

Jerry L. Wager

My education consists of a BA in Geography (SUNY Binghamton) and a Masters in Community Planning (Un of Cincinnati). The four years in between those degrees included teaching Special Education in the US and serving in the Peace Corps (Guyana). The Peace Corps, more than anything else I have done in my life, affected my views of citizenship and public service; and altered my career path.

My work in environmental management began as an Urban Planner with the USEPA, shortly after it was formed in 1970. I served with the Office of Solid Waste Management (SWM); which allowed me to manage several demonstration grants across the country and Ohio's SWM state plan. When the office moved from Cincinnati to Washington as part of the USEPA's consolidation, I chose to accept a position with the Territory of Guam – which proved to be good decision.

Guam, as a US territory, was eligible for every federal environmental program; even though it's 221 square miles and 89,000 civilians hardly measured up to any state. As a result, I managed the water quality program, air pollution control, solid waste, environmental impact review, pesticide control, and a few other efforts. This familiarized me with an entire range of environmental programs, issues, planning and grant requirements. The overview and ability to see cross connections this provided, I consider to be my biggest strength today.

Because of family issues, I returned to the states in 1976, accepting the position as head of Ohio EPA's water quality planning program, which, at that time, focused on preparation of watershed plans as a requirement for Section 319 and 201 grants. This position enabled me to work with a range of state and federal agencies, NGOs and Ohio State University; it also increased my knowledge of issues I hadn't dealt with in Guam including mining, forestry, scenic rivers, etc.

After eight years I transferred to the Ohio Dept of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation where in 1989 I had overall responsibility for preparing Ohio's Nonpoint Source Management Plan, and thereafter its Coastal Zone Management Plan. I also managed the state's urban stormwater/erosion control program and the Agricultural Pollution Control Program. I chaired the Great Lakes Commission pollution control task force for 14 years, providing me a broader geographical and governmental perspective of the many competing demands on water quality and quantity.

Due more to budget cuts than my desires, I retired in 2004, and shortly thereafter my wife and I bought a small place in the mountains of Panama near the Costa Rican border, before returning to the states (actually Reno) in 2012.

In retirement, I have applied my experience to a number of activities. Before leaving Ohio, I was on the Board of the Ohio Environmental Council (at that time the largest environmental organization in the state). I was also a member of the Columbus Foundation's Conservation Committee which was responsible for evaluating and awarding grants for a variety of environmental projects in the state. In Panama, I helped to form a new rotary club, secured

grants for starting a potable water testing program, and wrote environmental articles for the region's Spanish-English newspaper.

Since we have been in Reno, my wife and I perform a lot of volunteer work including public television (KNPB), Reno Little Theater, Reno balloon races, KTMB's spring and fall clean ups, etc. I currently serve on Ward 1's NAB, and the Reno Parks & Recreation Commission. I have been a member of TMWA's Steering Advisory Committee since 2014. My participation with TMWA has familiarized me with water rights, TROA, capital improvement budgets, system financing and long range water planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply.