



2022 Utility Leadership Conference and 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting  
*The Clean Water Act at 50 –  
Embracing a Bold Vision for the Future*

July 24 – July 27, | Seattle, WA

Current as of June 17, 2022

Δ Board of Directors Committee  
\*Confirmed Speaker

**Sunday, July 24, 2022**

*Afternoon*

**12:30 – 4:00**

*7<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer*

**Registration**

**2:00 – 3:00**

*Regency Ballroom B*

Committee Discussion Session

**Aiming for the Policy ‘Sweet Spot’ on PFAS**

***Hosted by the Biosolids Management and Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention Committees***

A decision from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on whether and how PFAS in biosolids should be regulated is at least two to three years away. States are not waiting, with Maine serving as the worst-case scenario. But other states, including Michigan, Washington, Wisconsin, Colorado and Oklahoma, among others, are taking more measured approaches to learn more about the extent of the PFAS issue, using pretreatment, monitoring and additional study to build a better understanding of what is needed before setting policy and regulations in stone. This discussion session will explore the elements of a preferred approach to PFAS in the absence of federal rules, the role of NACWA's advocacy and the potential long-term implications of EPA's risk assessment work on PFAS.

*Committee Leader*

**Dan Thompson\***, *Co-Chair, NACWA Biosolids Management Committee*

Division Manager, Business Operations

City of Tacoma, Environmental Services Department | Tacoma, WA

*Speakers*

**Barb Biggs\***, NACWA Board Member  
General Manager  
Roxborough Water & Sanitation District | Littleton, CO

**Alexandra Dunn\***, Partner  
Baker Botts, LLP | Washington, DC

**3:00 – 3:30**

**Break**

**3:30 – 4:30**

*Regency Ballroom B*

Committee Discussion Session

### **The Next 50 Years of Clean Water Through the Legal and Legislative Lens**

*Hosted by the Legal Affairs Committee and Legislative Workgroup*

Increasingly complex environmental challenges demand increasingly creative solutions. Integrated planning and other Clean Water Act flexibilities are allowing public clean water agencies to craft paths forward while factoring in environmental, social, and economic benefits. But Congressional gridlock, entrenched agency positions, increasing delegation of major policy issues to state and local governments, and potential seismic shifts in judicial approaches to environmental issues all present barriers to making further progress. During this session, a panel of legal and policy experts will discuss what utilities might expect to see from the courts and Congress in the coming years – the good, the bad, and the ever-challenging.

*Speakers*

**Jeff Kray\***, Partner  
Marten Law | Seattle, WA

**Erika Spanton\***, Attorney  
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. | Washington, DC

**Jess Kramer\***, Senior Policy Advisor and Counsel  
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP | Washington, DC

*Evening*

**5:30 – 6:30**

*701 Pre-Function*

**Welcoming Reception**

**7:00 – 9:00**

**Executive Committee Meeting and Dinner Δ**

## **Monday, July 25, 2022**

*Morning*

**8:00 – 9:30**

*707*

**Awards Committee Δ**

**9:00 – 12:00**

*7<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer*

**Registration**

**9:00 – 5:00**

**NACWA Networking Lounge**

702

*The lounge provides an opportunity to connect with your peers on during the conference.*

**9:00 – 10:00**

708

### **Spouse & Guest Lounge**

**9:30 – 10:45**

*Regency Ballroom B*

Committee Discussion Session

### **Environmental Justice: Partnering with Your Local Community and Planning for the Future**

***Hosted by the Environmental Justice Committee***

Public clean water agencies are anchor institutions that play a pivotal role in not only protecting public health and the environment, but also helping achieve environmental justice for all residents. In that capacity, clean water utilities are beginning to engage with local advocates and organizations to collaboratively develop and advance initiatives aimed at achieving equity, fair treatment, and meaningful involvement for the whole community. The Committee Co-Chairs will lead a discussion on community engagement as well as the potential activities the Committee can undertake in the months ahead to implement NACWA's [Statement of Principles and Recommended Actions on Environmental Justice](#).

#### *Committee Leadership*

**Andrew Lee\***, *Co-Chair, NACWA Environmental Justice Committee*

Interim General Manager/Chief Executive Officer  
Seattle Public Utilities | Seattle, WA

**Sharise Horne\***, *Co-Chair, NACWA Environmental Justice Committee*

Director of Community Benefits & Partnerships  
Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District  
Louisville, KY

#### *Speakers*

**Paulina López\***, Executive Director  
Duwamish River Community Coalition | Seattle, WA

**Millie Piazza\***, Program Manager  
Washington Department of Ecology | Lacey, WA

#### *Private Sector Leaders Alliance*

**Victoria Johnson\***, Global Equity Director  
HDR Engineering, Inc. | Atlanta, GA

**Andy Kricun\***, Managing Director  
Moonshot Missions | Bethesda, MD

**Walter Walker\***, Associate/Water Equity Practice Leader  
Greeley and Hansen | New York, NY

**Lindsay Birt\***, Client Solutions Architect  
Xylem, Inc. | South Bend, IN

**Andrew Nishihara\***, Civil Engineer

10:45 – 11:00

Break

11:00 – 12:00

Regency Ballroom B

Committee Discussion Session

### **The Power of Infrastructure Investment**

***Hosted by the Utility and Resource Management and Climate and Resiliency Committees***

As spending on the Nation's infrastructure ramps up to levels not seen in decades, NACWA, its members, and the broader water sector have an unprecedented opportunity to influence how this investment can be directed to advance key Utility of the Future objectives, including resource recovery, greenhouse gas reductions, energy neutrality, climate resilience and more. In line with NACWA's *Affordable Water, Resilient Communities* campaign, these investments have the potential to be transformative in terms of utility management and operations as well in ensuring access to clean and safe water for all. The discussion will explore implementation of federal water investment, what it could mean for utilities striving to advance their energy sustainability and environmental outcomes, and how NACWA members can spur innovation and creative approaches.

*Committee Leadership*

**Logan Olds\***, *Co-Chair, NACWA's Utility & Resource Management Committee*

Water Resources Recovery Services Manager  
Clean Water Services | Hillsboro, OR

**Nathan Qualls\***, *Co-Chair, NACWA's Utility & Resource Management Committee*

Director of Technical Services  
NEW Water | Green Bay, WI

*Speakers*

**Art Umble\***, Senior Vice President/Director of Stantec Institute  
Stantec | Denver, CO

**Yaniv D. Scherson\***, Chief Operating Officer  
Anaergia | Carlsbad, CA

*Afternoon*

12:15 – 2:00

**Women's Water Network Lunch**

2:00 – 4:00

7<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer

**Registration**

2:15 – 3:15

Regency Ballroom B

Committee Discussion Session

### **What's Next for Affordability and Wet Weather**

***Hosted by the Operations Committee***

Communities have made significant progress in addressing their wet weather-related issues, including controlling combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and managing urban stormwater, but many continue to face acute affordability challenges. EPA's update of its Financial Capability Assessment Guidance was expected to provide a more transparent examination of the true impacts of

mandated Clean Water Act spending on low-income households, but the recent proposal has fallen well short of the sector's expectations. This session will explore where NACWA goes next on its advocacy with EPA on the proposed guidance, provide updates on the latest developments on the CSO front, examine a case study on innovative wet weather management in Puget Sound, and more.

**3:15 – 3:30**

**Break**

**3:30 – 5:00**

*Regency Ballroom B*

**Committee Discussion Session and *Turning the Tide* Screening  
Managing Water Quality Challenges New and Old  
Hosted by the Water Quality Committee**

Water quality challenges new and old continue to put the Clean Water Act to the test. Addressing nutrient-related impairments continues to vex much of the country more than two decades after EPA first published its recommended criteria. And now new challenges like PFAS and microplastics, driven by improvements in analytical capabilities and the ubiquity of the contaminants, are raising questions about how clean water utilities will ever meet future standards. In addition to updates on the latest water quality developments, the Committee will discuss several examples where regulatory drivers are pushing the boundaries of practicality.

At the conclusion of the Committee discussion, attendees will be treated to a preview of an upcoming documentary, *Turning the Tide*, featuring a watershed success story from the City of Tacoma.

*Speakers*

**Dan Thompson\***, *Co-Chair, NACWA Biosolids Management Committee*

**David Clark\***, Senior Vice President  
HDR Engineering, Inc. | Boise, ID

*Evening*

**6:00 – 7:30**

*Regency Ballroom A*

**Awards Ceremony & Reception**

**Tuesday, July 26, 2022**

*Morning*

**8:30 – 11:45**

*7<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer*

**Registration**

**9:00 – 5:00**

*702*

**NACWA Networking Lounge**

*The lounge provides an opportunity to connect with your peers during the conference. Visit the Core Leadership Coaching Center from 10:15 AM – 3:45 PM.*

**9:00 – 10:00**

*708*

**Spouse & Guest Lounge**

**9:00 – 12:00**

*Regency Ballroom B*

**Plenary Session I**

Opening Remarks

**Kishia Powell\***, *NACWA President 2021-2022*

Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President  
DC Water | Washington, DC

**9:15 – 10:15**

### **Featured Speakers**

Governor Christine Todd Whitman, former Governor of New Jersey and EPA Administrator from 2001 to 2003, is one of the nation's leading speakers on environmental policy. Combining her experience at both the state and federal level, she will discuss the central role of the municipal clean water community in the success of the Clean Water Act over the past 50 years and present her vision and challenge for our sector to meet the clean water needs of the next 50 years.

#### **Governor Christine Todd Whitman\***

President, The Whitman Strategy Group  
EPA Administrator, 2001 – 2003  
Governor of New Jersey, 1994 – 2001  
Princeton, NJ

Bob Perciasepe has had a long and distinguished career in senior levels at EPA, in state government, and in the environmental non-profit community. He served as Deputy Administrator at EPA from 2009 to 2014 and was instrumental in establishing Integrated Planning as a key component of the Agency's clean water program. He will add his thoughts and perspectives on what the next 50 years of clean water will look like.

#### **Bob Perciasepe\***

Senior Advisor, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions  
EPA Deputy Administrator, 2009 – 2014  
Maryland Secretary of the Environment, 1990 – 1993  
Arlington, VA

**10:15 – 10:45**

### **Networking Break**

**10:45 – 11:45**

*Regency Ballroom B*

*Panel*

### **Moving Beyond Middle Age – Envisioning the Next 50 Years of the Clean Water Act**

While arguably one of the most successful federal environmental statutes, the Clean Water Act is showing its age as it moves into its sixth decade. This panel of utility executives, environmental stakeholders, private sector leaders and government representatives will reflect on the vision laid out by our keynote, provide their own insights, and discuss how to operationalize these ideas, including what policy and/or statutory changes may be needed to ensure the Act and its implementing regulations remain relevant and effective long into the future. The panel will also discuss the critical role played by clean water utilities and how the Act should evolve to help utilities best serve their communities.

*Moderator/Speaker*

**Kishia Powell\***, NACWA President 2021-2022

*Panelists*

**Kamuron Gurol\***, Division Director  
King County Wastewater Treatment Division | Seattle, WA

**Gary Belan\***, Senior Director, Clean Water Supply Program  
American Rivers | Washington, DC

**Cindy Wallis-Lage\***, Executive Director  
Black & Veatch Corporation | Leawood, KS

**11:45 – 12:00**

*Regency Ballroom B*

### **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 President 2021-2022*

*Afternoon*

**12:00 – 2:00**

*Regency Ballroom A*

### **Board of Directors Meeting A**

**1:45 – 4:00**

*7<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer*

### **Registration**

**2:00 – 5:00**

*Regency Ballroom B*

### **Plenary Session II**

Opening Remarks

**Tom Sigmund\***, *NACWA President 2022-2023*  
Executive Director  
NEW Water | Green Bay, WI

**2:00 – 3:15**

*Regency Ballroom B*

*Panel*

### **Water Quality Solutions Through Collaboration and Innovation**

Signs of the Clean Water Act's shortcomings at addressing anything other than point source discharges were evident before the Act was barely 20 years old. There was talk of "watershed-based" solutions to ensure that all sources were doing their fair share, but there was little dialogue among the key stakeholders. Now, rather than pointing fingers, clean water agencies, agricultural producers, environmental groups, and state regulators are building on their shared commitment to clean water and turning to collaboration and innovative solutions to deliver water quality results. Panelists will share their perspectives on what has worked and what hasn't and provide some promising examples of what the future of clean water may look like over the next 50 years.

*Moderator*

**Tom Sigmund\***, *NACWA President 2022-2023*

*Panelists*

**Lauren Lurkins\***, Director of Natural and Environmental Resources  
Illinois Farm Bureau | Bloomington, IL

**Sara O'Brien\***, Executive Director  
Willamette Partnership | Portland, OR

**Adam Schneiders\***, Water Quality Resource Coordinator  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources | Des Moines, IA

3:15 – 3:45

### Networking Break

3:45 – 5:00

Regency Ballroom B

Panel

### Envisioning the Future of Utility Governance and Operations

The recent infusion of federal funding aimed at improving the country's water infrastructure presents an opportunity for public clean water utilities to look for innovative solutions and to modernize their systems. But legacy issues remain, including decades-old questions on utility governance (like public versus private ownership). Utilities are also facing acute workforce challenges – including retirements, recruitment, and adjusting to changing work environment expectations – some of which were exacerbated by the pandemic. With these current challenges as a backdrop, panelists will discuss their efforts on a range of management and operations issues to adapt to today's changing environment and prepare for the future.

Moderator/Speaker

**Jeff Theerman\***, Vice President and  
Senior Utility Performance Consultant  
Brown and Caldwell | St. Louis, MO

Panelists

**Andrew Lee\***, Co-Chair, NACWA Environmental  
Justice Committee

Additional Speakers TBD

Closing Remarks

**OJ McFoy\***, NACWA Officer  
General Manager  
Buffalo Sewer Authority | Buffalo, NY

Evening

7:00 – 11:00

### Clean Water 50th Anniversary Celebration Event

## Wednesday, July 27, 2022

Morning

9:00 – 10:30

7<sup>th</sup> Floor Foyer

### Registration

9:30 – 12:00

Regency Ballroom B

### Plenary Session III

Opening Remarks

**OJ McFoy\***, NACWA Officer

9:30 – 10:30

Regency Ballroom B

Panel

### The Role of Technology in Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Clean Water Challenges

Clean water technology and innovation have been expanding rapidly over the past several years to help address the aging infrastructure, water quality,



climate, cybersecurity, workforce and affordability challenges facing clean water utilities. However, to further meet these clean water challenges and those of the future, development and deployment of transformational technologies that are cost-effective will be essential. Leaders in the technology and utility space will share their perspectives on existing and emerging technologies to meet these 21<sup>st</sup> Century clean water challenges head on, certain barriers to adoption, and how federal policies can enhance partnerships between the private sector that develops technology, and the utilities that implement the technology.

*Moderator*

**Greg Norby\***, Assistant General Manager for Wastewater  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission | San Francisco, CA

*Speakers*

**Cristina J. Ahmadpour\***, President  
Isle Utilities | Palo Alto, CA

**Mahesh Lunani\***, Founder and Chief Environment Officer  
Aquasight | Troy, MI

**Tyler Hewitt\***, Vice President, National Water Market Leader  
Atkins | Atlanta, GA

**10:30 – 11:00**

**Networking Break**

**11:00 – 12:00**

*Regency Ballroom B*

*Panel*

**Financing the Future – Creating a More Sustainable Path Forward for Clean Water Investment**

As costs continue rising and utilities' roles in protecting public health and the environment continue to expand, ratepayers are being pushed to – or beyond – the brink of affordability. Over the next 50 years, how will we adapt from the primarily ratepayer-driven model of the last 50? What innovative approaches to setting rates or changes to traditional business models are pointing to a path forward? Water finance and rate experts will share their perspectives on what's working, what's not, and what changes need to be made now to ensure we don't repeat past mistakes.

Closing Remarks

**Tom Sigmund\***, *NACWA President 2022-2023*