

Foreword

DWAYNE E. PORTER, PH.D.

2020–2022 Editor

DAWN ANTICOLE WHITE, M.M.C.

Managing Staff Editor

Publishing a peer-reviewed academic journal is more involved than many may think, with several phases to transition through. The efficiency of the submittal, review, revision, and production processes is, at times, based on how timely all submittals move through the different phases. It is no surprise to say that since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic last March, many issues challenged the coordination of the publishing process. We would like to thank the authors, reviewers, editorial committee members, and Clemson University Press for their diligence in seeing this issue through. Although the Journal of South Carolina Water Resources (JSCWR) is a smaller, niche journal, the dedication of its supporters to its mission is evident.

Volume 7, Issue 1 of the JSCWR includes six articles covering a variety of timely topics. However, the common takeaways are the critical need for strategic decision-making processes to address water quantity —too much or too little—and public education. Human conversion of land and infrastructure can create just as much detrimental impact as climate already does and can sometimes exacerbate an already existing or potential problem. Additional studies to identify both precursors and resources will advance knowledge that can be used to protect our natural resources, public health, and economic vitality. In this issue, research focuses include public understanding of conservation programs, agricultural irrigation expansion, lake evaporation uncertainty, stormwater infrastructure, and tidal dynamics and floodplain response from hurricane flooding.

Over the past year, a new water quality monitoring tool quickly gained recognition. Wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) became a widely used approach to detect the early emergence and spread of COVID-19 infections. It became an influential predictor of community virus levels, as the virus was detectable in wastewater before people showed symptoms. The University of South Carolina and Clemson University began testing programs to serve as early warning systems to help administrators make informed decisions. Clemson University's COVID-19 Wastewater Dashboard reports on detections levels from three wastewater treatment plants on campus and in the surrounding communities. There should be plenty of research articles published among

various academic journals in the coming months and even years offering a range of results and discussions.

The JSCWR editorial committee recognizes the importance of offering an open call for a wide range of articles in the regular annual issues and highlighting critical emerging issues with a themed issue. In addition to the regular annual issue for 2021, there will also be a special issue with the theme of “water quality and public health.” The special issue is sponsored by the NIEHS-supported Center of Excellence for Oceans and Human Health and Climate Change Interactions at the University of South Carolina. Communities and regions across the Southeast and our entire nation are dealing with significant water-quality public health issues. Articles in the special issue will demonstrate how South Carolina is taking a leadership role through research. Both issues are scheduled to be published by the end of the year. The 2022 Call for Articles and Short Communications will be announced this summer.

Dozens of significant networking opportunities were lost in 2020 when in-person events were canceled. Some event and venue coordinators are back on track again, and two influential conferences have been scheduled for later this year. The South Carolina Environmental Conference (www.scwaters.org/page/SCECAbout) will be held 9–11 August 2021 in Myrtle Beach, and the South Carolina Water Resources Conference (www.scwaterconference.org) will be held this coming October in Columbia.

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center is once again predicting an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season, although not at the level of the 2020 season. In May, the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) launched hurricane.sc, an interactive website for hurricane and tropical storm preparedness and virtual companion to scemd.org, the SC Emergency Manager mobile app, and the annual South Carolina Hurricane Guide. The updated Guide includes new evacuation zones for Berkeley County. We would like to extend our gratitude to those who provide their expertise to help keep South Carolinians informed and safe. We hope the water resources community across the state will help spread the word about the SCEMD's vital resources.