



# NORTHWEST BIOSOLIDS

Unearthing Sustainable Solutions

From the Board President's Desk...

## A REVIEW AND PREVIEW OF THE YEAR...

Greetings from your Board President of Northwest Biosolids! After a long-anticipated wait for another holiday season, it seems to have passed too quickly and somewhat quietly. Even if these special times don't exceed our expectations, we always enter a new year with hopes and promise for a better future.

It is these same thoughts we have for our members at NWB. The past year brought some great high points for us to look back upon. We brought ourselves together for a return (in-person!) to Biofest in Semiahmoo. Our membership grew throughout the year as utilities looked for expertise to meet the challenges of our industry. We expanded our research efforts to be able to have the data and science needed to make critical decisions involved with our role as stewards of the environment. We held several different educational webinars that brought in attendees from all over the region and even outside our region.

We also continued to deal with the many-sided issues related to PFAS, micro-plastics, and emerging contaminants. Our industry leaders are having to be involved more than ever in government and public affairs, community outreach, and defenders of our technology. After the stellar efforts we displayed as essential workers during COVID, the public is more aware of our activities and expects the same expertise in dealing with these new health and environmental concerns.

The coming year looks to be as busy as the one we are leaving. Many states are beginning to take legislative and regulatory action in the fields of wastewater quality and residuals management. The term "biosolids" is almost a daily news topic for some, and we can't ignore the implications for our industry. Our NWB organization was built on the conviction that biosolids are safe and provide overwhelming benefits for agriculture and resource recovery activities. Your Board is committed to this effort and plans to increase research and outreach in these endeavors. Our goal is to provide you with the tools you will need to keep your facilities and operations at the forefront of protecting the environment and the public you serve.

As a group, we want to remember two of our Board members who retired this last year. Steve Thompson (CWS-Oregon) and Dan Thompson (Tacoma-Washington) provided a combined 50+ years of service to NWB. We give them our "thanks" and look forward to having them share their post-work experiences at future events.

Your Board also "thanks you" for your continued support and we look forward to our next Biofest at Lake Chelan in September 2023!

Happy New Year!

Jim Dunbar

*Northwest Biosolids President*