

This is more than just another study. We will be actively defining these facilities, setting parameters, determining needs and finding requirements. We want to find out from you and others throughout the country what information you need and how it can be made available. We plan to have solid information available in the nature of a report that will be helpful to congressional decision making by next September.

But even more important, we believe this process is a very significant first step in developing national priorities and having the information base to present workable alternatives. It is also crucial to develop accurate information through a national clearinghouse, if we are ever going to have the effective public information and education programs necessary to develop and implement water policies.

I encourage you as an organization, and as individual companies, to join the WATER ALLIANCE and put yourselves in the driver's seat in steering this country towards a reliable set of policies that won't change with every political wind. The problem is too serious and the consequences too severe to simply sit back and let somebody else do it. Thank you.



Senator Dennis DeConcini
Chairman
(D-AZ)

"Reacting on a crisis by crisis basis simply isn't good enough. The National Water Alliance gives us all—the businessman, the scientist, the public official, the consumer, a chance to act. The problems are indeed serious, but this nation is rich in expertise, knowledge, and imagination. The alliance will provide the bipartisan leadership and direction."



Senator Dave Durenberger
Co-Chairman
(R-MN)

"It seems to me that few people are interested in environmental matters until there is an irreversible crisis at hand. In light of current trends, it won't be long before a lot of folks are concerned about our water resources and water quality. Our water resources are finite and we cannot continue to pump pollutants into our supply. I am proud to be part of the National Water Alliance and I am committed to the establishment of an effective national water policy."



Senator Robert Dole
(R-KS)

"Water resource experts from across the country warn of the inevitability of a serious water crisis. Rather than wait until the crisis is upon us, the time is now for a National Water Alliance to focus attention on water problems and assist in the development of a sound national policy."

What is the National Water Alliance?

ORGANIZATION

The NATIONAL WATER ALLIANCE was organized by six Members of Congress who have recognized the critical need to develop a *national water policy* through a bipartisan coalition of leaders in the public, private, and academic sectors. The ALLIANCE is a forum for debate and research on water problems and provides a clearinghouse for the dissemination of studies, research programs and conference proceedings.

The founding members comprise the *Executive Committee* of the Board of Directors:

Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), *Chairman*
Senator Dave Durenberger (R-MN), *Co-Chairman*
Senator Robert Dole (R-KS)
Representative Robert Roe (D-NJ)
Representative Thomas S. Foley (D-WA)
Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt (R-AK)

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Assisting in the founding of the ALLIANCE and serving as members of the Executive Advisory Committee are Senator James Abdnor (R-SD); Representative Silvio O. Conte (R-MA); Representative Edwin B. Forsythe (R-NJ); Senator John Heinz (R-PA); Senator J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA); Representative Walter B. Jones (D-NC); Representative

Arlan I. Stangeland (R-MN); Representative Morris K. Udall (D-AZ); Representative Jamie L. Whitten (D-MS); and Representative James C. Wright Jr. (D-TX).

ORGANIZATION DETAILS

The NATIONAL WATER ALLIANCE is incorporated in the District of Columbia as a nonprofit and bi-partisan educational institution and has been granted a tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service under Paragraph 501(c)(3). The Board of Directors will contain up to 30 members; the six founding board members—all Members of the Congress—comprise the Executive Committee. Directors will be selected from the medical and science community, leaders of commerce and industry, academia, legislators, the legal profession, the public sector and from government. An Executive Advisory Committee of Members of Congress (listed above) is also active. Advisory groups in project areas such as Water Management, Public Affairs, Environmental Impacts, Associations Research and Water Studies, for example, will advise the Board of Directors and Executive Committee members.

More than half of the board will come from the private sector, and a nationwide drive has started to enlist corporate membership, as well as membership by academic and science institutions, labor unions, business and trade asso-

ciations, water-concerned organizations and public interest groups.

MEMBERSHIP

Individual Membership: Annual dues \$10 or more.

Academic & Nonprofit Group: Annual dues \$200 or more.

Trade & Business Association: Annual dues \$500 or more.

Corporate Membership: Annual dues \$1,000 or more.

Sustaining Membership: Annual dues \$5,000 or more.

Major Donor: Annual dues \$10,000 or more.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Executive Committee has identified five distinct roles for the NATIONAL WATER ALLIANCE:

- Develop a practical, purposeful and dynamic *national water policy*.
- Establish a *clearinghouse* to disseminate to all publics useful and authoritative water information and data.
- Establish the framework for a multi-disciplinary *water research program*.
- Organize and carry forward *water symposiums and conferences*.
- Become a *third party convener* in regional or national water disputes to resolve such problems through voluntary negotiations and agreements; seek mediation—not litigation.

- Create a National Water Issues Program of *public information and education*, and use all media and press, publications, films, audiovisual, speakers bureau and other communications to the public and the diverse groups impacted by water.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

A national series of Water Symposiums started in Philadelphia on September 30, 1983, with the Academy of Natural Sciences co-hosting the two-day meeting with the NATIONAL WATER ALLIANCE. The next symposium is scheduled at LaJolla, California on March 23, 1984. Meetings and conferences are in the planning stage with co-sponsoring organizations and are being scheduled in Minneapolis, New Orleans, and New York, for example. The NATIONAL WATER ALLIANCE plans to hold a National Symposium in Washington, D.C. in April, 1985.

STAFF MEMBERS

Executive Director: James J. Magner
Secretary & Legal Counsel: Joan M. Kovalic
Director of Communications: Margo Warren
Consultants: David K. Martin, J.J. Wuerthner Jr.

Washington, D.C. 20003

50 E Street, S.E.
NATIONAL WATER ALLIANCE



Solving Our Water Crisis

Reprint of a speech by Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.)
before the Western Regional Council December 1983