



# Great Lakes Regional Utility Forum

*Presented in partnership with:*



May 7- 8, 2018

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel | Grand Rapids, MI

## Agenda

### Monday, May 7

*Morning*

11:00 – 12:00

*Atrium Foyer*

Registration

*Afternoon*

12:00 – 1:45

*Atrium*

Great Lakes Utility Forum Luncheon

*Opening Remarks*

**David St. Pierre**

*NACWA President*

Executive Director

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Chicago, IL

*Welcoming Remarks*

**The Honorable Ruth E. Kelly**

Second Ward Commissioner

City of Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids, MI

*Keynote Address*

Regional Priorities for Clean Water Agencies

*The luncheon will feature a speaker discussing regulatory priorities for utilities in the Great Lakes region.*

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**Cathy Stepp**

Regional Administrator  
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5  
Chicago, IL

2:00 – 5:00

*Atrium*

**PLENARY SESSION**

*Roundtable Discussion*

**What's Next in Clean Water Regulation – An Insider's Perspective**

This session will provide a state regulator's view on emerging issues impacting the clean water sector. Peer inside the mind of a state regulator on topics like the CSO notification rule, nutrients, integrated planning, affordability and funding, and regionalization/consolidation.

*Facilitator*

**Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells**

*NACWA Board Member*  
Chief Executive Officer  
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District  
Cleveland, OH

*Speaker*

**Craig Butler**

Director  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Columbus, OH

3:15 - 3:30

Networking Break

3:30 – 5:00

*Roundtable Discussion*

**Achieving Clean Water Success Through NGO Partnerships**

This dialogue will focus on how partnerships with NGOs at the local and regional level can help achieve success on water quality goals for clean water utilities and the communities they serve. This panel will discuss opportunities for collaboration in the Great Lakes region.

*Facilitator*

**Kip Peterson**

Director of Public Affairs  
US Water Alliance  
Washington, DC

*Panelists*

**Todd Ambs**

Campaign Director  
Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Initiative  
Madison, WI

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**Joel Brammeier**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Alliance for the Great Lakes  
Chicago, IL

**David Ullrich**

Advisor  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Chicago, IL

**Elaine Sterrett Isely**

Director of Water Programs  
West Michigan Environmental Action Council  
Grand Rapids, MI

Closing Remarks/ Announcements

**Erica Spitzig**

Deputy General Counsel  
NACWA  
Washington, DC

*Evening*

5:30 – 6:30

*Founders Brewing Co.  
235 Grandville Ave. SW*

**Reception**

Sample the complex, flavorful ales of Michigan’s largest craft brewery, in the welcoming confines of the Founders Centennial Room. Located a short walk or car ride from the hotel, the Founders brewery and taproom is just steps from the Grand River and exciting Grand Rapids nightlife.

**Clean Water + Great Beer = Success**

As its primary ingredient, clean water is essential to great beer. Pairing clean water and craft breweries is therefore a recipe for success! The reception will include a brief presentation on collaborative efforts between a local NGO, Founders Brewing Co., and the City of Grand Rapids to restore the Grand River and create innovative biodigestion and concentrated waste programs.

**Richard Bishop**

Chief Executive Officer  
Grand Rapids Whitewater  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Brad Stevenson**

Chief Production Officer  
Founders Brewing Co.  
Grand Rapids, MI

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**Mike Lunn**

Utilities Director  
City of Grand Rapids Environmental Services  
Grand Rapids, MI

Tuesday, May 8

*Morning*

7:30 - 10:00

*Atrium Foyer*

Registration

8:00 – 12:00

*Atrium*

**Utility Leaders' Roundtable Discussion**

*(Closed to Regulators and Press)*

Welcoming Remarks/Introductions

**David St. Pierre**

*NACWA President*

**Mike Lunn**

City of Grand Rapids Environmental Services

**Regional Challenges & Opportunities**

Hear how others in the region are dealing with challenges—and finding opportunities to innovate—from around the region. This closed-door session will provide an opportunity for frank information sharing about how others are dealing with common issues and developing exciting initiatives in the Great Lakes.

**Eric Horvath**

Director of Public Works  
City of South Bend Wastewater Treatment  
South Bend, IN

**Phil Brenner**

Northeastern Regional Manager  
SmartCover Systems  
Philadelphia, PA

**Oluwole "OJ" McFoy**

General Manager  
Buffalo Sewer Authority  
Buffalo, NY

**Sue McCormick**

Chief Executive Officer  
Great Lakes Water Authority  
Detroit, MI

**Mike Lunn**

City of Grand Rapids Environmental Services

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9:30-9:45

Networking Break

9:45 – 12:00

## Utility Roundtable Discussion

Building on the lessons from the previous panel, this session will provide a forum for an open dialogue among all participants focused on issues impacting clean water utilities across the region.

### *Facilitator*

**David St. Pierre**  
*NACWA President*

## Closing Remarks/Adjourn

**Adam Krantz**  
Chief Executive Officer  
NACWA  
Washington, DC

### *Afternoon*

12:30 – 3:00

**Facility Tour – City of Grand Rapids Environmental Services**  
*Lunch and transportation provided. Please arrive in lobby by 12:15 PM. Pre-registration required.*

The City of Grand Rapids Environmental Services Department will provide a unique opportunity to explore and learn about the city's national award-winning Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF).

The facility, which services 13 communities and treats \$40 million gallons of water a day, was constructed in 1931 and has been expanded over the years. In December 2017, the facility broke ground on a \$38 million waste-to-energy biodigester as part of the City's goal of using 100-percent renewable energy to power its buildings by 2025. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the project, as well as other sustainability efforts of WRRF.

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