



**To:** Board of Directors (Executive Committee --Action)

**From:** *for* General Manager  
General Counsel

*Edward J. Meas III*  
*W. J. [unclear]*

**Subject:** Organizational Membership

**RECOMMENDATION**

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That the Board approve District membership in the National Wetlands Coalition (NWC) in the amount of \$10,000 for 1997.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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Your Board has requested to act on institutional memberships when (1) they are new, or 2) when a dues increase exceeds 10 percent of the previous year's dues. National Wetlands Coalition (NWC) is an incorporated, non-profit group that is funded solely by the financial contributions of its members. NWC was founded in September 1989 with a sole mission of participating in the national debates over Federal wetlands regulatory policy, which is based on Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act. NWC states that such participation is through its advocacy of changes to the regulatory program that will focus Federal regulatory attention on the most valuable wetlands, provide incentives for wetlands conservation on private property, streamline the regulatory system and insure that the program both conserves wetlands and allows continued economic activities. NWC has access to a constituency not historically addressed by Metropolitan and it is in Metropolitan's best interest to become a member of this organization.

**DETAILED REPORT**

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The National Wetlands Coalition (NWC) was founded in September 1989 as an incorporated, non-profit group that is funded solely by the financial contribution of its members, with the sole stated mission of participating in the national debate over Federal wetlands regulatory policy which is based on Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of

1972 (Clean Water Act). The NWC states that its participation is through advocating changes to the Federal wetlands regulatory policy that will focus Federal regulatory attention on the most valuable wetlands, provide incentives for wetlands conservation on private property, streamline the regulatory system and insure that the program both conserves wetlands and allows continued economic activities. The NWC is staffed and managed through a representational agreement with Van Ness Feldman, a Washington, D. C. law firm that specializes in environmental and natural resources issues and legislative and regulatory representation. Robert Szabo, of Van Ness Feldman, is Executive Director and legal counsel for the NWC. A listing of the Board of Directors and member organizations of NWC is attached.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ratcheting back of its nationwide permit (NWP) regulatory program and its phasing out NWP 26 could force lengthy individual permitting and associated public review for the Inland Feeder. The NWC supports legislative authority for a nationwide permit program. Trade journals indicate that Senators Bond (MO) and Breaux (LA) will request Senator Chafee (RI), Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, to take up wetlands reform this year partially on the basis of the NWC's lobbying. The NWC was very active in the 103rd and 104th Congresses, and many of its principles appeared in proposed wetlands legislation in those years. The NWC has crafted a more moderate program in the 105th Congress in order to achieve a consensus-based approach to wetlands reform. Staff believes the NWC would be an effective forum for Metropolitan to advocate wetlands regulatory exemptions. If your Board authorizes Metropolitan membership in the NWC and, in the unlikely event that staff subsequently determines that the NWC has moved back to a less moderate position on wetlands reform, staff will recommend that your Board withdraw from membership in the NWC.

The NWC has adopted a budget of \$500,000 for its work in 1997. The actual funding received by NWC from its members in 1996 was approximately \$375,000. The NWC currently is working with a bipartisan group of Members of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives to develop reform legislation for the 105th Congress. NWC believes that reform legislation should be drafted as a series of amendments to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, rather than as a "re-legislation of the Section 404 program. This style of drafting should shorten the legislation significantly and clarify the intent of the legislation to the members of Congress and their staff, as well as the media and the public at large.

NF:ey

#4179

**THE NATIONAL WETLANDS COALITION**  
***1997 Board of Directors***



**H. Leighton Steward**  
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The Louisiana Land & Exploration Company

**Dean Kleckner**  
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**Darrel Seibert**  
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Secretary/Treasurer  
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Bureau Federation

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Municipality of  
Anchorage

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National Association  
of Home Builders

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Membership Chairman  
Oglethorpe Power  
Corporation

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Exploration Company

**L. Ronald Forman**  
The Audubon  
Institute, Inc.

**R. Paxton Badham, Jr.**  
Martin Marietta  
Aggregates

# The National Wetlands Coalition

## Membership

February 5, 1997

- Adam's Rib Recreational Area**  
*Eagle, Colorado*
- Allegheny Power System, Inc.**  
*New York, New York*
- American Consulting Engineers**  
*Washington, D.C.*
- American Farm Bureau Federation**  
*Washington, D.C.*
- American Petroleum Institute**  
*Washington, D.C.*
- American Road & Transportation Builders Association**  
*Washington, D.C.*
- American Sugar Cane League of the U.S.A., Inc.**  
*Thibodaux, LA*
- ARCO Alaska**  
*Anchorage, Alaska*
- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation**  
*Barrow, Alaska*
- Audubon Institute**  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*
- Berry Brothers General Contractors, Inc.**  
*Berwick, Louisiana*
- Chevron U.S.A., Inc.**  
*San Francisco, California*
- China Clay Producers Association**  
*Atlanta, Georgia*
- Conoco, Inc.**  
*Lafayette, Louisiana*
- El Paso Energy**  
*Houston, Texas*
- Exxon Company, U.S.A.**  
*Houston, Texas*
- Fina Oil and Chemical Company**  
*Dallas, Texas*
- First Commerce Corporation**  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*
- Florida Wetlandsbank**  
*Pembroke Pines, Florida*
- Freeport-McMoRan Inc.**  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*
- Georgia Association of Realtors**  
*Atlanta, Georgia*
- Georgia-Pacific Corporation**  
*Atlanta, Georgia*
- Hospital & Building Equipment Corporation**  
*St. Louis, Missouri*
- Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce**  
*Houma, Louisiana*
- Hunt Oil Company**  
*Dallas, Texas*
- International Council of Shopping Centers**  
*Alexandria, Virginia*
- La Fourche Parish**  
*Thibodaux, Louisiana*
- Los Conchas Partnerships**  
*Slidell, Louisiana*
- The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company**  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*
- Louisiana Landowners Association, Inc.**  
*Franklin, Louisiana*
- Michael Zunich and Associates**  
*North Ridgeville, Ohio*
- Mobil Exploration and Producing, U.S., Inc.**  
*Houston, Texas*
- The Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District**  
*Morgan City, Louisiana*
- Municipality of Anchorage**  
*Anchorage, Alaska*
- Murphy Exploration and Production Company**  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*
- NANA Regional Corporation**  
*Kotzebue, Alaska*
- National Aggregates Association**  
*Silver Spring, Maryland*
- National Association of Home Builders**  
*Washington, D.C.*
- National Association of Industrial and Office Properties**  
*Herndon, Virginia*
- National Association of Realtors**  
*Washington, D.C.*
- National Cotton Council**  
*Memphis, Tennessee*
- National Mining Association**  
*Washington, D.C.*
- National Rural Electric Cooperative Association**  
*Washington, D.C.*
- National Stone Association**  
*Washington, D.C.*
- National Utility Contractors Association**  
*Arlington, Virginia*
- Natural Gas Supply Association**  
*Washington, D.C.*
- North Slope Borough**  
*Barrow, Alaska*
- Occidental Oil & Gas Corporation**  
*Tulsa, Oklahoma*
- Oglethorpe Power Corporation**  
*Tucker, Georgia*
- Richard A. Pais**  
*Mt. Airy, Maryland*
- Panhandle Eastern Corporation**  
*Houston, Texas*
- Parker Drilling Company**  
*Tulsa, Oklahoma*
- Pennsylvania Landowners Association**  
*Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*
- R. L. Field Greenhouse**  
*Georgetown, Delaware*
- Sealaska Corporation**  
*Juneau, Alaska*
- Shell Oil Company**  
*Houston, Texas*
- T. Baker Smith and Son, Inc.**  
*Houma, Louisiana*
- Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government**  
*Houma, Louisiana*
- Texaco U.S.A.**  
*Houston, Texas*
- Union Pacific Resources Company**  
*Ft. Worth, Texas*
- U.S. Silica**  
*Berkeley Springs, West Virginia*
- Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce**  
*Hampton, Virginia*
- Waldemar S. Nelson and Company, Inc.**  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*
- Walk, Haydel and Associates, Inc.**  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*