



## 2026 Winter Conference

# Managing Instability: The Essential Role of Local Leadership

February 2 - 5 | JW Marriott Miami | Miami, FL

Δ Indicates Board Committees

*All meeting spaces are on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor unless noted otherwise.*

As of December 10, 2025

### Monday, February 2

*Morning*

**9:00 – 10:00**

**Audit Committee Meeting Δ**

*Buenos Aires I*

**10:15 – 11:30**

**Executive Committee Meeting Δ**

*Buenos Aires I*

**11:45 – 1:45**

**Board of Directors Luncheon and Meeting Δ**

*Salons EFG*

*Afternoon*

**1:00 – 4:00**

**Registration**

*Pre-Assembly Area*

**2:00 – 4:30**

**Committee Discussion Sessions**

*Salons ABCD*

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

**2:00 – 3:00**

**Biosolids Management Committee Meeting**

**3:00 – 3:30**

**Networking Break**

**3:30 – 4:45**

**Communications & Public Affairs Committee Meeting**

*Evening*

**4:30 – 5:30**

**Registration**

*Pool, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor*

**5:00 – 6:00**

**Welcoming Happy Hour**

*Pool, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor*

Kick off the *Conference* by joining us at the Welcoming Happy Hour. Connect with fellow attendees in a beautiful outdoor atmosphere. Happy Hour is open to all so enjoy a quick bite and meet us there!

## **Tuesday, February 3**

### *Morning*

**7:30 – 9:00**

*Pool Deck*

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

**8:30 – 12:00**

*Pre-Assembly Area*

**Registration**

**9:00 – 10:00**

*Buenos Aires I*

**Spouse & Guest Lounge**

**9:00 – 5:00**

*Buenos Aires II*

**NACWA Networking Lounge**

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

**9:30 – 12:00**

*Salons ABCD*

**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**

**Water Quality Committee Meeting**

**10:30 – 11:00**

**Networking Break**

**11:00 – 12:00**

**Security & Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting**

### *Afternoon*

**12:00 – 2:00**

*London I*

**Awards Committee Meeting & Lunch Δ**

**12:00 – 2:30**

**Lunch on Your Own**

**2:15 – 4:30**

*Pre-Assembly Area*

**Registration**

**2:30 – 5:00**

*Salons ABCD*

**Committee Discussion Sessions**

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

**2:30 – 3:30**

**Environmental Justice Committee Meeting**

**3:30 – 4:00**

**Networking Break**

**4:00 – 5:00**

**Operations and Utility Resource Management Committee Meeting**

### *Evening*

**6:00 – 7:30**

*Salons EFG*

**Awards Ceremony & Reception**

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

## **Wednesday, February 4**

*Morning*

**9:00 – 12:00**

*Pre-Assembly Area*

**Registration**

**9:00 – 10:00**

*Buenos Aires I*

**Spouse & Guest Lounge**

**9:00 – 5:00**

*Buenos Aires II*

**NACWA Networking Lounge**

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

**9:30 – 12:00**

*Salons ABCD*

**Plenary Session I**

*Opening Remarks*

*Welcoming Remarks*

**9:45 – 10:30**

**Investing Holistically: It's a Money Issue, But It's Not Just a Money Issue**

With federal uncertainty, climate disruption, and rapid advances in technology, public clean water utilities continue to play a critical role and provide local leadership in protecting public health, safety, and the environment. During this challenging time, there's a powerful opportunity to reframe water infrastructure—not just as a cost, but as a smart investment in community well-being and economic vitality—to make the business case for the revenues needed to deliver our essential services. This panel will explore how several utility leaders have strategically crafted their story around water infrastructure funding.

**10:30 – 10:50**

**Networking Break**

**10:50 – 12:00**

**Achieving Your Greatest Potential: Best Leadership Practices for Your Utility**

As more communities face technical, social, and financial challenges, utilities are increasingly taking a leadership role. These leading utilities are demonstrating that innovative and skillful water management can significantly contribute to long term sustainability and resilience. Water leaders will highlight lessons learned from practicing adaptive management strategies and forming partnerships while remaining personally resilient in times of unprecedented disruption.

**12:00**

**Closing Remarks**

*Afternoon*

**12:00 – 2:00**

**Lunch on Your Own**

**1:45 – 4:00**

*Pre-Assembly Area*

**Registration**

**2:00 – 5:00**

*Salons ABCD*

**Plenary Session II**

*Opening Remarks*

**2:05 – 2:45**

**Keynote Session**

**2:45 – 3:30**

**Utility Leaders are Community Leaders: Advancing from Utilities of Excellence to Communities of Excellence**

Utilities have an integral role in ensuring their communities grow and strive for excellence despite external challenges. Through meaningful community engagement and involvement as well as intentional and adequately resourced efforts, utilities can foster community engagement, organization, and communication. This panel will explore how utilities can enable their communities to thrive through real world stories and outcomes.

**3:30 – 4:00**

**Networking Break**

**4:00 – 4:55**

**Using Creative Solutions to Maximize Benefits with Fewer Resources**

Public utilities have long been in strong partnership with their state and federal regulators in ensuring public health, environmental stewardship, and affordability for their communities. Nevertheless, as challenges rise for utilities to obtain capital funding and manage competing interests and expectations at the local, state, and federal levels, public utilities are finding innovative ways to navigate our new normal. This panel will explore how utility leaders are using tools like Integrated Planning to stay in the “driver’s seat” despite changing landscapes and are continuing to meet state and federal requirements while also providing affordable and sustainable solutions for their communities.

**4:55 – 5:00**

**Closing Remarks**

*Evening*

**6:00 – 7:00**

*Pool, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor*

**Networking Reception**

Join us for our reception to connect with fellow attendees and expand your network at the beautiful outdoor pool.

**Thursday, February 5**

*Morning*

**8:00 – 11:00**

*Pre-Assembly*

**Registration**

**8:30 – 11:30**

*Salons ABCD*

**Plenary Session III**

*Opening Remarks*

**8:30 – 9:30**

**Breakout Sessions: Choose Your Own Adventure**

This session will provide a discussion opportunity on priority topics with fellow participants. Each table will have a different topic and a discussion leader to help facilitate the conversation.

Table Topics:

- Communications
- Data and Technology
- Climate and Resiliency
- Local Business Development
- Governance and Transparency
- Environmental Stewardship/Energy Efficiency
- The Past is Prologue

**9:30 – 10:00**

**Fireside Chats: Digital Transformation in Wastewater Treatment Part 1**

As AI and digital water technology continues to advance, collaboration between utilities and the technology sector becomes more essential. However, it’s critical that adoption of any new technology is done in a way that is cognizant of the needs of each utility and their community, as well as done on a timetable that gives the utility adequate time to adapt. This session will allow utilities and their technology partners to walk through how they navigated and adapted new technology uses to their unique needs and goals.

**10:00 – 10:30**

**Networking Break**

**10:30 – 11:25**

**Fireside Chats: Digital Transformation in Wastewater Treatment Part 2**

**11:25**

**Closing Remarks**