



**American Water Works
Association**

Dedicated to the World's Most Important Resource®

From Staff to Contract to Staff

Editor-in-Chief Transitions at AWWA

Overview

- AWWA background
- Journal AWWA
- EIC timelines
- Staff vs contract
- Finding the right candidate
- Transition and training
- One year later



American Water Works Association

- Engineering association with a specific focus on water sourcing, treatment, and distribution
- Core focus: Water utilities
- Broad audience (researchers are a small percentage)

Publishing Program

1 peer-reviewed journal

1 magazine

175+ standards

50+ manuals

Plus handbooks, distributed titles, videos, newsletters, conference proceedings



Journal AWWA

- Monthly, peer-reviewed publication
- Member benefit
- Advertising revenue
- Hybrid content model



EIC Timeline



EIC Models

	Staff	Contract
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proximity• Integration• Continuity• Content development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Given timeline• More editorial autonomy• Expertise from the field• More connected to research and trends
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less advanced notice• Less editorial independence• Affected by operational considerations• Disconnected from the field	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harder to reach• Distracted by a full-time job• Less time and integration with the editorial office



Finding the Right Candidate

- ~8 months notice to June 2016
- International search
 - Posted listings
 - Advertising
 - Technical and publishing sites
- ~45 resumes received



Finding the Right Candidate

- Initial screening for fit
 - Technical knowledge
 - Knowledge of association
 - Publishing record
 - Experience and knowledge of scholarly publishing
- After telephone interviews, 4 candidates came for in-person interviews
- Final selection: Ken Mercer, PhD



Transition and Training

- Overlap between outgoing & incoming EIC
 - Start with phone calls to explain issue planning strategy and peer review process
 - Introduction to the Journal Editorial Board, advertisers, and other key people at the annual conference
- Graduated transition of content oversight



Transition and Training

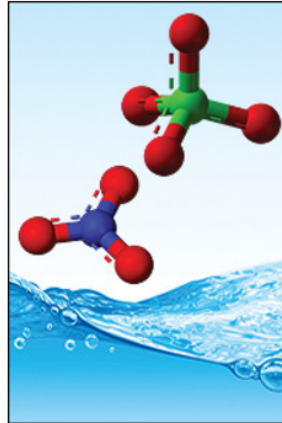
- Publishing context
 - Market and industry
 - Trends (e.g., open access)
 - Content planning
 - Manuscript solicitation
 - In-person conferences
 - Sales support
- Training opportunity: CSE Editors Roundtable was especially helpful



Transition and Training

JOURNAL - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION | MAY 2017, VOLUME 109, NUMBER 5

- Publishing context
 - Driving content from print to online



IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

These and other topics are covered: A full-scale fluidized bed bioreactor treatment facility treats nitrate- and perchlorate-laden groundwater to potable standards. Modified DRASTIC methods are compared with the conventional DRASTIC method to assess the vulnerability of an aquifer in Iran. A catalytic trickle bed reactor is developed for nitrate removal from ion exchange waste brine and to address integrating catalysts into continuous-flow systems. Recommendations are made for evaluating corrosion-resistant properties of stainless steel.

CURRENT ISSUE

IN PRESS

PAST ISSUES



Access the [Digital Edition](#)

ADVANCES IN RESEARCH



PEER-REVIEWED | FREE ARTICLE

Regenerating an Arsenic Removal Iron-Based Adsorptive Media System, Part 1: The Regeneration Process

Thomas J. ...

PAGES FROM THE PAST



FREE ARTICLE

75 Years of Too Cheap Water

John H. Murdoch Jr.

This article was originally published in *Journal of the American Water Works Association*, August 1955, Vol. 47, No. 8, pp. 825-835.



Transition and Training

- Editorial operations
 - Peer-review system and process
 - Publishing ethics
 - Author management
 - Issue planning



The screenshot shows the American Water Works Association website interface. At the top, the logo and name "American Water Works Association" are displayed, along with the tagline "Dedicated to the World's Most Important Resource™". Below this is a navigation bar with "Manuscript Home" and "Author Instructions". The main content area is titled "Home Page for Kimberly Retzlaff" and lists "Author Tasks" and "Publishing Coordinator Tasks".

Author Tasks

- [Author Instructions](#)
- [Submit Manuscript](#)

Publishing Coordinator Tasks

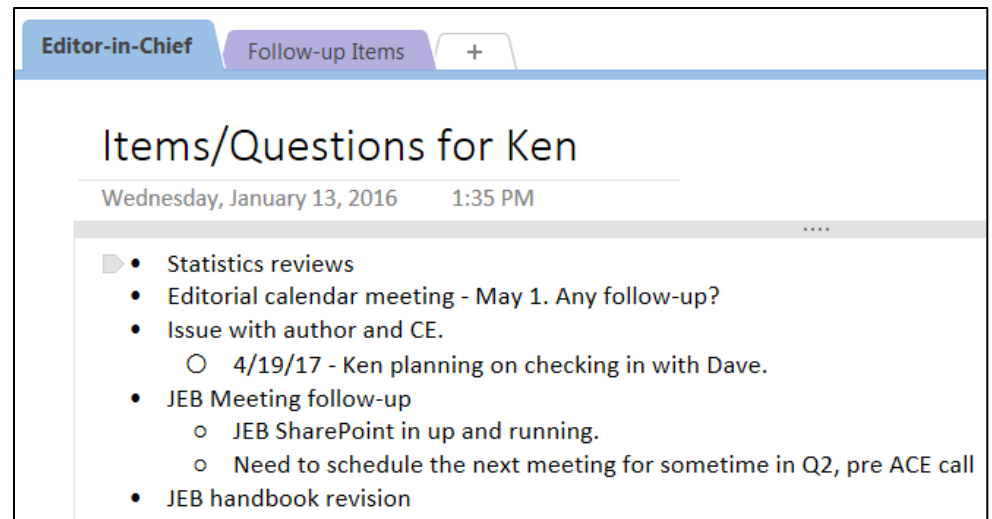
- [Find Manuscript](#)
- [Find Person](#)
- [Manage Accounts](#)
- [News Departments \(11\)](#)
- [Advanced Manuscript Tasks](#)
- [Advanced Journal Tasks](#)

ASSIGNMENT OF COPYRIGHTS



Transition and Training

- Tools to support communication, training, and collaboration
- Support opportunity: Reaching out to a similar organization to seek an EIC mentor



The screenshot shows a web application interface with a blue header bar. The header bar contains three tabs: "Editor-in-Chief" (selected), "Follow-up Items", and a "+" icon. Below the header bar, the main content area is titled "Items/Questions for Ken". Underneath the title, the date and time "Wednesday, January 13, 2016 1:35 PM" are displayed. A list of items/questions is shown below, each preceded by a small blue square icon:

- Statistics reviews
- Editorial calendar meeting - May 1. Any follow-up?
- Issue with author and CE.
 - 4/19/17 - Ken planning on checking in with Dave.
- JEB Meeting follow-up
 - JEB SharePoint in up and running.
 - Need to schedule the next meeting for sometime in Q2, pre ACE call
- JEB handbook revision



One Year Later

- Challenges
 - Steep learning curve into scholarly publishing
 - Comparatively few contacts vs previous EIC
 - Slight dip in content submissions
- Successes
 - Young, enthusiastic EIC with good technical knowledge
 - Great rapport with the team and close proximity
 - Fresh perspective on younger researchers
 - Deep knowledge of AWWA and the water industry
 - Good connections into volunteer groups
 - Open to change and eager to learn



Thank you!

Kimberly Retzlaff
Sr Editorial Manager
American Water Works Association
kretzlaff@awwa.org

