



2023 Utility Leadership Conference and 53rd Annual Meeting *Meeting the Moment with Transformative Utility Management*

July 11 – 14 | Omni Louisville Hotel | Louisville, KY

All meetings are on the 2nd floor unless otherwise noted.

Δ Board of Directors Committee

As of June 6, 2023

Tuesday, July 11

Afternoon

12:00 – 1:45 **Executive Committee Lunch Δ**
Germantown

1:00 – 4:00 **Registration**
*Commonwealth
Ballroom Foyer*

2:30 – 5:00 **Committee Discussion Sessions**
Commonwealth 5 *All Conference attendees are welcome to attend the committee meetings, whether or not they are members of the committee.*

2:30 – 3:30 **Biosolids Management Committee**
Commonwealth 5 For the first time in decades, EPA is busy with biosolids. With a biosolids-specific Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) pouring over EPA's proposed framework for assessing risk and a new screening tool that enables users to sift through hundreds of chemicals and determine whether a deeper review is warranted, the current way of doing things on the biosolids front is likely to change. The Biosolids Management Committee will discuss how clean water utilities can be most informed and ready for the looming regulatory trade winds ahead that could shake up how biosolids are managed.

3:30 – 4:00 **Networking Break**

4:00 – 5:00 **Operations Committee**
Commonwealth 5 In the past, keeping a clean water system functioning properly meant preserving the old 'out of sight, out of mind' mentality. These days, however, simply staying off the community's radar screen is no longer an option for many utilities. The infrastructure maintenance, repair, and replacement that must occur can have significant impacts on many communities. This session will focus on the policies that affect how utilities keep their infrastructure operating optimally and how utilities can communicate with the public about what this means for them.

Evening

5:00 – 6:00

Falls City Market,
Lobby Level

Registration

5:30 – 6:30

Falls City Market,
Lobby Level

Welcoming Reception

Wednesday, July 12

Morning

8:00 – 9:15

Butchertown

New Board Orientation Breakfast

8:00 – 9:30

Crescent Hill

Awards Committee Δ

9:00 – 11:30

Commonwealth
Ballroom Foyer

Registration

9:00 – 10:00

Cherokee Triangle

Spouse & Guest Lounge

9:00 – 5:00

Old Louisville

NACWA Networking Lounge

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

9:30 – 12:00

Commonwealth 5

Committee Discussion Sessions

All Conference attendees are welcome to attend the committee meetings, whether or not they are members of the committee.

9:30 – 10:30

Commonwealth 5

Water Quality Committee

With so many water quality issues playing out in real time – coupled with EPA addressing these issues at rapid speed often using novel regulatory approaches – it understandably can be challenging to keep up with the federal government tackling everything at once. The Water Quality Committee will dive head on into various emerging water quality issues facing NACWA members from PFAS to climate resiliency to coliphage – understanding how EPA is moving on these issues will help NACWA members navigate the regulatory playing field.

10:30 – 11:00

Networking Break

11:00 – 12:00

Commonwealth 5

Legal Affairs Committee

It's a well-known fact that lawyers do not like surprises, especially among people who have had the misfortune of catching one off-guard. But with courts revisiting longstanding legal doctrines and definitions, new sources of potential liability looming on the horizon, and permit writers getting more creative every day, uncertainty seems to be the name of the game these days. Come join us for a discussion of the

major legal issues facing the clean water community today and what utilities – and NACWA – can be doing to prepare.

Afternoon

12:00 – 2:30

Commonwealth 3

Women's Water Network Lunch (Separate RSVP Required)

2:30 – 4:00

Commonwealth

Ballroom Foyer

Registration

3:00 – 5:00

Commonwealth 5

Committee Discussion Sessions

3:00 – 4:00

Commonwealth 5

Utility and Resource Management Committee

The Committee will kick off its discussion with a look at EPA's Augmented Alternatives Analysis (AAA) program. The program, which has been used by several NACWA members, is intended to help underserved communities identify opportunities for triple bottom line solutions, including community benefits, when implementing wastewater management projects. Updates will be provided on a new effort to modernize the Effective Utility Management (EUM) attributes and a recent initiative related to workforce development.

Evening

6:00 – 7:30

Commonwealth

Ballroom + Foyer

Awards Ceremony & Reception

Join us for a celebratory evening honoring exceptional NACWA utilities, facilities, and individuals for their efforts in management, compliance, and advocacy. The evening will begin with a festive Awards Ceremony and a not-to-be-missed multimedia presentation featuring our new and returning Platinum level Peak Performance award winning facilities. Following the Ceremony, join your colleagues in celebrating the evening's honorees at an Awards Reception.

Thursday, July 13

Morning

8:30 – 11:45

Commonwealth

Ballroom Foyer

Registration

9:00 – 10:00

Cherokee Triangle

Spouse & Guest Lounge

9:00 – 5:00

Old Louisville

NACWA Networking Lounge

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

9:30 – 12:00

Commonwealth 5-8

Plenary Session I

Opening Remarks

Tom Sigmund, NACWA President 2022-2023

Executive Director

NEW Water | Green Bay, WI

Welcoming Remarks

The Honorable Craig Greenberg, Mayor
The City of Louisville | Louisville, KY

9:30 – 10:30

Keynote Speaker

Figure It Out Without Burning Out

Erin Stafford, Burnout & Peak Performance Speaker and Author
San Diego, CA

10:30 – 10:45

Networking Break

10:45 – 11:40

A Spotlight on Success: Showcasing the Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewerage District

Everyday is World Water Day at Louisville MSD! United by a common purpose, the team at Louisville MSD is committed to ensuring safe, clean waterways for the community and is investing in critical facility upgrades to address aging infrastructure, constructing massive underground tunnels to prevent sewer overflows, and using modernized technology to increase energy efficiency, reduce maintenance costs, and improve water quality. Come hear how MSD is 'meeting the moment' by supporting and uplifting its community, while continuing to deliver high quality services.

11:40 – 12:00

Annual Association Business Meeting

Commonwealth 5 - 8

Report of the President
Report of the Treasurer
Election of Directors
Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Afternoon

12:15 – 2:15

Wheat, 3rd Floor

Board of Directors Meeting Δ

1:45 – 4:00

*Commonwealth
Ballroom Foyer*

Registration

2:30 – 5:00

*Commonwealth
5 – 8*

Plenary Session II

Opening Remarks

OJ McFoy, NACWA President 2023-2024
General Manager
Buffalo Sewer Authority | Buffalo, NY

2:30 – 2:45

Juggling Your Priority Issues Without Burning Out

Managing your highest priority issues, whether related to workforce development, regulatory compliance, rate increases and affordability, or any number of other challenges, can be overwhelming. Trying to keep everything going without dropping the ball can be a recipe for burnout. We'll kick off our afternoon session by sharing some strategies for keeping a healthy balance.

Maggie Frye, Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Core Consulting Group, LLC | Cincinnati, OH

2:45 – 3:45

Cultivating a Resilient, Diverse, and Multigenerational Workforce – Against All Odds

For the first time ever, five generations are working together – each with different values, work preferences, and aspirations. With a significant number of knowledgeable and experienced people exiting the water sector, there is an urgency to attract, train, and sustain the workforce pipeline. This panel session will explore ways in which today’s water leaders can cultivate a resilient, diverse, and multigenerational workforce, ensuring the preservation of public health and environmental stewardship for generations to come.

Moderator

Zakiya Seymour, Vice President
Arcadis | Cincinnati, OH

Panelists

Todd Swingle, NACWA Board Member
Executive Director
Toho Water Authority | Kissimmee, FL

Cristi Bickham, Chief Administrative Officer
WSSC Water | Laurel, MD

Kristen Atha, Director of Public Utilities
City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities | Columbus, OH

3:45 – 3:55

Networking Break

3:55 – 5:00

From Moment to Movement – Ensuring Water Equity and Environmental Justice (EJ) Initiatives Are Embraced Universally

It could be said that now is “water’s moment,” with renewed federal investment and a focus on meeting the needs of disadvantaged communities that have been marginalized, underserved, and overburdened, the opportunity for change is immense. But as clean water utilities work to promote water equity and EJ initiatives through their infrastructure projects and organizational change, they often face political headwinds at the state and community level. Panelists will explore the opportunities and potential barriers utilities are encountering as they strive for long-term change.

Featured Speaker/Panelist

Colette Pichon Battle, Partner - Vision & Initiatives (*invited*)
Taproot Earth | Slidell, LA

Moderator

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

Panelists

OJ McFoy, NACWA President 2023-2024

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

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

Evening

6:00 – 7:30

President's Reception

Muhammed Ali Center

Friday, July 14

Morning

9:00 – 10:30

Registration

*Commonwealth
Ballroom Foyer*

9:30 – 11:30

Plenary Session III

Commonwealth 5 - 8

9:30 – 10:15

Using Good Governance and Getting the Best Bang for the Buck

With historic investments in water from the recent Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the sector looking to make the best use of these dollars, governance practices are again in the spotlight. And despite federal government statements to the contrary, the new funding will not alleviate the rising costs of delivering water services and the heightened affordability challenges for low-income households across the country. This panel will discuss how utilities are reexamining governance practices and working with state and federal partners to get the most bang for the buck for their communities.

Moderator/Speaker

Francesca McCann, Director, Alternative Funding and Financing
Black & Veatch Corporation | Austin, TX

Panelists

Diane Taniguchi-Dennis, NACWA Treasurer
Chief Executive Officer
Clean Water Services | Hillsboro, OR

Kim Kennedy, Director of Engineering and Construction
Allegheny County Sanitary Authority | Pittsburgh, PA

Liam Cavanaugh, Deputy Chief Executive Officer/
Chief Operating Officer
Metro Water Recovery | Denver, CO

10:15 – 10:30

Networking Break

10:30 – 11:30

The Rise of Robots and Artificial Intelligence: Is this the Beginning of a Collaborative Machine-Human Water Future or the End?

The dawn of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) revolution is upon us and billions of dollars in investments continue to pour into new projects. Advanced machine learning capabilities that use data and algorithms – like ChatGPT – are literally rewriting how business is done. As these predictive software technologies advance, the water sector stands to transform significantly. Understanding this rapidly emerging field, this panel will discuss what we know about AI and how the water sector can leverage this technology to build a collaborative machine-human future.

Panelists

Cristina Ahmadpour, President
Isle Utilities | Palo Alto, CA

Dave Rutowski, Process Optimization Advisor
Hach Company | Loveland, CO

Luis Montestruque, Principal
HydroDigital, LLC | South Bend, IN

Mike Hope, President
Greeley and Hansen LLC | Philadelphia, PA