



2019 Utility Leadership Conference & 49th 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 5th Floor.

(As of July 12, 2019)

Tuesday, July 16

Afternoon

12:00 – 2:00

Stone Arch 4

Central States Utility Executive Forum (by invitation only)

1:00 – 4:00

Foyer 1& 2

Registration

2:15 – 3:15

Stone Arch 1-3

Water Quality Committee

(open to non-committee members)

A recent flurry of human health and aquatic life water quality criteria activities is driving broader concerns for the clean water community nationally. The Water Quality Committee will discuss issues playing out in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon and their potential national implications as well as continue the conversation on the nutrient front and how best to engage with senior leadership at US EPA and other federal agencies. As water quality standards become increasingly more stringent, the Committee will also provide updates on its collaboration with EPA and what the Agency is doing to bolster variances as a tool for the regulated community. Additional updates will cover harmful algal toxins and EPA's recent rulemaking and where things stand with coliphage and conductivity proposals. As always, the Committee will have an open roundtable for members to raise specific water quality issues facing their utilities.

3:30 – 4:45

Stone Arch 1-3

Facility and Collection Systems Committee

(open to non-committee members)

The Facility & Collection Systems Committee's first topic of discussion will be the recently released water sector joint affordability report, which proposed a new approach to evaluating affordability and financial capability. The report's

metrics and how they might work for different communities will be discussed. The next agenda item will be flushable wipes, with a focus on the California wipes bill that is successfully making its way through the legislative process. EPA's development of a rule to address blending of peak wet weather flows from separate sewer systems will also be a topic of discussion, including issues that the Association may need to consider when the rule is proposed later this year.

Evening

5:30 – 6:30

*Cosmos Foyer,
4th Floor*

Registration

5:30 – 6:00

*Cosmos Restaurant
& Relevé Lounge,
4th Floor*

First Time Attendee and New Member Meet & Greet

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

*Cosmos Restaurant
& Relevé Lounge,
4th Floor*

Welcoming Reception

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

Bryn Mawr

Awards Committee Δ

9:15 – 10:30

Uptown

Executive Committee Δ

9:00 – 10:00

Loring

Spouse & Guest Lounge

10:00 – 12:00

Foyer 1 & 2

Registration

10:00 – 5:00

North Loop

Networking Lounge

10:45 – 12:00

Stone Arch 1-3

Legal Affairs Committee

(open to non-committee members)

The Legal Affairs Committee meeting will focus on regulatory requirements/legal options after Long-Term Control Plan completion as well as the accessibility of tools to meet water quality standards. Thereafter, Chris Pomeroy with NACWA Legal Affiliate AquaLaw will provide an overview of a soon-to-be launched NACWA screening program for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits.

Afternoon

12:00 – 1:45
Stone Arch 4

Utility Executives Lunch (by invitation only)

Featured Speakers

Marshall Davert*

Executive Vice President, Global Water Business Line
Stantec
Broomfield, CO

Peter Nicol*

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

Andy Richardson*

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

1:45 – 4:00
Foyer 1 & 2

Registration

2:00 – 3:30
Stone Arch 1-3

Legislative and Regulatory Policy Committee Meeting
(open to non-committee members)

The Legislative & Regulatory Policy Committee will engage in a wide-ranging discussion of PFAS issues and how they are impacting the public clean water sector, including the most recent regulatory, legislative, and legal developments. The Committee will also receive updates on current NACWA advocacy priorities, including affordability, federal appropriations and CWSRF reauthorization, permit terms legislation, and EPA's Water Reuse Action Plan. Additionally, the Committee will hear a presentation from the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA) on some innovative new proposals for streamlining the CWSRF application and reporting process.

4:00 – 5:00
Stone Arch 4 &
Foyer 4

One-2-One Networking Event

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

The Honorable Jacob Frey

Mayor

City of Minneapolis

Minneapolis, MN

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
Stone Arch 1-3

PLENARY SESSION I Cont.

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
St. Paul, MN

Ned Smith*

Director, Finance & Revenue
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
St. 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

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

Bob Bailey*
Executive in Residence
XPV Water Partners
Ontario, CAN

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

Terry Leeds*
NACWA Officer
Director
KC Water
Kansas City, MO

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
(open to non-committee members)

North Loop

We’ve all heard of the “silver tsunami” and the challenge of recruiting talented professionals into clean water. But many in our organizations—even leadership—may not understand that this is as much a *communications* issue as it is *human resources*. Is your utility attractive to young professionals? Branding and internal communications not only impact job satisfaction, but effectiveness in recruiting top talent. Join us for a timely discussion about the critical role of communications in workforce outreach.

9:00 – 10:00 Registration

Foyer 1 & 2

9:30 – 12:00
Stone Arch 1-3

PLENARY SESSION III

Opening Remarks

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

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

Roundtable Participants

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

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

Daniel Henely*
Assistant Manager in Water Resources
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
St. Paul, MN

Mallory Vanous*
Assistant Laboratory Manager
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
St. Paul, MN

Heidi Hutter*
Senior Engineer
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
St. 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>.