

MAWRC Monthly

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(from the EPA)- New EPA Administrator Assumes Post

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt was confirmed and sworn in as the 14th administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on February 17.

Administrator Pruitt believes promoting and protecting a strong and healthy environment is one of the lifeblood priorities of the government, and EPA is a vital part of that mission.

Pruitt became a national leader through a career of advocating to keep power in the hands of hardworking Americans. He has a proven record of working with industry, farmers, ranchers, landowners, small business owners and others to protect our natural resources.

As a dedicated civil servant, Pruitt created policies that serve the people. He strongly believes environmental law, policy, and progress are all based on cooperation among the states, cooperation between the states and EPA, and cooperation between regulators and the public.

As Administrator, Mr. Pruitt will lead EPA in a way that our future generations inherit a better and healthier environment while advancing America's economic interests. He is committed to working with the thousands of dedicated public servants at EPA who have devoted their careers to helping realize this shared vision, while faithfully administering environmental laws.

Most recently, Administrator Pruitt served as the Attorney General for Oklahoma. He worked with his Democratic counterpart in Arkansas to reach agreement to study the water quality of the Illinois River that crosses between the two states and has been enjoyed by generations of Oklahomans and Arkansans. The Statement of Joint Principles provided for a best science study using EPA-approved methods, with both states agreeing, for the first time, to be bound by the outcome.

As Attorney General for Oklahoma, he also led the State's legal challenges against property rights intrusion while protecting Oklahoma's natural resources and environment.

Administrator Pruitt is recognized as a national leader in the cause to restore the proper balance between the States and federal government, and established common sense regulations that are fair and provide relief where needed. Before being elected attorney general, he served eight years in the Oklahoma State Senate where he was a leading voice for fiscal responsibility.

After earning his Bachelor's Degree from Georgetown College and graduating from the University of Tulsa law school, Pruitt went into private legal practice, specializing in Constitutional Law.

From the EPA

Precision Ag Highlights Nutrient Management Conferences

Nearly 400 attended the two nutrient management conferences hosted by the MAWRC, the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in February. Dr. Raj Khosla of Colorado State University provided a captivating look at the future of precision ag technologies ranging from the most basic to NASA-level technology at the Nutrient Management Conference held February 7 in St. Cloud.

The conference also allowed an opportunity to recognize Dr. George Rehm for his work in helping develop the Discovery Farms Program in Minnesota during the past 8 years. Dr. Rehm has also been the primary organizer of the Nutrient Management Conference. We wish him the very best in his retirement.

Attendees at the Nitrogen Management Conference, held February 16 in Mankato, also heard about recent developments in the Des Moines Waterworks Lawsuit presented by Dean Lemke of the Iowa Agribusiness Association.

Our thanks to our primary sponsor, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and all other sponsors for helping make these events possible.

PDF versions of the PowerPoint presentations at both conferences are available at <http://mawrc.org/events/> and planning is underway for 2018!

President Trump Executive Order Allows Second Look at WOTUS Rule

President Trump today (February 28) signed an Executive Order directing the EPA and Corps of Engineers to “review and reconsider” the Waters of the US Rule proposed by the agencies in 2015.

The subject of much debate in recent years, the WOTUS rule as proposed by the Obama administration faced numerous legislative and judicial challenges. The Trump Executive Order has been anticipated for several weeks as fulfillment of a campaign promise to roll back regulatory overreaches.

The “review and reconsider” process is expected to take years and will now begin under the direction of new EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.

The MAWRC is a non-profit research and education corporation comprised of 24 agricultural organizations working together to address water issues. For more information, go to www.mawrc.org.

