



2019 Utility Leadership Conference & 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
*Building a Network of Influence –  
Utility Executive Leadership in a Changing World*

July 16 - 19, 2019 | The Loews Minneapolis | Minneapolis, MN

Δ – Board of Directors Committees  
\*Denotes Confirmed Speaker

*All Meeting Spaces on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor.*

*(As of June 21, 2019)*

**Tuesday, July 16**

*Afternoon*

12:00 – 2:00                      Central States Utility Executive Forum (by invitation only)  
*Stone Arch 4*

1:00 – 4:00                      Registration  
*Foyer 1& 2*

2:15 – 3:15                      Water Quality Committee  
*Stone Arch 1-3*                      (open to non-committee members)

3:30 – 4:45                      Facility and Collection Systems Committee  
*Stone Arch 1-3*                      (open to non-committee members)

*Evening*

5:30 – 6:30                      Registration  
*Cosmos Foyer,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor*

5:30 – 6:00                      First Time Attendee and New Member Meet & Greet  
*Cosmos Restaurant  
& Relevé Lounge,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor*                      NACWA invites all first-time conference attendees and new members for cocktails and collaboration with staff, leadership and utility peers. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn more about the association and make valuable connections!

6:00 – 7:00                      Welcoming Reception  
*Cosmos Restaurant  
& Relevé Lounge,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor*                      Join us for a perfect opportunity to network with friends old and new. The Welcoming Reception will connect you with attendees you will meet throughout the *Conference* so enjoy your night and network away!

## Wednesday, July 17

### *Morning*

8:00 – 9:00 Awards Committee Δ  
*Bryn Mawr*

9:15 – 10:30 Executive Committee Δ  
*Uptown*

9:00 – 10:00 Spouse & Guest Lounge  
*Loring*

10:00 – 12:00 Registration  
*Foyer 1 & 2*

10:00 – 5:00 Networking Lounge  
*North Loop*

10:45 – 12:00 Legal Affairs Committee  
(open to non-committee members)

### *Afternoon*

12:00 – 1:45 Utility Executives Lunch (by invitation only)  
*Stone Arch 4*

#### *Featured Speakers*

#### **Marshall Davert\***

President, Americas Government & Infrastructure  
Stantec  
Broomfield, CO

#### **Peter Nicol\***

Global Vice President, Buildings & Infrastructure  
Jacobs  
Toronto, ON, Canada

#### **Andy Richardson\***

Chairman & Chief Executive Officers  
Greeley and Hansen LLC  
Chicago, IL

1:45 – 4:00 Registration  
*Foyer 1 & 2*

2:00 – 3:30 Legislative and Regulatory Policy Committee Meeting and Issue Update  
(open to non-committee members)

4:00 – 5:00 One-2-One Networking Event  
*Stone Arch 4 & Foyer 4*  
We hope you'll take advantage of this unique opportunity to connect with your clean water colleagues. Time has been set aside to facilitate connection among clean water agencies themselves – and between agencies and the private sector community that serves them. Interested in a 15-minute One-2-One connection

on specific plans, programs, or practices? Invitation opportunities will be available as the conference approaches.

*Evening*

6:00 – 7:00

*Stone Arch 1-2*

Reception

7:30 – 9:00

*CRAVE Restaurant*

*825 Hennepin Ave*

*Minneapolis, MN*

Women’s Water Network Dinner (RSVP Required)

Women water sector leaders attending the *Conference* are invited to join us for a relaxed and informative evening of conversation and connection.

Thursday, July 18

*Morning*

9:00 – 12:00

*Foyer 1 & 2*

Registration

9:00 – 5:00

*North Loop*

Networking Lounge

9:00 – 10:00

*Loring*

Spouse & Guest Lounge

9:30 – 12:00

*Stone Arch 1-3*

**PLENARY SESSION I**

*Opening Remarks*

**Mark Sanchez\***

*NACWA President*

*Executive Director*

*Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority*

*Albuquerque, NM*

*Welcoming Remarks*

*Leadership Keynote Address*

*Zero to Breakthrough™ . . . Who Needs a Runway?!*

**Vernice “FlyGirl” Armour\***

*America’s **First** African American Female Combat Pilot*

In today’s water sector, leaders must be ready to act at a moment’s notice without the benefit of preparation. Decide what you want, put your stake in the ground and execute! Vernice “FlyGirl” Armour calls this making a commitment to the commitment. Vernice’s invigorating keynote will empower you to be ready to act and boost your ability to bring your staff together as a team, with an understanding of how they support the overall strategy, and ultimately allow you to accomplish your mission and achieve the desired results. Through her keynote you’ll learn how to recognize and utilize the skills and talents of everyone on your staff and lead a Zero to Breakthrough™ life with a ‘Breakthrough Mentality’ as the foundation.

10:45 – 11:15      Networking Break & Book Signing

11:15 – 12:00      **PLENARY SESSION I Cont.**

*Stone Arch 1-3*

*Featured Speakers*

**Community Partnerships Through Redefined Customer Service**

Over the past 3 years, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) – our host utility for the conference – has been focused on redefining how it thinks about customer service with its 110 customers, 800 industries, and regional watershed organizations. MCES will share how it has engaged its customers to develop a Customer Level of Service focused on Finance; Health, Safety, and Environment; and, ultimately, overall Customer Service.

**Jeannine Clancy\***

Assistant General Manager, Technical Services  
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services  
Saint Paul, MN

**Ned Smith\***

Director, Finance & Revenue  
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services  
Saint Paul, MN

*Annual Association Business Meeting*

Report of the President  
Report of the Treasurer  
Election of Directors  
Consideration of NACWA Bylaws Amendments  
Report of the Chief Executive Officer

*Closing Remarks*

**Kishia Powell**

*NACWA Officer*  
Commissioner  
City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management  
Atlanta, GA

*Afternoon*

12:15 – 2:15

*Stone Arch 4*

Board of Directors Meeting

2:15 – 4:00

*Foyer 1 & 2*

Registration

2:30 – 4:45

*Stone Arch 1-3*

**PLENARY SESSION II**

*Opening Remarks*

**John Sullivan\***

*NACWA Officer*  
Chief Engineer  
Boston Water & Sewer Commission  
Boston, MA

*Roundtable Discussion*  
*Regional Water Architects*

In recent years, the buzz surrounding concepts like One Water, Integrated Planning, watershed management, regionalization, and SDWA/CWA synergies has grown rapidly. Early adoption of these strategies has gone hand in hand with the evolution of a new type of utility leadership model in the US, one that goes over and beyond running a utility. Roundtable participants will explore this new leader – the Regional Water Architect – who seeks to create, drive and implement macro strategies across the life cycle of water, think beyond current jurisdictional boundaries, view regulations from a holistic and regional perspective, drive innovative and previously unthinkable regional cooperation, and more.

*Moderator*

**Mahesh Lunani\***

Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Aquasight  
Troy, MI

*Roundtable Participants*

**Carol Haddock\***

Public Works Director  
City of Houston  
Houston, TX

**Angela Licata\***

*NACWA Board Member*  
Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability  
New York City Department of Environmental Protection  
New York, NY

**Sue McCormick\***

*NACWA Board Member*  
Chief Executive Officer  
Great Lakes Water Authority  
Detroit, MI

**Tony Parrott\***

*NACWA Board Member*  
Executive Director  
Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District  
Louisville, KY

**Kishia Powell\***

*NACWA Officer*  
Commissioner  
City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management  
Atlanta, GA

**Enrique Zaldivar\***  
*NACWA Board Member*  
Director and General Manager  
City of Los Angeles – LA Sanitation  
Los Angeles, CA

*Roundtable Discussion*

*Making Technology Work for Your Utility*

Utility executives continue to deploy innovative technologies to help them meet the core demands of managing their complex network of treatment units, piping, and people. Those technologies that deliver results can mean real cost savings and improved efficiency. Roundtable participants will discuss recent success stories and how they see technology transforming the water sector.

*Moderator*

**Debra Coy\***  
Partner  
XPV Water Partners  
Clarksville, MD

*Roundtable Participants*

**Karla Sangrey\***  
Engineer Director/Treasurer  
Upper Blackstone Clean Water  
Millbury, MA

**Mike Frisbie\***  
Senior Vice President/Chief Operating Officer  
San Antonio Water System  
San Antonio, TX

**Diane Taniguchi-Dennis\***  
*NACWA Board Member*  
Chief Executive Officer  
Clean Water Services  
Hillsboro, OR

*Panel Discussion*

*Ensuring Sustainable Water Through Trust and Engagement*

Faced with often daunting investment needs, water utility leaders are increasing their engagement with their customers and other community stakeholders in an effort to better address affordability and equity concerns. As the utility leaders we will hear from plan for the future, they are exploring new approaches such as Integrated Planning, low income assistance programs and creative supply solutions. But while each story is unique, engagement and building trust form the foundation for the success of them all.

*Moderator*

**Michele Pla\***  
*Former NACWA President*  
Vice President  
EPC Consultants, Inc.  
San Francisco, CA

*Panelists*

**Charles Stevens\***  
Water Utility Officer  
KC Water  
Kansas City, MO

**Scott Jellison\***  
*NACWA Board Member*  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Metropolitan District  
Hartford, CT

**Joseph Laliberte\***  
Associate  
CDM Smith  
East Hartford, CT

**Oluwole “OJ” McFoy\***  
*NACWA Board Member*  
General Manager  
Buffalo Sewer Authority  
Buffalo, NY

*Closing Remarks*

**Tom Sigmund\***  
*NACWA Board Member*  
Executive Director  
NEW Water  
Green Bay, WI

*Evening*

5:30 Meet in Lobby for Bus Transportation to the Awards Ceremony

6:00 – 7:30 Awards Ceremony & President’s Reception

*Nicollet Island Pavilion*  
40 Power St  
Minneapolis, MN

Friday, July 19

*Morning*

8:15 – 9:15 Communications and Public Affairs Committee  
*North Loop* (open to non-committee members)

9:00 – 10:00  
*Foyer 1 & 2*

Registration

9:30 – 12:00  
*Stone Arch 1-3*

### **PLENARY SESSION III**

*Opening Remarks*

*Roundtable Discussion*

#### *Borrower Insights and the Role of WIFIA in Financing the Future of Water*

As of early 2019, EPA had issued eight loans totaling over \$2 billion in WIFIA assistance to help finance over \$4 billion for water infrastructure projects that the Agency estimates will create over 6,000 jobs. An additional 42 projects in 17 states and the District of Columbia have been invited to apply for a WIFIA loan. So, what are the benefits to borrowers of this still relatively new funding program? What are the challenges and lessons learned from some of the eight communities who have already secured a loan? Borrowers from around the country will share their perspectives and talk with EPA's WIFIA manager about their experiences, what other utilities need to know and potential opportunities for improvements to the program.

*Moderator*

**Tony Parrott\***

*NACWA Board Member*

Executive Director

Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District  
Louisville, KY

*Roundtable Discussion*

**Eric Sandler\***

Assistant General Manager, Business Services/Chief Financial Officer  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
San Francisco, CA

**Jorianne Jernberg\***

WIFIA Program Director  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC

**Greg Swartz\***

Senior Vice President  
Public Finance Investment Banking  
Piper Jaffray  
Minneapolis, MN

**Rudy Chow\***

*NACWA Board Member*  
Director, Public Works  
Baltimore City Department of Public Works  
Baltimore, MD



*Featured Speaker*

*We're Not Alone – Workforce Perspectives from the Transportation Sector*

The water sector's workforce challenges can seem daunting at times, but other sectors are feeling similar pressures and can provide valuable lessons learned. The Transportation Learning Center is the only national organization that focuses on the frontline workforce in public transportation and transportation in general. Funded by the Federal Transit Administration, the US Department of Labor, and the Transit Cooperative Research Program, its mission is to develop and support technical training partnerships. The Center's Deputy Director, Xinge Wang, will share her perspectives on workforce challenges and potential solutions.

**Xinge Wang\***

Deputy Director

Transportation Learning Center

Silver Spring, MD

*Roundtable Discussion*

*The Future Water Workforce*

Shifting demographics and evolving technologies are changing the future of water and along with it the skills and experience that will be needed from a water workforce. Efforts to hire, train and retain water workers continue, including looking to candidates who may not be otherwise attracted to the field. At the same time, utility executives are looking to identify their leaders of tomorrow from within their organizations and how we are preparing them to lead our sector into the future. The roundtable will include perspectives from current utility executives and next generation leaders about building the water workforce of the future.

*Co-Moderators*

**Sharon Peters\***

Vice President

EMA, Inc.

St. Paul, MN

**Jamie Holtzapfel\***

Principal Consultant

Core Consulting Group, LLC

Cincinnati, OH

*Roundtable Participants*

**Tom Sigmund\***

*NACWA Board Member*

Executive Director

NEW Water

Green Bay, WI

**Ted Henifin\***  
*NACWA Board Member*  
General Manager  
Hampton Roads Sanitation District  
Virginia Beach, VA

**Leisa Thompson\***  
*NACWA Board Member*  
General Manager  
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services  
Saint Paul, MN

*Closing Remarks*

**John Sullivan\***  
*NACWA Officer*

*Afternoon*  
12:30 – 4:00

**Facility Tour and Presentation – Ensuring Safe and Reliable Solids Management for the Future at MCES**

The Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant in Saint Paul has been incinerating wastewater solids for 80 years and has one of the most advanced and highest-performing systems in the country. Now, MCES is planning for the future, with plans to spend \$180 million to add a fourth incinerator and renew its existing solids treatment facilities to ensure operational reliability and continued minimal impact on the surrounding community and the environment. The presentation and tour will highlight MCES' objectives including:

- Maintaining Exceptional Air Quality
- Recovering Energy
- Ensuring Cost Effectiveness
- Keeping Greenhouse Gas Emissions Low
- Maintaining System Reliability
- Ensuring Overall Low Impact.

The presentation will also include discussion of customized communications tools developed to support internal and external outreach. For more information, visit the project site at: <https://metro council.org/metrosolids>.