

SWM – 1 February

Tim Weiskel

Water

The “Big Picture” on the only

Blue Planet

in the known universe...

Let's take a "big picture view" of WATER



There is something wrong on this water wealthy planet.



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We live on the
only blue planet in
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...yet as a species
we may be
“running out”
of water.

We need to address the ethical, scientific, public health, and policy dimensions of this crisis...

...urgently and
very soon....



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...to avoid
massive human
suffering.



The more distance we get on this “blue marble...” in space...



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...the more we realize it is our only “home”



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in a vast, cold and
expanding universe



“That image of the earth has become, like the Cross and the Crescent, an icon of almost religious significance.”

James Lovelock, 1996

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There is something wrong on this water wealthy planet...



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What is
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What can be
done?





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Regions ~ Nations vs. Other Regions ~ Nations

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Populations outrunning water supplies - ENN News 1 November 1999.
And deserts are expanding.

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BUT “Solutions in short supply at World Water Forum” - ENN, 28 March 2000. (Extended BBC report on the Hague Conference)

The Hague Meetings and Aftermath...

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Evelyn Herskin’s (Conference Chairwoman and South African position - water-scarce country). (BBC Report)

NGOs, including The Council of Canadians have opposed the “commoditization” of water at the Hague and through NAFTA. Maude Barlow has led the struggle and created a “Blue Planet Project.”

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One year after the Hague Conference (2000), The Council of Canadians organized a global conference in Vancouver, B.C. to alert the world to the “privitization crisis.”

How should we “frame” the world water crisis?

[Here's where religiously held beliefs really matter]

(Don't look now...but your worldview is showing...)

American engineers have a solution to these problems and it has to do with constructing new “infrastructure” – roads, bridges, dams, water delivery and sewage systems.

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Consider “How Water Won the West,” *Bureau of Reclamation*, (1986).

The logic and habits of mind of the “empire builders” has dominated America's entire foreign policy toward the “Third World.” (see, for example, the interviews with John Perkins - “NOW” and Democracy Now “confessions” in Week 5 Supplementary material)

Throughout the world

What about the struggles over agriculture and water in other parts of the world....

"The Battle over Blue Gold," *WBUR - The Connection*, (27 August 2002)
& Blue Covenant

South America – “Leasing the Rain” [[articles](#)]

India? – “Seeds of Suicide” – The [fate of Indian farmers](#) + Vandana Shiva

World Water Crises – [“Water Refugees”](#)

BBC’s Directory to [“The Water Debate”](#)

Local & 'Transboundary' Water Problems on the 'Blue Planet'

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There is something wrong on this water wealthy planet...




*"We had fed the heart on fantasies;
The heart's grown brutal from the fare..."*

W. B. Yates, *Meditations in Time of Civil War*

March 2000 - Hague World Water Forum meetings



A woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a grey blazer over a white shirt, is speaking into a black microphone. She is seated at a table with several glass bottles in front of her. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

MAUDE BARLOW
Council of Canadians



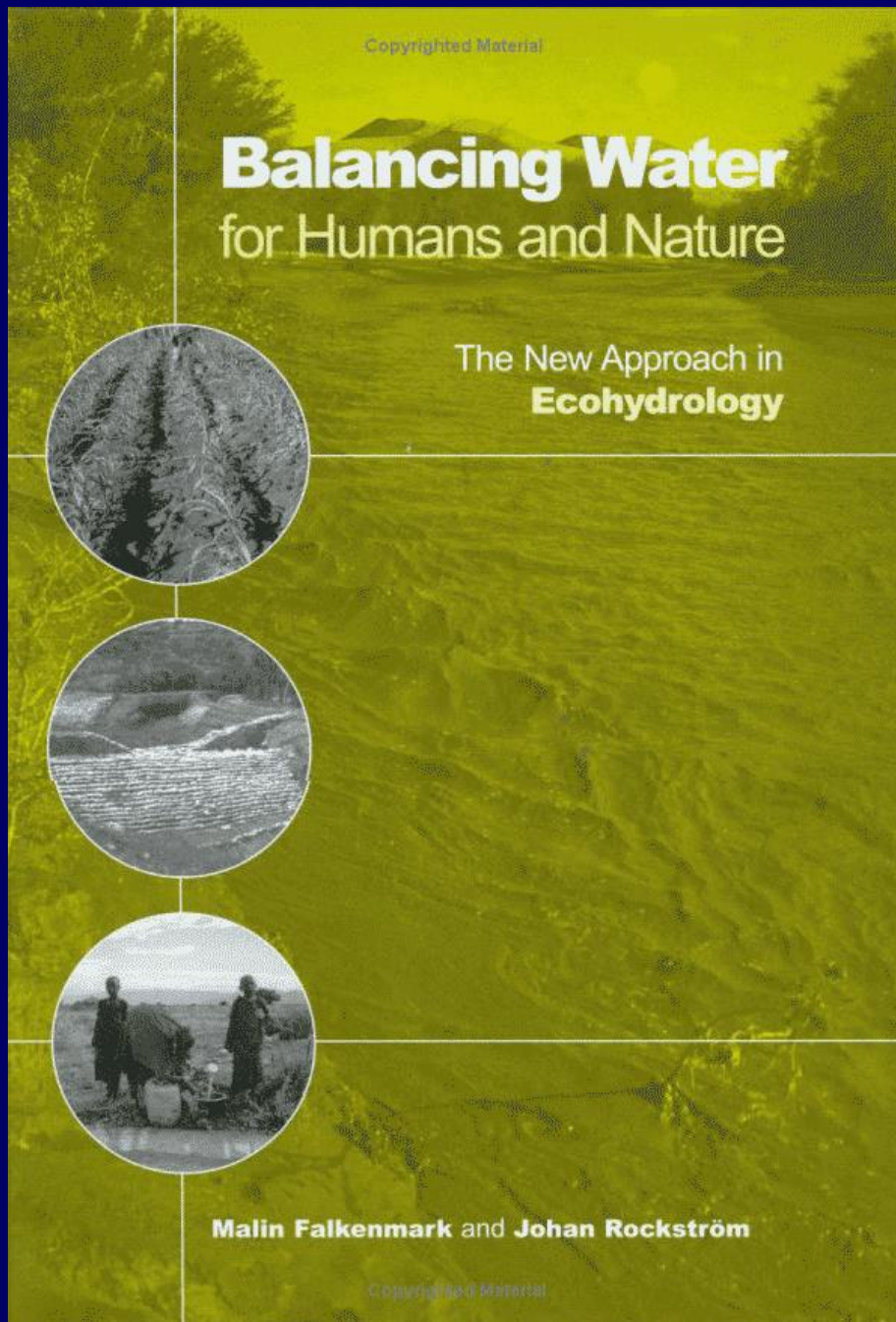


Maude Barlow
COUNCIL OF CANADIANS

Vancouver - July 2001

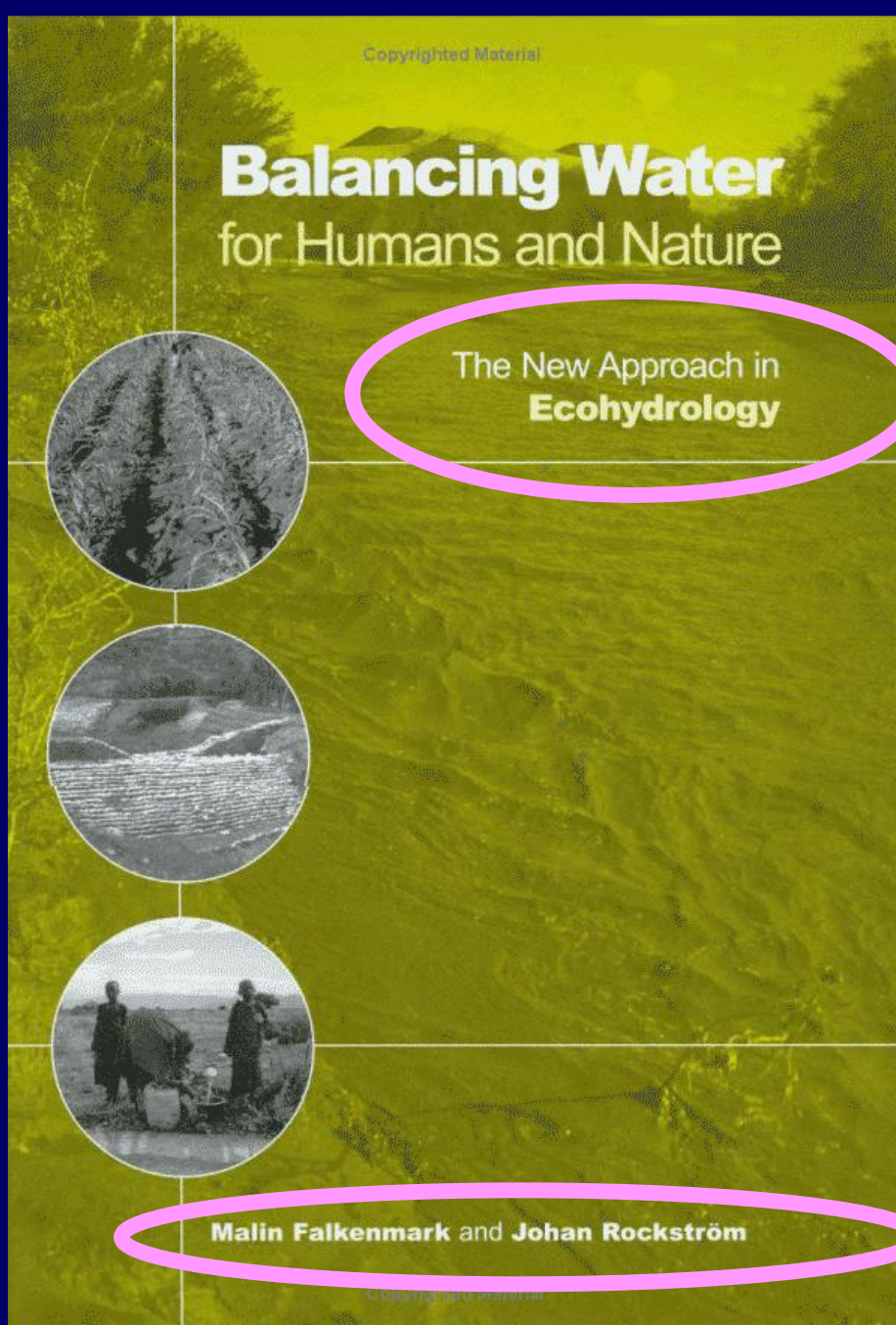
LORDS OF WATER

Necessity or Commodity?



An Alternative is emerging....

There are alternatives being proposed for Africa. They have to do with re-inserting ecological process within the hydrological system. So far, however, they are not as yet *financed* and are not likely to be so in the near future because of our values and beliefs about capital intensive agriculture.



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Balancing Water for Humans and Nature

The New Approach in
Ecohydrology



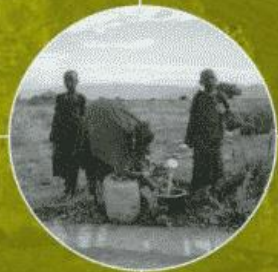
Malin Falkenmark and Johan Rockström

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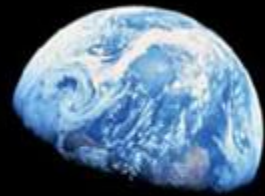
Can we learn to survive sustainably *within* the rhythms of the biogeochemical cycling of its water – this symbol and substance of life?



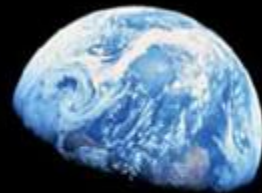
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In fact, we don't really have a choice...



...because there is no “Planet B.”



...because there is no “Planet B.”

We only have one Earth...



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We only have one Earth...

We only get one chance.



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...on this -- the only blue planet
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Keep Your Eye on the Ball