



CARIBBEAN WATER AND  
WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION

**Volume 1, Issue 1**

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# CWWA INFOSTRUCTURE



## DESTINATION CWWA CONFERENCE 2019

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### Message from the President

On behalf of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) Executive Council, I am extremely pleased of the tremendous work that the Association, led by our Public Relations Officer (PRO) Ms. Marissa Mc Millan, has undertaken to launch the rebranded CWWA newsletter. It is important as a regional body to keep all our stakeholders abreast of the current happenings in the

This newsletter will be issued on a quarterly basis and will consist mainly of the activities of our organization, new developments /advancements in the sectors, case studies and the work of our membership. As the premier Non-Profit organization for professional Engineers and Scientists within the water and waste sectors in the Caribbean, each publication of the newsletter will aim to provide focus on a specific area of interest, highlighting professionals, their work and experiences in similar or related areas.

We intend as an association to increase our circulation footprint with our rebranded newsletter and in so doing leverage our presence and potential revenue earnings to assist in advancing the work of CWWA. I therefore encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to submit articles for consideration and publication.

This newsletter should be viewed as a platform for knowledge sharing and the promotion and advancement of our membership. I implore you to get involved and as such encourage you to engage our PRO at [cwwapublicrelations@gmail.com](mailto:cwwapublicrelations@gmail.com).

It would be remised of me in closing not to mention our upcoming annual conference. I want to take this opportunity to encourage your support for CWWA's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition in St. Kitts from the 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> October 2019. I look forward to seeing you there.



Mark Barnett  
President





CWWA 28th Annual Conference and Exhibition Media Launch

## CWWA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2019

### Securing the Caribbean's Future: Financing the Water and Waste Sectors

Planning for the CWWA 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibition carded to be held at the St. Kitts Marriot Resort Hotel from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019, is progressing nicely. The Media Launch took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at the conference venue and was attended by a number of dignitaries inclusive of Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, representatives of the St. Kitts Information Services Division, Water and Waste Departments, corporate entities and the Media.

The Minister of Public Infrastructure, Post, Urban Development and

Transport the Honourable Ian Liburd, declared the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis is in full support of the Conference as he delivered his remarks at the Launch.

#### **CWWA is looking for a Media Intern!!!**

Are you a young, enthusiastic, social media savvy person with the talent for storytelling to broad audiences?

**CWWA Wants You!!**

For details, see the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1AdRQLLXsOUqJpcKwpRp-f5Bp3Y2b0nw>



*Have you secured your booth and/or reserved your room???*

For information on the upcoming conference be it reservations, the programme of activities, opportunities to be an event sponsor be sure see our conference page

<http://cwwa.net/conference/>

Signup for regular updates at <http://cwwa.net/conference/sign-up-for-conference-updates/>

#### OUR SPONSORS





CWWA Young Professionals Forum 2018

# REGIONAL STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

## *Tackling Climate Resilience Together!!!!*

Climate change is a reality that the Caribbean must grapple with in real time. It is a cross-cutting phenomena, which impacts upon the economy, livelihoods, social infrastructure and ultimately the water and sanitation sector. Variations in the hydrological cycle, sea level rise and increases in the intensity of extreme weather events significantly impact fresh water supplies and water infrastructures. The impacts of climate change will further exacerbate existing challenges in water sector governance, water resources management and service delivery in Caribbean territories.

The Regional Strategic Action Plan for Governance and Building Climate Resilience in the Water Sector (RSAP) is a response to these myriad challenges. The main objective of this approach is to identify the major issues confronting the sector and propose an action plan to address these challenges at the national and regional levels. This document is the product of regional data and information collection, review of the literature on the sector,

engagement of stakeholders and a series of discussions and meetings. This culminated with the endorsement of the RSAP at the 14th Higher Level Forum held within the CWWA's 27th Annual Conference and Exhibition held in October 2018 in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

The RSAP is strengthened by five pillars of action, specifically

- (i) water sector governance,
- (ii) climate-informed decision support,
- (iii) climate-resilient water resources management,
- (iv) climate-resilient water service provision, and
- (v) capacity building and public sensitization to build climate resilience.

The action plan utilizes a multi-stakeholder and multifaceted mechanism that includes government, public sector, private sector and civil society interventions while gender sensitivity and youth inclusion are bolstered.

The next step of the RSAP is to execute and operationalize the action plan

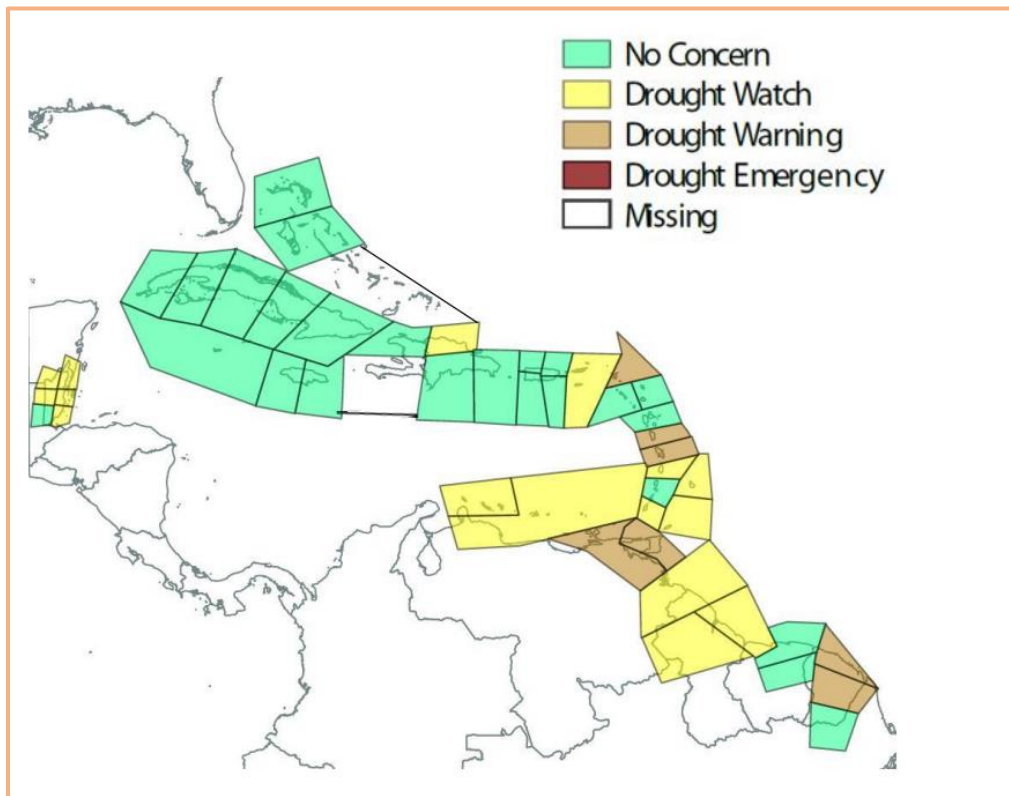
through a comprehensive implementation programme utilizing an integrated approach. This will take into account stakeholder and community engagements and it will not duplicate the work of any other stakeholder in the sector. It will include regional and national programmes and projects that seek to accomplish the mandates set out in the RSAP and that are measurable to illustrate progress.

The implementation and operationalize of the RSAP will be the centerpiece of the 15th Higher Level Forum to be held within the CWWA's 28th Annual Conference and Exhibition in October 2019 in St Kitts and Nevis. It will culminate with a Ministerial Water Summit.

Prior to this, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is scheduled to host a workshop to assist regional water and sewerage utilities in the formulation of an implementation plan for the RSAP to improve water sector governance; and provide for climate-informed decision making, climate-resilient water resources management, climate-resilient water service provision, and capacity building and public sensitization.

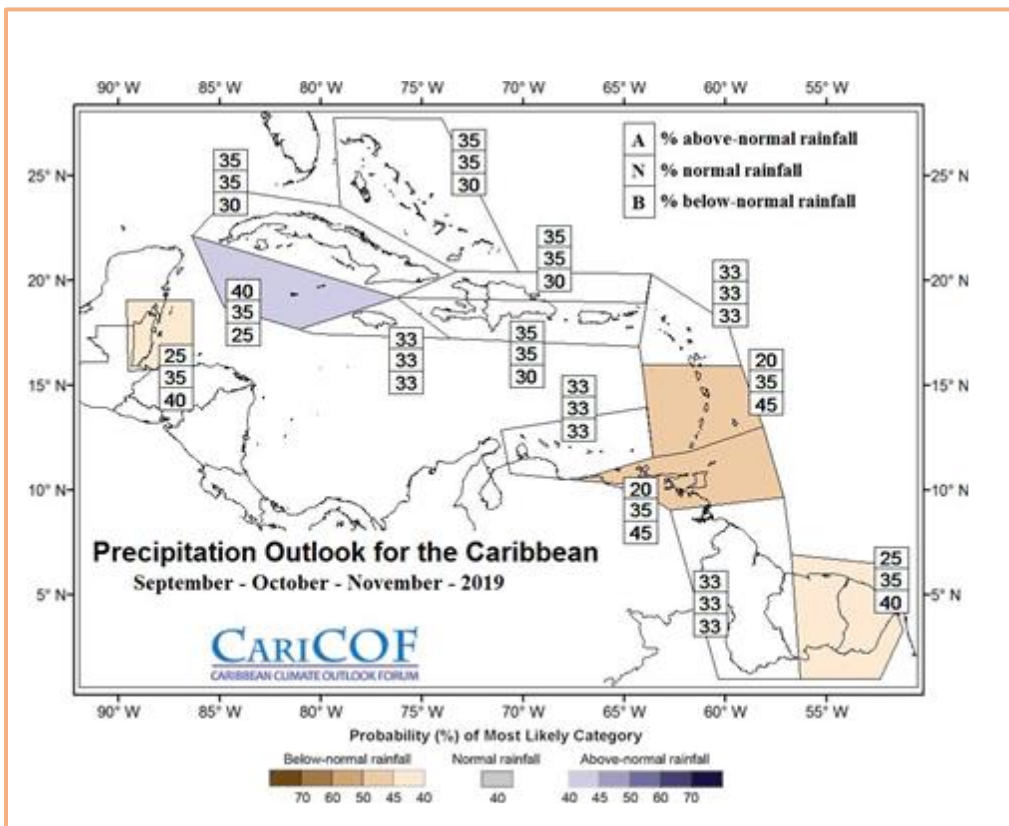


# Transitioning from the Dry to Wet Season!



*The Caribbean's Long Term Drought Alert Levels Projected to the end of the 2019 Wet Season*

Source: caricof@cimh.edu.bb



*The Precipitation Outlook for the Caribbean September to November 2019*

Source: caricof@cimh.edu.bb

The 2019 Dry season began with most Caribbean nations bracing for a severe dry season with less than average precipitation. This has had far-reaching impacts on available surface water quantities and placed additional stress on Water Utilities to manage ever-growing water demand. The Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) of Trinidad and Tobago is no different. In response to the Seasonal forecast and the desire to fulfil its mandate, WASA employed a multipronged approach to address the problem. This included an aggressive public sensitisation drive, water-use restrictions, and strategic supply management approached to reduce losses and sustainable available supplies.

The dry season ended with Anguilla recording its lowest rainfall totals to date. Climatological and meteorological experts have predicted that below average rainfall will extend into the rainy season. Caricof's present Precipitation Outlook expects below normal rainfall for the ABC islands, Belize and the Lesser Antilles. These findings are further supported by the Drought Outlook, which predicts that a number of these islands may be susceptible to experiencing drought like conditions. It is predicted that a number of them will be under a drought watch or drought warning by the end of November 2019. Based on this forecast the appropriate recommended action are to be undertaken.

The period of the Atlantic Hurricane season is synonymous with the Caribbean's rainy season. Seasonal forecasters attached to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Climate Prediction Center have projected that there is a 45% likelihood that an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season would be experienced. NOAA is expecting 10-17 named storms (winds of 39 mph or greater), of which 5-9 will become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or greater), including 2-4 major hurricanes (winds of 111 mph or greater).

This predication calls on us in the water and waste sectors to be ever vigilant and take the necessary precautions to minimise the potential impacts of hydroclimatic events.

# CWWA Launches New Website

The screenshot shows the CWWA website with a navigation bar at the top containing links for HOME, ABOUT US, MEMBERSHIP INFO, CONFERENCE, LIBRARY, NEWS & EVENTS, OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT, and MEMBER LOGIN. The main banner features a scenic view of St. Kitts and Nevis with the text: "SAVE THE DATE", "OCTOBER 14TH - 18TH 2019", "ST. KITTS & NEVIS", and "CWWA 2019 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION, MARRIOTT RESORT AND THE ROYAL BEACH CASINO, FRIGATE BAY, ST. KITTS & NEVIS". A sidebar on the left lists conference background information: Venue, Attendee Registration, Technical Presentations, Sponsor & Exhibitor Corner, Exhibit Floor Plan, Conference Events & Schedule, and Sign Up for Conference Updates. The main content area includes a welcome message from the Executive Council, a photo of a man in a suit, and details about the conference's focus on "Securing the Caribbean's Future: Financing the Water and Waste Sectors." It also mentions the 15th High Level Forum of Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Water and the 3rd High Level Forum of Ministers Responsible for Waste Management.

The membership has spoken and the CWWA Executive Council has responded. The CWWA has launched our new website on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019. This initiative was spearhead by our Public Relations Officer Ms. Marissa Mc Millan, supported by the Communications Sub-Committee.

The website is one of the suite of communication products that is geared towards engaging the membership and fostering greater connectivity and information sharing. Another product in this suite is the membership updates that are circulated to members by Secretary, Ms. Candice Santana.

A side from providing information about the CWWA, current activities/projects, sector news and upcoming events, this website has been designed to serve as a repository for water, wastewater and

solid waste information for the Caribbean region. It will host information on an array of professional and business opportunities within the sectors inclusive of invitations to tender, request for proposals and vacancies. This is supported by CWWA's extensive utilities and corporate network.

The website facilitates online payment, which makes paying your membership dues much easier.

The website also has a secure section, which can only be accessed by creating a member profile.

Water, wastewater and solid waste profiles have been generated for member countries. These profiles are geared toward providing country specific information that may be

beneficial to a range of stakeholders including:

- Researchers wishing to do work in the sector within the region
- Consultants/Companies wishing to enter a new market
- International organisations/programmes

These country profiles were developed by the respective CWWA National Sections and will be updated from time to time.

Members are encouraged to visit the website, create their profiles and benefit from this entire experience.

<http://cwwa.net/>

Should you have any questions, concerns, recommendations or would like to contribute to the website, please send an email to:

[cwwapublicrelations@gmail.com](mailto:cwwapublicrelations@gmail.com)



# Sherry Bell-Parker

## Water Quality Manager, Turks and Caicos Islands

Mrs. Sherry Sheree Bell-Parker is the National Chair of the Turks and Caicos Islands and is a Water Quality Manager at PROVO Water Company Ltd.

Sherry is originally from Bainbridge a small town in Georgia, USA and believes that spending her formative years amongst predominantly farmers and factory workers has taught her the importance of diligence and pride in hard work.

Sherry holds a BSc Biology and MSc Occupational Health and Safety and Environmental Management from the University of Colombia Southern.

Prior to relocating to the Turks and Caicos Islands, she worked as a Wastewater Operator (WWO) for the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, USA. She stated that the wastewater sector in the USA is mainly dominated by white older males; however, admits she is far from normal. She noted that as a WWO she worked third shift solo, operating a 12 MGD wastewater plant. It was during this time that her passion for the sector began apparent.

In 2007, she relocated to Turks and Caicos Islands and attained the position of Water Quality Assistant at the local water utility, Provo Water Company Ltd. After two years of diligent service, Sherry was promoted to Water Quality Manager.

As Water Quality Manager, some of her proudest achievements include:

- Successfully achieving and maintaining ISO 17025:2017 international accreditation for testing laboratories – a first for Provo Water and the Turks and Caicos Islands.
- Provo Water Company's Annual Drinking Water Week Celebration, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2020.

Sherry also participates in numerous public education and outreach initiatives.

In addition to managing the laboratory, Sherry also serves on the AWWA Water Quality Laboratory Committee and was recently certified as a Lead Auditor for ISO 17025:2017.

Sherry noted if she were not in the Water and Wastewater Sector she would have wanted to be a professor as she enjoys teaching and her sharing knowledge.

The mother of two has been a member of the CWWA since 2007. She noted that being a member afforded her the opportunity to meet and network with professionals throughout the Caribbean region and beyond. She cited that is critical, as regionally, the challenges are similar in nature.

Sherry attended the 2014 and 2016- 2018 conferences. Mrs. Bell Parker identified the technical session and the cultural night as the highlight of the conference; stating that she enjoys listening to the presentation as there is always something she can apply to her job. She also loves to see the pride with which the host country displays their culture.

She noted that the Association is changing. She noticed a number of younger people getting involved and holding key positions, which means the association, is evolving through succession. This results in fresh ideas and strategies resulting in a better and brighter future for the CWWA



Sherry at Drinking Water Week 2019



### Sherry's Most Memorable Career Experience

My most memorable career moment was when I was a Wastewater Operator. One night around 7pm I was doing my scheduled rounds of the plant and upon nearing the lift station – a three-story building, I heard a suspicious sound. As I crossed the ramp, approached the door and looked straight down into the basement, I noticed that one of the lift station pumps had cracked and was flooding the basement with sewage. The lift station is a most critical structure at a wastewater plant. It houses the lift pumps that are responsible for bringing sewage into the plant and lifting it to the plant for treatment. A malfunction of these pumps can cause sewage to massively backup in homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, etc. Knowing this, I radioed my boss, who radioed the maintenance crew. What I didn't consider at the time but my boss did, was that the sewage in the basement could rise high enough to submerge all the lift pumps, causing them to automatically shut-off. I raced back to the front office hoping to catch and inform the shift worker whom I was relieving, of the situation. We both suited up and hurried back down to the lift station and made our way to the basement. By that time, the sewage was waist deep.

Story Continues on page 7

# Sponsor/ Exhibitor Profiles

## Diehl Metering

supports water and energy suppliers by helping them make their processes simpler, more efficient and more cost-effective – for everything from

metering through to energy services. Diehl Metering provides smart metering solutions to utilities companies through



*DIEHL Metering at CWWA Conference and Exhibition 2017*

the intelligent networking of various metering devices into larger data platforms. These solutions offer transparency for utilities and municipalities, and enable considerably increased efficiency in

reading, billing and service processes. Diehl Metering's customers are also able to benefit from real-time effects such as early recognition of leaks and the optimisation of distribution networks through intelligent information regarding prompt adjustment of the offer

to suit actual needs. Thanks to more than 20 years of experience with the company's own radio technology, utilities are already perfectly equipped for smart metering as an important component of smart city concepts.



*Tree Planting for Drinking Water Week 2019*

## Provo Water Company Ltd.

is a privately owned water utility company and the largest provider of potable water in the Turks & Caicos Islands. Our customer base is in Provincials (Provo), the economic epicenter of the archipelago. We currently supply approximately 5,000 metered properties, serving approx. 30,000 residential customers and 300,000 tourists who visit annually using our Automated Metering Infrastructure System.

Provo Water Company continues to

provide high quality water through water analysis using our on-site ISO/IEC 17025:2017 international accredited testing laboratory.

As tourism and hotel/condo development continues to increase, investment in water distribution and new production facilities has ensured that the long-term water requirements of the island have been met, with further plans for expansion as and when required.

<http://www.provowater.com>



## Sherry's Experience Continued

My boss, who was on his way, radioed ahead to stress that we needed to urgently close the valve on the cracked pump before the auto-shutdown fail-safe killed the entire lift station. I proceeded to wade through the rising sewage. The other staffer refused to join me. Once I reached the leaking pump and proceeded to shut it down, I noticed, much to my alarm, that the shut-off wheel was not attached but submerged on the floor! My boss went on to conclude that if I had not done my rounds and braved self-baptism that night, the outcome would have been completely different!



*PROVO in the Community- Restoration of Kareem Walkin Basketball court May 2018*



# CWWA in The Community



*Central Water & Sewerage Authority, St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Scholarships and Bursaries Handing Over Ceremony*

## *Mainstreaming The Water Agenda One Initiative At A Time!!!!*

The CWWATT National Section Participated In The Carifesta XIV's Green Scene Change Convo Entitled "Securing The Caribbean's Future: One Water Drop At A Time" On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

The CWWA In conjunction with Ms. Khadija Stewart edified the audience on water management, water scarcity, climate change, the youth and what that means for T&T.



*CWWA participates in Carifesta XIV*

## *Scholarships and Bursaries* *CWSA Invests in Their Team Members' Children!!!!*

The Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) of St Vincent and the Grenadines has once again acknowledged the efforts of children of its employees who successfully wrote the Caribbean Primary Exit Assessment (CPEA). On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2019, a ceremony was held where the efforts of fourteen (14) children were rewarded as they received scholarships and bursaries.

*Xania Archibald, Brandon George, Alando Bobb, Clarenca Caine, Ronique Davis, Le-Anja O'Garro, six of the fourteen students received seven-year scholarships to complete their secondary and college level education, while Keason Byneo, Kahrice Jones, Kelbert Collins, Kalyssa Dyer, Xiomara Henson, Kara Roberts, Domonic Barnwell and Angelina Francis all received one off bursaries.*

While this initiative is a great one for students as it assures their participation in the educational process at those levels, it is also part of the CWSA strategic plan to support staff members and their families. At the inception of this award in 2000 only two scholarships were given, however this year a record 6 scholarships and 8 bursaries were awarded.

Present to deliver the awards were Yvette Daniel Human Resource Manager (HRM), Joan Ryan Public Relations and Marketing Manager (PRMM), along with Union representative and staff member Tyrone Olliver, Public Relations Assistant Symantha George and Public Relations Clerk Rae-Anne Mc Dowall. The handing over ceremony was also attended by the parents of the students.

**GOOD JOB CWSA!!!!!!**



## MEMBER PROFILE:

# Cyprian Gibson

## Assistant General Manager, Bahamas Water and Sewerage Corporation

*He smiles fondly when he recalls an article featured in the local newspaper entitled, “Fresh Water is Here” that highlights when he brought water to San Salvador, in a local community in the Family Islands of the Bahamas, and to this day, recounts this as one of his most fulfilling career moments.*



For the past 25 years, Cyprian Gibson has been making a splash in the world of water. He is a Civil/Environmental Engineer, and holds a B.Sc., and a B.Eng (Civil), from Acadia University and the Technical University of Nova Scotia (Dalhousie) Canada, and a MBA (Hons.) from Nova Southeastern University in Florida. He is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers (London), and a Chartered Environmentalist, from the Society for the Environment.

Professionally, Cyprian serves as the Assistant General Manager with responsibility for the Family Islands, for the Bahamas Water and Sewerage Corporation (WSC). He is tasked with supervision of WSC's operations and capital projects on the Family Islands, which involves some 50 water supply and distribution systems (25 reverse osmosis plants, and 25 water supply reserves), and commercial centers on some 25 islands and cays. His scope covers In-House, as well as Public (Central Govt.) and Private Developments. He has also been involved in the preparation (and support) of a \$41 Mn. Multi-Island project funded by the CDB. Previously he was pivotal in the procurement of the \$81 Mn. Loan from the IDB, \$20 Mn. of In-House FI Expansion Projects funded by

Central Government, and a \$21Mn. IDB funded Expansion Project on the Family Islands.

Nationally, Mr. Gibson has also previously served on several industry-related, inter-agency Committees in the Bahamas, such as the Private Roads and Subdivisions Coordinating Committee, the Public Utilities Coordination Committee, the Hotels Encouragement Act Advisory Committee, The National Emergency Management Committee, the Science and Technology Committee of the BEST Commission (Bahamas Environmental Science and Technology Commission): as a Director of the Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD), and the Airport Authority (which undertook a \$400 Mn. Airport Expansion). He also served as President of the Bahamas Society of Engineers as well as a founding member and advocate for the Professional Engineer's Board of the Bahamas.

He smiles fondly when he recalls an article featured in the local newspaper entitled, “Fresh Water is Here” that highlights when he brought water to San Salvador, in a local community in the Family Islands of the Bahamas, and to this day, recounts this as one of his most fulfilling career moments.

Cyprian is a longstanding member of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) and has held several Executive positions, including President. He has served as the representative for the Caribbean Water Operator Partnership, and as a Past President on the CWWA Finance and Business Enhancement Committee.

He is a founding member of the Bahamas Chapter, and has served as Conference chair on more than one occasion when the conference was held in Nassau. He currently serves as a Member of the Steering Committee for the Global Water Operators Partnership for the Caribbean. His love for the Association is evident when he recalls how far CWWA has come, and is proud of the role he has played in its expansion from an association with a national focus into a regional association operating in a global environment. His vision for the CWWA is that it continues to stretch toward global sustainability, and he is more than willing to assist in any capacity that he can.



## The Many Faces of CWWA

### CWWA Warmly Welcomes New Members:

- **Louise A. Alfred**  
Dominica Water and Sewerage Company Limited (DOWASCO)
- **Argent Tillet**  
Belize Water Services Ltd.
- **Benson Mathews**  
Belize Water Services Ltd.
- **Pieter Doornenbal**, Deltares
- **Mickel Alexander**  
Guanfranco Media
- **Kahlea James**  
Water Corporation of Anguilla
- **Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS)**, USA
- **Ford Meter Box Company Inc.**
- **Dupont Water Solutions** , Mexico City , Mexico
- **ABB SA** , Tacarigua , Trinidad and Tobago

Submit Your News, Editorial or Technical case studies for Consider

Is there a topic that you would like discussed???

Send us an email at [cwwapublicrelations@gmail.com](mailto:cwwapublicrelations@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Events

- Amazon Forest Day 5<sup>th</sup> September
- World Monitoring Day - 18<sup>th</sup> September
- World Rivers Day 2019 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Be sure to checkout our new Website and Create your member Profile

Paying Dues have become easier with Wipay. Accessible through the CWWA Website

### Opportunities

- **CWWA Media Intern**
- **CCCC Stakeholder and Gender Specialist**
- **Aktinson-EDF Postdoc Fellow** (Groundwater Management)
- **PhD Position:** Quantifying Drought Impacts on Water Resource using Large-Ensemble Simulations and Machine Learning – Dutch Department of Physical Geography and Rijkswaterstaat (Netherlands)
- GWP-C Young Caribbean Water Entrepreneurs Shark Tank
- UNESCO-IHE Online Short Courses
- Framework Agreement for Data Analysis Consultant for UNDP-GEF Climate Change Adaptation – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (Home-Based)