



Winter Virtual Event

February 24 – 25, 2021

Wednesday, February 24 – 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

2:00 – 2:05 Opening Remarks

Terry Leeds

NACWA President

Director

KC Water

Kansas City, MO

2:05 – 3:15 Advocacy Outlook for 2021: 117th Congress and the New Administration

(Portions of this session will be closed to the press)

As 2021 kicks off with a new presidential administration and new Congress controlled by one political party, a new political dynamic will impact national clean water policy deliberations. Join us for this opening discussion on what the likely water priorities will be for the Biden Administration and the 117th Congress, including NACWA's top advocacy issues and how the Association plans to advance them. We will hear from senior EPA and congressional staff and provide clean water utility leaders with critical insights on what to expect and how to best advocate during 2021.

Moderator

Beth Card

Director, Environmental and Regulatory Affairs

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

Boston, MA

Speakers

Radhika Fox

Acting Assistant Administrator

Office of Water

US Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC



Andrew Sawyers

Director, Office of Wastewater Management
Office of Water
US Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC

Navis A. Bermudez

Senior Professional Staff
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
Washington, DC

Jess Kramer

Counsel
US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Washington, DC

3:15 – 3:20 Break

3:20 – 3:50 Concurrent Sessions Round 1

Participants will have the opportunity to attend one of the concurrent sessions listed below:

PFAS – What the New Administration and Congress Mean for Your Utility

As the Biden EPA and the 117th Congress settle in and get to work, it is expected that PFAS-related regulatory and legislative efforts will kick into high gear. This session will take a quick dive into recent PFAS developments that may impact the clean water sector in the year ahead.

Moderator

Jane Madden

Senior Vice President
CDM Smith
Boston, MA



Speakers

Scott Firmin

Director, Wastewater Services
Portland Water District
Portland, ME

Jay Hoskins

Assistant Director
Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
St. Louis, MO

Evaluating Climate Vulnerabilities and Resilience at Water and Wastewater Utilities

Speakers will discuss approaches to assessing climate risk and integrating resilience. Attendees will hear insights from two planning efforts conducted and tested at water and wastewater utilities.

Moderator

Kristina Surfus

Managing Director, Government Affairs
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Washington, DC

Speakers

Laurens van der Tak

Vice President, Americas Water Resilience Director
Jacobs
Silver Spring, MD

Robert Taylor

Energy Manager
WSSCWater
Laurel, MD

Lurna Kaatz

Climate Program Director
Denver Water
Denver, CO



Emily Wasley

Corporate Climate Risk, Adaptation, and Resilience
Practice Leader
WSP USA
New York, NY

The Pandemic's Lasting Legacy – Improved Efficiency and Optimization

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many utility budgets, amplifying the longer-term need to continue to look for savings from operational budgets through comprehensive optimization of utility functions and explore how those savings might be turned into lower rate increases or enhanced services. The session will explore lessons learned from the pandemic as well as the opportunities and barriers to greater efficiency.

Moderator

Jeff Theerman

Vice President/Senior Utility Performance Consultant
Brown and Caldwell
St. Louis, MO

Speakers

Diane Taniguchi-Dennis

NACWA Board Member
Chief Executive Officer
Clean Water Services
Hillsboro, OR

Todd Swingle

NACWA Board Member
Executive Director
Toho Water Authority
Kissimmee, FL

3:50 – 3:55 Transition to Round 2 of Concurrent Sessions



3:55 – 4:25 Concurrent Sessions Round 2

Participants will have the opportunity to attend one of the concurrent sessions listed below:

COVID-19 Response and Recovery – Vaccine Deployment and Plans for Returning to ‘Normal’

As utilities continue to deal with the ongoing pandemic, their attention is turning from response to recovery with a new focus on communicating the importance of vaccination and providing access to staff to get vaccinated. And as vaccine rollout continues, many are also considering the timing and metrics for the return to work, as well as the potential for longer-term changes to the utility work environment. This session will provide several utility perspectives and engage participants in a dialogue on the issues the water sector faces.

Moderator

Andrew Lee

Deputy Director, Drainage and Wastewater
Seattle Public Utilities
Seattle, WA

Speakers

Susan Pekarek

NACWA Board Member
General Manager
Johnson County Wastewater
Olathe, KS

Charlotte Katzenmoyer

NACWA Board Member
Chief Executive Officer
Capital Region Water
Harrisburg, PA

The Latest Developments and Next Steps on the Affordability Front

Affordability issues continue to be center stage, with questions about the fate of EPA’s Financial Capability Assessment guidance and the launch of the joint NACWA/AMWA *Affordable Water, Resilient Communities* campaign. This breakout session will look at how some



communities are addressing their affordability challenges and what clean water utilities can do moving forward.

Moderator

Oluwole McFoy
NACWA Board Member
General Manager
Buffalo Sewer Authority
Buffalo, NY

Speaker

Erika Powers
Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Chicago, IL

The Future of Wastewater Surveillance and Making it Work for Your Community

Testing wastewater for epidemiological purposes has suddenly proliferated across the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing information about the potential cases of the virus in communities of all sizes. This panel will discuss experiences with this type of wastewater surveillance and how it may continue to be used after the pandemic.

Moderator/Speaker

Pamela Elardo
Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Wastewater Treatment
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
New York, NY

Speakers

Martye Griffin
Director of Ecosystem Services
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
Madison, WI

Newsha Ghaeli
President & Co-founder
Biobot Analytics
Cambridge, MA



Mahesh Lunani
Chief Executive Officer
Aquasight
Troy, MI

4:25 – 4:30 Closing Remarks

Tom Sigmund
NACWA Treasurer
Executive Director
NEW Water
Green Bay, WI

Thursday, February 25 – 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET

1:00 – 2:00 *Women's Water Network Event (RSVP Requested)*

Moving Away from a Culture of Compliance to One of Change

Join other women in the water sector as we discuss opportunities where women can be the driving force behind a more equitable and diverse workplace. We will watch a snippet of *Picture a Scientist*, a film by Ian Cheney & Sharon Shattuck, which highlights three women who were looking for change and revolutionized the culture of science. This event offers women a chance to come together to share their work and career growth experiences.

2:00 – 3:00 Virtual One-2-One Meetings

E-meet with your clean water colleagues for an informal 15-minute networking blitz and take advantage of this unique opportunity to connect and share ideas. This time has been set aside to facilitate connection and networking. The portal will be available the week before the virtual event to schedule your meetings in advance.

3:00 – 4:15 Collaboration and Innovation Help the Water Sector Weather the Storm

The water sector has been through tough times before and the unprecedented events of the past year certainly put the sector's resilience to the test. Tried and true strategies of collaboration and innovation combined with existing relationships and partnerships have reliably guided the sector in the past and continued to prove their worth during 2020. As the nation looks toward healing and an economic recovery, water sector representatives will share their perspectives on lessons learned, what worked and what didn't, and



where things are headed in 2021 and beyond in terms of infrastructure and much more.

Moderator

Kishia Powell
NACWA Vice President
Chief Operating Officer
DC Water
Washington, DC

Speakers

Al Cho
Senior Vice President, Chief Strategy & Digital Office
Xylem Inc.
Columbia, MD

Paul Demit
Senior Vice President, Business Unit Director, Public & Private
Atkins
Atlanta, GA

Matthew Travers
Senior Vice President
Stantec
Burlington, MA

Cristina Ahmadpour
President
Isle Inc. (Americas)
Palo Alto, CA

4:15 – 4:30 Closing Remarks

Terry Leeds
NACWA President

