



2023 Winter Conference
Galvanizing Ratepayer Trust in Turbulent Times

February 13 – 16 | Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn | Sonoma, CA

Δ Indicates Board Committees

As of February 16, 2023

Monday, February 13

Evening

5:00 – 6:00 **Registration**

*Sonoma Valley
Room Foyer*

5:30 – 6:30 **Welcoming Reception**

*Sonoma Valley
Room + Patio*

Tuesday, February 14

Morning

8:00 – 9:15 **Executive Committee Δ**

Vineyard Room

9:00 – 12:00 **Registration**

Pavilion Entrance

9:00 – 5:00 **NACWA Networking Lounge**

Tower Room

The NACWA Networking Lounge will give you an opportunity to connect with your peers all day on Tuesday and Wednesday.

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

Harvest Suite

9:00 – 5:00 **Core Leadership – Strategic Leaders Training Workshop
(Pre-Registration Required)**

Big 3 Event Space

9:30 – 10:45 **Committee Discussion Session**

Pavilion

Will More Data Dig Us Out of the PFAS Challenge or Bury Us?

Hosted by the Biosolids and Water Quality Committees

In recent years, the water sector's attention has been commandeered by PFAS. Without a clear scientific understanding of the impacts or risks, clean water utilities are under immense pressure to collect quantitative data on PFAS concentrations in their influent, effluent and biosolids, and to provide this data to regulators and the public. This investigative monitoring can lead to identification

of upstream polluters to a degree, but with a suite of chemicals so pervasive and so ubiquitous in our everyday lives, will the collection and reporting on the presence of PFAS erode the public's trust beyond repair? With perspectives from utilities and other key stakeholders, the discussion will explore this important question.

Committee Leaders

Jamie Heisig-Mitchell, *Co-Chair, NACWA Biosolids Management Committee*
Chief of Technical Services
Hampton Roads Sanitation District | Virginia Beach, VA

Allison Deines, *Co-Chair, NACWA Water Quality Committee*
Interim Chief Water Quality Officer
Alexandria Renew Enterprises | Alexandria, VA

Martye Griffin, *Co-Chair, NACWA Water Quality Committee*
Director of Ecosystem Services
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District | Madison, WI

Featured Speaker

Pooja Sinha, Environmental Engineer
Stantec | Pasadena, CA

Panelists

Suzanne Coffey, Chief Executive Officer
Great Lakes Water Authority | Detroit, MI

Ryan Batjiaka, Resource Recovery Manager
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission | San Francisco, CA

Wendy Linck, Senior Engineering Geologist
California State Water Resources Control Board | Sacramento, CA

10:45 – 11:00

Networking Break

11:00 – 12:00

Wine Room

Audit Committee Δ

11:00 – 12:00

Pavilion

Committee Discussion Session

Nutrients: What Happens When the Math Doesn't Add Up

Hosted by the Water Quality and Legal Affairs Committees

Clean water utilities caught between a state's approach to nutrient management and EPA's – or an environmental organization's – push to have point sources do more face the prospect of unattainable limits divorced from meaningful water quality improvements. Such "do more" approaches are often based on the flawed application of toxics-based formulas, ignoring the unique properties of nutrients and the contributions of other sources. Utilities are now pushing back when they are not the major nutrient contributor and "doing more" will lead to diminishing returns or even negative impacts. This discussion will explore what states and clean water agencies can do if EPA's playbook continues to treat nutrients as just another toxic pollutant.

Committee Leaders

Allison Deines, *Co-Chair, NACWA Water Quality Committee*
Interim Chief Water Quality Officer
Alexandria Renew Enterprises | Alexandria, VA

Martye Griffin, *Co-Chair, NACWA Water Quality Committee*
Director of Ecosystem Services
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District | Madison, WI

Emily Jackson, *Co-Chair, NACWA Legal Affairs Committee*
General Counsel
Metro Water Recovery | Denver, CO

Devon Goodrich, *Co-Chair, NACWA Legal Affairs Committee*
Senior Counsel, Environmental Law Division
New York City Department of Law | New York, NY

Panelists

Dave Clark, Wastewater Director
HDR Engineering, Inc. | Boise, ID

Trent Stober, Utility Management Services Director
HDR Engineering, Inc. | Columbia, MO

Lorien Fono, Executive Director
Bay Area Clean Water Agencies | Oakland, CA

Jared Voskuhl, Manager of Regulatory Affairs
California Association of Sanitation Agencies | Sacramento, CA

Afternoon

12:00 – 2:30

Lunch on Your Own

12:15 – 2:15

Kenwood Ballroom

Board of Directors Luncheon and Meeting Δ

2:15 – 4:00

Pavilion Entrance

Registration

2:30 – 3:45

Pavilion

Committee Discussion Session

Water Reuse and Other Strategies for Confronting a Changing Climate

Hosted by the Climate & Resiliency Committee and the Reuse Workgroup

Communities around the globe are witnessing first-hand the impacts of a changing climate on water scarcity and water quality. Attention is growing to “Look Up” and develop forward-thinking, proactive approaches before it’s too late. The Biden Administration is focused on environmental and climate reform and should look to the water sector for inspiration on a holistic approach. This session will include experiences on how reuse and other strategies are allowing utilities to deal with climate challenges that are impacting water resource sustainability.

Committee Leader

Julie Allen, Chair, NACWA's Climate & Resiliency Committee
Assistant Director - Clean Water Program
City of LA – LA Sanitation and Environment | Los Angeles, CA
City of Los Angeles - LA Sanitation and Environment | Los Angeles, CA

Featured Speaker

Joseph Danyluk, Global Director of OneWater
Jacobs | Cincinnati, OH

Panelists

Mickey Conway, NACWA Secretary
Chief Executive Officer
Metro Water Recovery | Denver, CO

Todd Swingle, NACWA Board Member and Chair, Arid States & Reuse
Workgroup
Executive Director
Toho Water Authority | Kissimmee, FL

Jennifer Burke, Director
Santa Rosa Water | Santa Rosa, CA

3:45 – 4:00

Networking Break

4:00 – 5:00

Pavilion

Committee Discussion Session

Federal Environmental Justice Initiatives – Seeking Positive Ratepayer Outcomes

Hosted by the Environmental Justice Committee

The federal government has been busy lately issuing an array of documents and policies related to environmental justice, but what do they mean from a practical perspective for the struggling ratepayer? This discussion will explore how recent federal environmental justice initiatives can impact clean water utility affordability, funding, regulatory policies, permitting, and compliance, and what utilities and NACWA can do in response.

Committee Leaders

Andrew Lee, Co-Chair, NACWA Environmental Justice Committee
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

Panelists

Sunny Elliott
Region 9 Staff Lead for Environmental Justice in NPDES Permitting
US Environmental Protection Agency | San Francisco, CA

Walt Walker, Vice President, Equity Practice Leader &
Client Account Manager
Greeley & Hansen LLC | New York, NY

Susan Smith, Office Managing Principal
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. | San Francisco, CA

Mike Witt, NACWA Board Member
General Counsel
Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission | Newark, NJ

Evening

6:00 – 7:30

Kenwood Ballroom

NEAA Awards Ceremony & Reception

Join us for a celebratory evening honoring NACWA's National Environmental Achievement Awards (NEAA) recipients. The evening will begin with an Awards Ceremony showcasing the very best of NACWA member agencies' initiatives, from operations to public outreach, as well as individuals who are making a difference for both their community and their utility. Following the ceremony, join your colleagues in celebrating the evening's honorees at the Awards Reception.

Wednesday, February 15

Morning

8:00 – 9:30

Big 3 Event Space

Women's Water Network Breakfast *(Separate RSVP Required)*

Join your fellow women in the water sector leaders for breakfast! This complimentary breakfast for women attendees of the Winter Conference provides a unique opportunity for learning and networking with your peers. RSVP is required by **February 10** to attend.

9:00 – 11:30

Pavilion Entrance

Registration

9:00 – 5:00

Tower Room

NACWA Networking Lounge

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

9:00 – 10:00

Harvest Suite

Spouse & Guest Lounge

9:45 – 10:45

Pavilion

Committee Discussion Session

Meeting Today's Affordability and Workforce Challenges

Hosted by the Operations and Utility and Resource Management Committees
With the release of EPA's updated Financial Capability Assessment (FCA) Guidance expected any day now, this session will explore the key issues underlying the debate over how best to measure the affordability of water services, the impacts expected from EPA's new guidance and potential advocacy next steps. Beyond measuring affordability, subject matter experts and utilities will also discuss what they are doing to address affordability impacts, including a forthcoming report from the water sector outlining recommendations for a permanent, federal low-income water assistance program. Workforce-related concerns remain top of mind for utility managers, with impacts being felt across their operations. The second half of this discussion will provide utility leaders an opportunity to share their top workforce challenges and discuss potential solutions with their peers.

Committee Leaders

Logan Olds, *Co-Chair, NACWA Utility & Resource Management Committee*
Interim Managing Director – Utility Operations
Clean Water Services | Hillsboro, OR

Nathan Qualls, *Co-Chair, NACWA Utility & Resource Management Committee*
Director of Technical Services
NEW Water | Green Bay, WI

Greg Eyerly, *Co-Chair, NACWA Operations Committee*
Senior Assistant Director
Houston Public Works | Houston, TX

Greg Norby, *Co-Chair, NACWA Operations Committee*
Assistant General Manager for Wastewater
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission | San Francisco, CA

Panelists

John Mastracchio, Executive Vice President
Raftelis | Latham, NY

David Goldwater, Vice President, Public Policy
Stantec | Fairfax, VA

10:45 – 11:00

Networking Break

11:00 – 12:00

Pavilion

Committee Discussion Session

The Path Forward for Security Policy and Practice

Hosted by the Security & Emergency Preparedness Committee

The security of water utilities is receiving increased attention by Congress, EPA, and the Department of Homeland Security, especially in the area of cybersecurity. There is wide agreement that cybersecurity needs to be improved, but no consensus on the best way to accomplish this. Recent natural disasters have also reinforced the need for utilities to be prepared for all types of emergencies. This discussion will focus on the path forward for improving the sector's cybersecurity and the practical measures utilities can take to protect themselves from all hazards.

Committee Leaders

Talyon Sortor, *Co-Chair, NACWA Security & Emergency Preparedness Committee*
General Manager
Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District | Fairfield, CA

Carol Adams, *Co-Chair, NACWA Security & Emergency Preparedness Committee*
Senior Systems Analyst, Information Technology
Allegheny County Sanitary Authority | Pittsburgh, PA

Panelists

Raymond Riordan, Director – San Jose Office of Emergency Management
City of San Jose | San Jose, CA

Peter Fletcher, Vice President, Information Security Officer
San Jose Water | San Jose, CA

Joshua Tromp, Special Agent, Office of Investigations, Office of
Inspector General
US Environmental Protection Agency | Denver, CO

Afternoon

12:00 – 2:00

Lunch on Your Own

1:45 – 4:00

Pavilion Entrance

Registration

2:00 – 5:00

Pavilion

Plenary Session I

Welcoming and Opening Remarks

Tom Sigmund, NACWA President
Executive Director
NEW Water | Green Bay, WI

2:15 – 3:15

Panel Discussion

Making the Right Investments in a Time of Climate Uncertainty

Extreme climatic events – from fires to flooding to drought – are occurring with greater frequency, duration, and magnitude, and the economic and environmental impacts from these events can be devastating for water utilities and their communities. Public awareness of these impacts is prompting increased local and national investment to ensure that climate risks are considered and clean water utilities remain on sound footing. Panelists will explore how water utilities are mitigating operational and financial risks in an era of climate uncertainty and how those efforts are contributing to the overall resiliency of their communities.

Featured Speaker

Ted Chapman, Investment Banking Analyst
Hilltop Securities Inc. | Dallas, TX

Moderator/Panelist

Brian Jordan, Vice President
Tetra Tech, Inc. | Pasadena, CA

Panelists

Jay Bernas, NACWA Board Member
General Manager
Hampton Roads Sanitation District | Virginia Beach, VA

Dorene D'Adamo, Vice Chair
California State Water Resources Control Board | Sacramento, CA

Emily Brock, Director, Federal Liaison Center
Government Finance Officers Association | Washington, DC

3:15 – 3:30

Networking Break

3:30 – 4:45

Panel Discussion Operationalizing One Water

As the challenges to sustainable and uninterrupted clean water services grow, the One Water approach is looked to as a solution that will resonate with ratepayers who view 'water as water' without seeing the sector's many silos. But what does this mean practically and operationally for clean water utilities? How can a One Water approach be integrated into utility planning and practice? What technological advances, operational practices and policy solutions will be needed to drive the One Water approach forward? Thought leaders and utility executives will share how the One Water approach can be operationalized locally and highlight where more work is needed.

Moderator

Roger Bailey, NACWA Board Member
General Manager
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District - Central San | Martinez, CA

Panelists

Mami Hara, Chief Executive Officer
US Water Alliance | Seattle, WA

Adel Hagekhalil, General Manager & Chief Executive Officer
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California | Los Angeles, CA

Kim Hackett, Authority Engineer
Silicon Valley Clean Water | Redwood City, CA

Patricia Sinicropi, Executive Director
WateReuse Association | Alexandria, VA

Closing Remarks

Tom Sigmund, NACWA President

Evening

6:00 – 7:30

Buena Vista Winery
18000 Old Winery Rd
Sonoma, CA

Reception

Bus transportation will begin to leave at 5:30 PM from the lobby. More details are available in the App.

Thursday, February 16

Morning

8:30 – 11:30

Pavilion Entrance

Registration

9:00 – 12:00

Pavilion

Plenary Session II Opening Remarks

Mickey Conway, NACWA Secretary
Chief Executive Officer
Metro Water Recovery | Denver, CO

9:00 – 9:30

Innovation in Wastewater Treatment – Challenges and Opportunities

Innovation presents many opportunities as clean water agencies continue to transform from wastewater treatment utilities to resource recovery facilities. Completing this transformation will require new ways of thinking about the use of technology in the wastewater treatment process. Andrew Benedek, Chief Executive Officer of Anaergia, will discuss how continued innovation can lead to more resilient infrastructure and benefit the environment and society.

Featured Speaker

Andrew Benedek, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Anaergia, Inc. | Carlsbad, CA

9:30 – 10:45

Panel Discussion

Accelerating Innovation to Build a Sustainable Future

Options continue to expand for the use of new technology and innovative approaches to address clean water challenges and improve the sustainability and resiliency of utilities. Quantifying the value of innovation is an important step to building support for these projects. This is especially true when pursuing innovation for emerging challenges such as climate adaptation and resilience, while also tackling foundational issues such as nutrient control, biosolids management, and workforce improvement. Panelists will discuss how innovation can continue to transform the water sector and how quantifying benefits can help make the case for innovation investment.

Moderator

Cristina Ahmadpour, President
Isle Utilities | Palo Alto, CA

Panelists

Doa Ross, Deputy General Manager, Engineering
Las Vegas Valley Water District and Southern Nevada Water Authority
Las Vegas, NV

Megan Ross, Director of Utilities
Pinellas County Utilities | Largo, FL

Pablo Calabuig, Chief Executive Officer, North America
GoAigua, Inc. | New York, NY

Mahesh Lunani, Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Aquasight | Troy, MI

10:45 – 11:00

Networking Break

11:00 – 12:00

Panel Discussion

Ensuring Community Trust Through Effective Utility Governance and Operations

There is no surer way for a clean water utility to lose the trust of its customers and community than by suffering a dramatic and public failure that impacts basic services, such as the recent events in Jackson, Mississippi. But internal management issues, such as procurement practices or whether a utility's workforce reflects the community it serves, can also chip away at the relationship with the community. Panelists will discuss how utilities with a strong and

transparent governance system, along with a responsive operational plan to address emergencies, are better positioned to maintain the community's trust.

Moderator/Panelist

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

Panelists

Hank Habicht, Co-Founder
Water Finance Exchange | Washington, DC

Jennifer Steffens, Director of Strategy & Marketing
Suez | Dawsonville, GA

Closing Remarks

Tom Sigmund, NACWA President

Afternoon

12:00 – 2:00

Lunch on Your Own

1:45 – 4:00

Pavilion Entrance

Registration

2:00 – 5:00

Pavilion

**Plenary Session III
Opening Remarks**

Oluwole 'OJ' McFoy, NACWA Vice President
General Manager
Buffalo Sewer Authority | Buffalo, NY

2:00 – 2:30

Federal Funding and Regulatory Action: Updates from EPA

Federal funding for clean water has increased tremendously in recent years, but accessing this funding can be challenging for utilities. Andrew Sawyers, Director of the EPA Office of Wastewater Management, will discuss the Agency's latest work to assist utilities on accessing the funds available, as well the regulatory developments that will impact utilities in the coming years.

Featured Speaker

Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management
US Environmental Protection Agency | Washington, DC

2:30 – 3:45

Panel Discussion

Promoting Trust Through Rates and Affordability Measures

Despite periodic infusions of federal money, rate revenue has consistently funded most water spending at the local level. Making the case for those rates and needed increases is often when a utility's relationship with its community or communities is tested the most. This is especially true where growing affordability considerations are requiring communities to adapt and look for ways to respond to the needs of those who are unable to pay. Perspectives from utilities and other stakeholders will explore the challenges of maintaining the necessary revenue to keep pace with new regulations and aging infrastructure while still addressing community affordability.

Moderator

Oluwole 'OJ' McFoy, NACWA Vice President

Panelists

Kyle Jones, Policy and Legal Director
Community Water Center | Sacramento, CA

Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager
Inland Empire Utilities Agency | Chino, CA

Karyn Riley, Vice President
National Practice Lead – Water Equity and Social Impact
Arcadis | Hanover, MD

3:45 – 4:00

Networking Break

4:00 – 5:00

Panel Discussion

Effectively Communicating with Ratepayers and the Public

All clean water utilities are, at their core, customer service providers. Communicating effectively with customers and ratepayers is vital for community trust, whether for basic issues like how the utility functions and what services it provides, or more complicated and charged issues like rate increases, service interruptions, or public concern over environmental issues, such as PFAS. Utility communications professionals will discuss how to build and maintain trust by optimizing outreach to utility customers for a variety of circumstances, including use of both traditional and social media, as well as how to respond when the unexpected occurs.

Moderator/Panelist

Jean Smith, Co-Chair, NACWA Communications &
Public Affairs Committee
Director of Administration and External Affairs
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District | Cleveland, OH

Panelists

Matt Wittern, Senior Consultant
Raftelis | Greenwood Village, CO

Pieter Van Ry, Director
South Platte Renew | Englewood, CO

Closing Remarks

Tom Sigmund, NACWA President