



2025 Unleashing the Power of Technology and AI to Meet Today's Clean Water Challenges Virtual Workshop

September 10 – 11 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET | Virtual Event

Current as of September 9

Wednesday, September 10

1:00 – 1:05 **Welcoming & Opening Remarks**

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

1:05 – 1:20 **Keynote Address: Innovating for the Future: HRSD's Technology Path to Affordable and Resilient Clean Water**

The keynote will highlight why innovation is central to HRSD's mission, particularly as a driver in addressing complex affordability challenges and maintaining low rates for customers. Jay Bernas will share examples of creative approaches beyond technology, followed by Dr. Charles Bott's in-depth exploration of HRSD's technology and AI deployments.

Keynote Speakers

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

Charles Bott, Chief Technology Officer
Hampton Roads Sanitation District | Virginia Beach, VA

1:20 – 1:50 **Building Federal Momentum & Funding: Navigating the Regulatory Landscape**

Explore current federal initiatives, funding programs, and policy directions driving digital and AI transformation in the water sector. Learn how utilities can position themselves to benefit from available resources.

Moderator

Nathan Gardner-Andrews, Chief Advocacy Officer
NACWA | Washington, DC

Speakers

Michele Nellenbach, Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy
Steptoe LLP | Washington, DC

Josh Mahan, Senior Director, Government and Industry Relations
Xylem, Inc. | Washington, DC

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

1:50 – 1:55 **Break**

1:55 – 2:35 **Turning Data into Decisions: Preparing for AI Acceleration**

Discuss approaches to upskilling, reskilling, and retaining talent for a tech-driven future. How can teams achieve more with less, cut time on rote tasks and improve their overall resilience? Hear about successful training programs, partnerships, and competency-based resources that can help build a future-ready workforce.

Moderator

Amy Corriveau, President
Trinnex | Manchester, NH

Speaker

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

Luis Montestruque, Principal
HydroDigital | South Bend, IN

Ting Lu, Co-Chair, Climate & Resiliency Committee
Interim Director
City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services | Portland, OR

2:35 – 3:15 **Clean Water Utilities Driving Innovation Investments: Meeting the Tech and AI Boom**

As data centers and AI-driven industries experience unprecedented growth, clean water utilities are increasingly at the forefront of supporting this surge in demand. This session will explore how water services are a critical enabler of technology sector expansion, from supplying high-quality water to advanced cooling operations to managing increased wastewater flows from rapidly growing data infrastructure. The discussion will focus on challenges for utilities as they respond to the tech sector's evolving needs, how new investments are shaping local infrastructure planning, and the innovative partnerships being forged between utilities, technology companies, and communities to ensure reliable, sustainable water services in this new era of digital transformation.

Moderator

Kristen Atha, NACWA Board Member
Director of Public Utilities
Columbus Water & Power | Columbus, OH

Speakers

Kendra Sveum, Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance
Loudoun Water | Ashburn, VA

Joseph Quinn, Senior Director, Security and Resilience Policy
Edison Electric Institute | Washington, DC

Matthew Schultz, Project Manager
CDM Smith | Bellevue, WA

3:15 – 3:20 **Break**

3:20 – 4:00 **Bridging the Talent Gap: Workforce Empowerment for the Digital Utility**

Learn how organizations are upskilling, reskilling and retaining top talent to meet the demands of a fast-changing tech-driven future. Discover ways teams can do more with less, cut time on repetitive tasks and strengthen their overall resilience while hearing real-world examples of training programs, partnerships and competency-based solutions that help build a future-ready workforce.

Moderator

Pieter Van Ry, NACWA Board Member
Director
South Platte Renew | Englewood, CO

Speakers

Prabhu Chandrasekeran, Intelligent Water National Practice Leader
Arcadis | Hanover, MD

Katie Hall, Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Claira.ai | Grand Rapids, MI

4:00

Day 1 Wrap-Up

Matthew McKenna, Director of Government Affairs
NACWA | Washington, DC

Thursday, September 11

1:00 – 1:05

Opening Remarks

Travis Wagner, Vice President, Digital Consulting
Trinnex | Raleigh, NC

1:05 – 1:45

Securing the Future: Cybersecurity in the Age of Digital Water

As digital technologies become central to utility operations, cybersecurity is critical. This session will explore best practices for protecting systems, building resilience, and navigating evolving federal cybersecurity requirements.

Moderator

Bradford Hoglund, Chief Information Officer
Boston Water & Sewer Commission | Boston, MA

Speakers

James Livermore, Vice President, Information Security
CDM Smith | Boston, MA

Paula Crowell, Chief Information Officer
Los Angeles County Sanitation District | Whittier, CA

Derek Mueller, Cyber Security Advisor
US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency | Camp Hill, PA

1:45 – 1:50

Break

1:50 – 2:40

The Power of a Digital Master Plan: Innovation in Action

Hear real-world case studies from utilities implementing digital transformation strategies. Learn how AI and digital tools are driving measurable gains in efficiency, resilience, and cost savings.

Moderator

Travis Wagner, Vice President, Digital Consulting
Trinnex | Raleigh, NC

Speakers

Jason Sciandra, Assistant Director of Public Utilities
City of Fort Myers | Fort Myers, FL

Reese Johnson, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer
Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati | Cincinnati, OH

2:40 – 2:45 **Break**

2:45 – 3:00 **Keynote Address: Transforming the Future of Water with AI: CDM Smith's Leadership**

CDM Smith and its partners, like Trinnex, are redefining how value is delivered to clients, empowering its people, and influencing the future of water management by integrating a mix of AI products, services, solutions, and experiences. From internal AI tools to fuel productivity in every part of their business to delivering market-ready AI-driven products and digital consulting via Trinnex, the company is enhancing efficiency and resiliency while equipping engineers with timely data insights for smarter decision-making.

Tim Wall, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
CDM Smith | Boston, MA

3:00 – 3:10 **A Message from NACWA**

AI and digital technologies are no longer optional — they are essential tools for how our clean water utilities will thrive in the future. By embracing innovation, NACWA and its members can deliver smarter, more resilient, and more affordable services to communities nationwide, ensuring that clean water utilities remain at the forefront of protecting public health and the environment in a rapidly changing world.

Adam Krantz, Chief Executive Officer
NACWA | Washington, DC

3:10 – 4:00 **Planning for the Future: From IT/OT Convergence to AI-Driven Climate Resilience**

How can water utilities transform digital vision into practical action? Explore integrated strategies for IT (data and computer systems) and OT (physical machines and processes) convergence, governance frameworks, new business models, and responsible AI adoption to ensure solutions are ethical, transparent, and community-focused. Featuring real-world case studies and practical steps for implementation, this session will also dive into how AI and advanced technologies can help predict and respond to climate change impacts, optimize resources, and build resilience against extreme weather. Finally, the session will showcase groundbreaking business models that focus on economic growth in a community while addressing climate adaptation.

Moderator

Nitin Goel, Operations Optimization Division Manager
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District | Martinez, CA

Speakers

Peter Martin, Digital Solutions Consultant
Trinnex | Roseville, CA

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

Sanjiv Sinha, Chief Executive Officer
CIS | Ann Arbor, MI

4:00 **Closing Remarks**

Matthew McKenna, Director of Government Affairs
NACWA | Washington, DC