Fluoridation decisions
Who is involved

A presentation to the Alaska Health Summit
Johnny Johnson, Jr. • Tuesday, January 22, 2020
Where CWF Decisions Made

Elected or appointed:
- City councils
- County commissions
- Health Boards
- Water utility boards
Engage the local decision-makers:

- Encourage them to be guided by the credible evidence
- Recognize how their constituents’ concerns shape their thinking
- *Explore whether they have a personal “dog in the fight”*
- Invite their questions
Engage their Staff

Decision-makers regularly seek their input:

- City manager/County administrator
- Water utility manager/director
- Encourage them to be guided by the credible evidence
- *Explore whether they have a personal “dog in the fight”*
- Invite their questions
Don’t Wait – Address this at the earliest signs…

 ✓ Call or email (individually) your local CWF decision-makers to request a meeting to discuss dental health — and take a local health dept. official to join you

 ✓ Send a “thank you” email afterward (to their public email address)
   • Briefly summarize the discussion that you had
   • Include the position on CWF that he/she declared
   • Share any data or info that you promised to follow up with

 ✓ Meet with all candidates seeking state/local office who will be in a CWF decision-making position and ask where they stand

 ✓ Keep and print all of the emails that you send or share with these officials or candidates
Public officials have a responsibility to listen to their constituents. We also have a duty to not allow false fear to drive public health decisions. We should direct our constituents to reputable websites. . . . We shouldn’t let “guess what I read on the internet” be the reason that we abandon a proven, safe practice like water fluoridation.

Karen Williams Seel (R)
Board of Commissioners, Pinellas County, FL
If **YOU** don’t show up, someone else will

- You are the ideal person to advise public officials
- You care deeply about the health and wellness of your community
- You must step forward or someone else becomes “the expert” by default
- I did it — and so can you!
Ignoring the evidence can have consequences

Pinellas County, FL County Commission

Oct. 4, 2011: CWF was voted out by 4-3

On Nov. 27, 2012, the County Commissioners voted to restore fluoridation by a 6-1 vote.
ENGAGE THE NEWS MEDIA

Know the media landscape in your community:

- *Newspaper reporters and editors*
- *TV and radio show hosts*
- *Bloggers*
- *Online bulletin boards*

**Reporters & Editors:** Reach out to them and present yourself as a resource who can answer questions and clarify issues
Seeking your newspaper’s Editorial support

Times' winning Pulitzer Prize entry for Editorial Writing

Monday, April 15, 2013

The Tampa Bay Times won its ninth Pulitzer Prize on Monday for a series of editorials last year by Tim Nickens and Daniel Ruth after the Pinellas County Commission moved to stop putting fluoride in the drinking water, affecting the dental health of 700,000 people in the county. As Nickens and Ruth wrote in the last of the 10 editorials submitted for the Pulitzer Prize in Editorial Writing, “It took nearly 14 months, an election and the clarion voice of Pinellas County voters to persuade county commissioners to correct a serious error in judgment.” And the newly reconstituted commission quickly moved to vote to restore fluoride to the water system. Here is the Pulitzer nominating letter from Times Editor Neil Brown, with links to the 10 editorials.

To the judges:
In October 2012, the Pinellas County Commission imposed fluoride levels on the drinking water. The previous year, the county halted fluoride addition to the water system as part of a lawsuit challenging the practice. At the time, the commission was divided between two members, one in favor of fluoride and another opposed. A new commission must be elected, and because of the fluoride lawsuit, the commission is now hearing all cases against fluoride. The new commission must make a decision on fluoride.

Local water personnel:
Establish a relationship
Get to know your local water personnel

✓ Tour your local water plant **BEFORE** a CWF issue arises
✓ Compliment the staff on the facility’s organization and cleanliness
✓ Thank them for providing *safe drinking water* to their residents
✓ Thank them for providing fluoride to help prevent cavities
✓ Let them know the impact they are making
✓ Let them know that they are most likely preventing more cavities than all of the dental professionals in their area could do in a lifetime by fluoridating the water
Why water personnel play a *Critical* role

- They handle a job that most local elected officials do not fully understand

- Elected officials tend to defer to water operators and managers — especially when they hear no countervailing facts
(anti-CWF) Water Director

- City was converting to their own water supply
- Single handedly was delaying the start of by 4-6 years
- Advising Clearwater City Council of reasons to delay (2016)
- Requested to approach him to discuss
- “Fluoride is a drug”
- Fluoridation was started summer 2019
Pull your Annual Water Quality Report Today!!

Anchorage Fluoridated Water Suppliers:
1. Anchorage Water and Waste Water Utility
2. Girdwood
3. Doyon Utilities

Fluoride range:
1. Anchorage Water and Waste Water Utility 0.01-0.75ppm
2. Girdwood 0.06-0.93ppm
3. Doyon Utilities 0.00-1.15ppm
Visit American Fluoridation Society Website

- Website full of current literature explained and addressed
- Debunking information of anti's claims
- Your request for help immediately addressed

https://americanfluoridationsociety.org/
Join our mailing list

Receive our Quarterly not boring Newsletter

Please consider donating to our non-profit, non-paid Board of Directors so we can continue to do this work
Questions?
Comments?

Johnny Johnson
President
American Fluoridation Society
AmericanFluoridationSociety.org
DrJohnnyJohnson@gmail.com
@AFS_FLUORIDE