

The Heart of the Movement: About the One Water Delegations



One
Water
Summit
2017



People. Partnerships. Progress.

Collaboration—it's what drives the One Water movement, and everything that we do at the US Water Alliance.

The board and staff of the US Water Alliance welcome the 25 One Water delegations to the summit. It is an impressive and diverse group of dedicated leaders representing regions and constituents from the nation's capital to the great state of Hawaii. We want to thank the many partners across the country who helped form these delegations. Our delegates are champions for a sustainable water future and are dedicated to peer exchange, knowledge building, and translating the learnings from One Water Summit 2017 back to their home regions or communities of practice.

We look forward to working with you in the months and years to come.

2017 One Water Delegations

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San Francisco Bay Area region
Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans
Tucson region
Wisconsin

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Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.

—Helen Keller

American Planning Association

The American Planning Association (APA) One Water delegation includes planners working in the public and private sectors who are committed to addressing water as a central element of the built and natural environments. APA is the world's largest professional membership association for planners, with approximately 35,000 members, who are planners, public officials, educators, students, and engaged citizens committed to ensuring a healthy, sustainable future for our communities. APA has affirmed water as an organizational priority that requires focused attention and is committed to helping planners manage water resources more sustainably through its Water and Planning Initiative.

American Rivers

American Rivers is a national organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of America's rivers. The American Rivers One Water delegation is represented by its Clean Water Supply team, a diverse group of professionals whose mission is to protect and restore the natural hydrology of the nation's streams and rivers so that human and natural communities have enough clean water at the right times. The program was developed to change the way the built environment in a watershed impacted a river's natural hydrological cycle—with a specific focus on managing water as a single resource and adopting proven technology, tools, and policies that promote the natural water cycle to ensure that rivers and communities thrive. The Clean Water Supply team works with municipalities, utilities, and communities to implement integrated approaches—green infrastructure, water conservation and efficiency, maintaining strong water quality, flow regulations, and standards. The American Rivers delegation is committed to helping communities utilize One Water to maximize their contribution to social and economic vitality and engender overall community improvement.

Atlanta region

Since hosting the One Water Summit in 2016, Atlanta has continued to provide leadership on integrated water management approaches, while also working to effectively engage communities in our critical watersheds in the City. The Department of Watershed Management has completed one of the largest permeable paver projects in the country, and it has also broken ground on two new projects in the Proctor Creek Watershed aimed at providing combined sewer capacity relief to address stormwater flooding. Non-profit partners have launched additional green infrastructure projects in the Proctor Creek Watershed, and the Department of Watershed Management

has also started work on the Westside Quarry, which will provide a 30-day backup water supply for the City of Atlanta. Our collective work to scale green infrastructure continues through implementation of the City's first Green Infrastructure Strategic Action Plan, and will be leveraged by the City's inclusion in the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilience Cities Initiative. At One Water Summit 2017, Atlanta leaders will highlight these projects and initiatives that are driving us towards being a top-tier sustainable city.

Austin region

People may come to Austin for its music, but they stay for the water. Austin is a swimmable city—Barton Springs, Lake Austin, and Bull Creek are just some of the places you'll find Austinites staying cool on a summer day. But as in many other cities, development has changed the character of many of our urban creeks, reducing or eliminating baseflow and introducing pollutants that no longer make them safe for human contact. Alongside these pressures is the tremendous growth of our region—more than 100 people a day are moving to Austin, and in 100 years our city demographer projects that Austin Water will need to supply four times today's population. As the City of Austin undertakes a 100-year water supply plan, we are evaluating the potential of many different sources of water, from Aquifer Storage and Recovery to centralized non-potable reuse to onsite rainwater capture. One Water Summit 2017 is an opportunity for representatives from the Mayor's Office, City Council, Austin Water, Austin Watershed Protection, Development Services Department, and the Water Forward Task Force to learn how other cities are addressing these challenges and to share our creativity in identifying solutions that secure our water supplies while restoring the watersheds that make Austin home.

The Conservation Fund

For the 2017 One Water Summit, The Conservation Fund is pleased to sponsor a delegation that represents watersheds and communities across the country. For more than two decades, the Fund has been an innovative leader in promoting multiple benefit green infrastructure solutions and a source of research on sustainable freshwater conservation strategies. Through its Freshwater Institute, the Fund is providing globally relevant technology to generate sustainable, healthy fish protection while conserving our rivers, streams, and coastal waters. The Fund is also helping urban partners address water management challenges through a One Water approach that incorporates environmental, social, and economic

considerations. In collaboration with municipal partners such as the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, creator of the Greenseams® program, the Fund has been working for decades on utilizing nature's services to provide clean water, flood protection, and improved recreational opportunities across the country. We are working today to create tomorrow's livable cities and towns through planning and implementing green infrastructure projects at all scales, from neighborhood parks and rain gardens to conserved regional networks and greenways.

DC–Virginia region

The DC–Virginia One Water delegation is composed of staff and appointed Board members of two regional authorities—DC Water (serving the District of Columbia, parts of Northern Virginia, and parts of Southern Maryland) and Alexandria Renew Enterprises (a wastewater authority that serves most of the City of Alexandria, VA and parts of Fairfax County in Virginia). Through our One Water delegation, we are working to identify new collaborative efforts, and broaden our knowledge and ability to share services to more effectively serve the public good of our respective communities as we improve our local and regional water resources.

Emerald Cities

Emerald Cities Collaborative is a national nonprofit network of organizations working together to advance a sustainable environment while creating high-road—sustainable, just, and inclusive—economies with opportunities for all. With local directors in Cleveland, Los Angeles, New York, Oakland, San Francisco, and Seattle, we are developing energy, green infrastructure, and other sustainable development projects that not only contribute to the resilience of our metropolitan regions but also ensure an equity stake for low-income communities of color in the green economy. To date, our work has been primarily focused on equitable development in the energy sector, but we are increasingly adopting strategies that address the energy-water nexus. Recognizing that the sustainable management of water resources is one of the defining issues of our time, our delegation is attending One Water Summit 2017 to learn, share, and strategize on future collaborations with other delegations and the US Water Alliance. After One Water Summit 2017 we plan to utilize the US Water Alliance's recently released report, *An Equitable Water Future*, to craft a water equity strategy for the Emerald Cities network.

Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Commission delegation at the 2017 One Water Summit is comprised of Commissioners and staff of the Great Lakes Commission—a binational agency dedicated to promoting the orderly, integrated, and comprehensive development, use, and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin. The Great Lakes Commission (GLC) is comprised of senior officials from the eight US states and two Canadian provinces that border the Great Lakes basin. The GLC advances the collective interests and responsibilities of its member states and provinces by fostering dialogue, developing consensus, and facilitating collaboration that enable the jurisdictions to speak with a unified voice. The GLC delegation at the 2017 One Water Summit will help advance and elevate the work of the Great Lakes Commission's Clean Water Infrastructure and Services Working Group. Launched in March 2017, the GLC's Clean Water Infrastructure and Services Working Group is charged with identifying programs, policies, and actions that can be enhanced to ensure that federal water infrastructure investments: are strategically prioritized based on regional risks and needs; provide adequate flexibility and authority to states, provinces and cities; and, address drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater management challenges and increase operational efficiencies. Representatives from Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Ontario, and Pennsylvania serve on this Working Group, which is preparing a joint action plan for addressing water infrastructure needs in the Great Lakes region.

Great Lakes Community Partners

The Great Lakes Community Partners delegation includes a diverse set of leaders representing local government and community and neighborhood organizations working together to ensure water is clean, distributed equitably, and is affordable in cities with declining populations. The Great Lakes region has suffered from far too many water infrastructure related failures—Toledo's Do Not Drink Advisory, Detroit's shut-offs, and Flint's water crises. As a delegation, we will create solutions that improve the health of Great Lakes citizens by assuring them that our water infrastructure will be fixed, the cost will not be burdensome, innovations utilizing green infrastructure will be pursued, and the protection of the Great Lakes as a commons will be prioritized. In the interest of affordability for all, we will also take leadership on legislative policy to establish water as a human right.

Greater New Orleans Foundation

The Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF) is the community foundation for the 13-parish region of Southeast Louisiana. GNOF has been a programmatic and grantmaking leader in addressing the Greater New Orleans region's water management issues. Through its educational Urban Water Series, its partnerships with the Sewerage and Water Board and the City of New Orleans, and its grantmaking, GNOF has helped build the once nascent field into an active and growing movement. GNOF has also led coastal restoration and adaptation efforts within the region. For many years, it has made grants to community-based and environmental advocacy organizations. These organizations work to educate vulnerable coastal communities regarding the environmental challenges they face on the coast and the Coastal Master Plan development process. They also work with communities to determine and advocate for their needs. The GNOF delegation is composed of grantees and community-based organizations working in coastal restoration, coastal adaptation, and urban water management.

Hawaii

The Hawaii delegation includes representatives from public, private, and non-profit entities that are dedicated to increasing freshwater security throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Our delegation is committed to increasing fresh water availability through policies and innovation that increase water reuse, recharge, and conservation. In 2013, the Fresh Water Council was created to identify shared solutions that benefit citizens throughout Hawaii. Members of the Council recognized the critical importance of water security and collaborated to develop *A Blueprint for Action: Water Security for an Uncertain Future* that outlines a plan to increase water security by an additional 100mgd of reliable fresh water capacity by 2030. The ambitious water strategies outlined in Hawaii's Freshwater Blueprint will not only help increase water security, but will help develop a more resilient Hawaii through water and energy efficiency, watershed and forest protection, and green infrastructure. Additionally, Hawaii is now positioned to cultivate resiliency based on the 2016 designation of Honolulu as a Rockefeller Foundation Resilient City. These efforts, along with the commitment of various sectors, are devoted to making Hawaii more resilient and sustainable in preparation for an uncertain future. At One Water Summit 2017, our goal is to share our fresh water initiative and gain insights on innovative practices and solutions to take back home.

Iowa

Iowa's One Water delegation is a collaboration of diverse leaders—urban and rural—committed to building a sustainable water and environmental future across the state. Our secret to success is working together. We are dedicated to integrated solutions, where water and other resources are managed in a holistic and coordinated way through collective understanding of surface and groundwater, drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and flood water management. The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy—based on robust science, broad stakeholder alignment, and commitments from both urban and rural stakeholders—guides our work to improve water quality. Iowa also is embracing a broader water future, expanding the focus to include climate change impacts and opportunities, soil health, watershed planning, resilient communities, and sustainable funding sources. Watershed communities are working together to reduce flood risk, improve water quality, and build soil health toward a sustainable water future that strengthens communities and agriculture.

Kansas City region

The Kansas City regional delegation is a bi-state group of water and wastewater professionals, non-profits, and community partners dedicated to addressing the future of water in the metro area. In order to embrace a One Water approach in an area divided by two major rivers and a state line, community partnerships and strong, well-defined goals are a necessity. Our region is demonstrating our commitment to a One Water future through green infrastructure, public-private partnerships, combined sewer overflow reduction, bi-state watershed work groups, strong community outreach, and innovative communications and education strategies. This regional delegation includes representatives from Kansas City and Independence on the Missouri side; Johnson County on the Kansas side; the Mid-America Regional Council, which joins the region together through long-term planning; and the consultants and community partners that work with these entities in both states. Since the 2016 Summit, our region has moved forward with the beginning stages of the Blue River Watershed Integrated Plan and continues to support water quality in the region through the creation and support of local and regional water quality grant programs.

Los Angeles region

The Los Angeles One Water delegation represents a diverse group of professionals from public, private, and non-profit organizations working together to advance a sustainable and resilient water future while serving our community to be healthy and livable. Achieving these objectives in a large and diverse region like Los Angeles will instill a spirit of *innovation, integration, and inclusion* in all of our water management efforts. As the stakeholder-driven One Water LA 2040 Plan nears completion, the process is already producing results through collaborative efforts to increased water recycling, to increased capture of urban runoff and stormwater, and to improve water quality at rivers and beaches with green stormwater infrastructure projects. Bringing together multiple public agencies (sanitation, water, and public health), community partners, and progressive engineering consultants to implement new projects and policies will greatly expand water recycling, water conservation, and stormwater capture for “greener” communities and neighborhoods. By implementing innovative projects and holistic multi-benefit solutions, while creating a network of collaboration throughout the region, Los Angeles is creating the resiliency it needs to thrive for generations to come.

Mayors Innovation Project

The Mayors Innovation Project is a national learning network of mayors and their staff committed to “high road” policy and governance: shared prosperity, environmental sustainability, and efficient democratic government. Our delegation is coming to One Water Summit 2017 to both learn from and share innovative approaches to advancing integrated water management, with a focus on cities within the Great Lakes basin. We believe that by using an integrated, One Water management approach, cities can leverage their budgets to improve water infrastructure while also achieving other city goals. In particular, we are interested in learning and sharing strategies related to innovative financing across different types of infrastructure, and opportunities for better collaboration between water managers and city departments to build co-beneficial outcomes.

Minnesota

The Land of 10,000 Lakes delegation includes representatives from the region’s leading water technology companies and local, regional, and state government. One Water in Minnesota is about how our water resources connect energy and food production, technology innovation, livable communities, healthy ecosystems, and

pristine recreational areas to support one of the nation’s nicest places to live. Our delegates work with hundreds of other Minnesota stakeholders to build collaborative approaches between state and local governments, integrate efforts by public, private, non-profit, and higher education to achieve shared sustainability goals. Our end is simple: meet Minnesotans’ expectation for a thriving economy, a great state to live in and visit, with waters that are available, affordable, fishable, swimmable, and support a vibrant ecosystem.

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy delegation convenes nonprofit, public, and private partners interested in exploring nature based solutions—an approach that considers how nature can be used alongside traditional infrastructure to secure clean, reliable natural water sources, keep communities safe from flooding and erosion, and improve water quality downstream. A key attribute of nature-based solutions is that they also produce other benefits for people and nature, such as enhanced wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, which can strengthen local economies and create healthier communities. Each of our delegates works in some way to either research, implement, or promote the use of nature-based solutions.

New Jersey

The New Jersey delegation represents Jersey Water Works, a statewide cross-sector collaborative working to transform New Jersey’s inadequate water infrastructure through investments in sustainable, cost-effective solutions that provide multiple community benefits. The collaborative has more than 300 members acting both together and individually to make measurable progress. Like Jersey Water Works itself, this year’s New Jersey delegation represents diverse perspectives, including city and regional utilities, nonprofit environmental and smart growth organizations, cities (both elected officials and staff), community groups, communications professionals, academic institutions, and philanthropy. The delegation has committed to using its time at One Water Summit 2017 to explore new ways to build public and political will for improved water infrastructure and water management that provides equitable access to water services, recreation, and workforce opportunities. The group will reconvene after One Water Summit 2017 to establish actions to advance the commitment, and it will share and coordinate its efforts with the Jersey Water Works collaborative.

Northeast Ohio region

The Northeast Ohio One Water delegation includes representatives from public, private, nonprofit, utility, research, economic development, and academic institutions. The delegation is organized by the Cleveland Water Alliance, which coordinates, facilitates, and fosters economic development through advancing water technology while elevating the value of clean water to the health of our region. Delegation partners include the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, NASA Glenn Research Center, and Cleveland Neighborhood Progress. At One Water Summit 2017, Northeast Ohio will continue to commit and build upon our theme that when people look for a place to call home, they're looking for a community with vibrancy, and with an abundance of natural resources. Greater Cleveland is the envy of communities around the country. We have a copious amount of fresh water right at our finger tips. We must continue to work diligently for the betterment of our region's most valuable natural resource: Lake Erie.

Pacific Northwest region

The Pacific Northwest One Water delegation includes representatives from water and wastewater utilities, natural resources law, and state drinking water regulatory sectors. Collectively, they are dedicated to advancing the mission of the One Water movement through innovative programs and strong partnerships between the public and private sectors. The region is focused on sustainability, environmental stewardship, and regional water planning and management approaches that engage a variety of stakeholders, local governments, tribes, and federal agencies. The 4-state region (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana) and British Columbia share the Columbia River watershed which provides water for irrigation, hydropower, fisheries, wildlife, navigation, and drinking water to millions of people including native tribes. Climate change is expected to impact the region in several ways, including changes in snowpack, timing of runoff, sea level rise, and more frequent and intense events such as drought, fires and floods. In many locations, drinking water supplies could be vulnerable to these dramatic changes. Governors in the region are dedicated to both mitigation and adaptation strategies. Stormwater runoff is one of the major threats to Puget Sound which has been recognized under the EPA's National Estuary Program. The region has made considerable investments to address this problem, but more work needs to be done.

Raleigh–Durham region

For the 2017 One Water Summit, the Raleigh–Durham delegation includes leaders in local, regional, and state government, water utilities, community organizations, conservation organizations, and academic institutions from the Neuse and Cape Fear River Basins. These leaders are striving to best utilize the water resources in the region in a way that balances human and ecological uses in a long term sustainable approach. Almost 2.5 million people already live in the region and it is one of the fastest growing regions in the country. The Raleigh–Durham region is one of the most water stressed parts of the state due to water quantity and quality issues. Population growth is outstripping the traditional water management tools communities have relied on. Our delegates are working to integrate One Water into their organizations and communities. They are using the One Water framework to protect water quality & quantity in Falls Lake, Jordan Lake and other water supplies, to incorporate green infrastructure into the redevelopment of their communities, and to prevent future water scarcity in a fast-growing region. The integrated water management approach is taking hold in the region to resolve long standing water conflicts.

San Francisco Bay Area region

The San Francisco Bay Area One Water delegation includes representatives from public, private, and non-profit entities who are passionate about advancing a sustainable water future, serving our community, and being a good neighbor to all whose lives or neighborhoods are directly affected by water and wastewater operations. The delegation is led by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), which is the municipal water and wastewater utility for the City and County of San Francisco and wholesale drinking water provider for three additional counties in the bay area. The SFPUC has embraced a One Water approach, and has realized the benefits of merging multiple resources to accomplish innovative projects for many years. In 2016, the SFPUC formalized this by announcing its OneWaterSF approach to resources management. The SFPUC is actively showcasing OneWaterSF via two local water diversification projects—the San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project and the Westside Recycled Water Project. Additionally, the SFPUC recently broke ground on \$2.9 billion dollars in wastewater infrastructure capital improvements as part of its Sewer System Improvement Program. The SFPUC is joined by other water leaders and partners from across the region, including the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD). Nationally recognized for their water

management and stewardship, SCVWD's Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center produces up to 8 million gallons per day of highly purified recycled water for non-potable uses, and the agency is making additional investments in water infrastructure and innovation under their One Water Plan, which will strengthen environmental resilience, enhance quality of life, and support the local economy. The delegation looks forward to sharing our experiences and knowledge and building partnerships with other One Water delegations.

Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans is proud to be member of the US Water Alliance, and the local host partner for One Water Summit 2017. Our One Water delegation includes leadership from our utility, as well as key staff from the Mayor's office. From sea level rise, to subsidence, to coastal erosion, nowhere is the impact of a changing climate more visible than in New Orleans. Under the leadership of Mayor Mitch Landrieu, New Orleans is making major strides on a path to environmental, economic, and community-based sustainability—with water as a lynchpin strategy. During One Water Summit 2017, our delegation looks forward to sharing the progress we are forging through Resilient New Orleans, climate adaption, green infrastructure implementation, and workforce inclusion efforts. We look forward to learning from the delegations coming from other parts of the country, and finding new points of collaboration and convergence for a One Water future.

Tucson region

The Tucson One Water delegation unites representatives from multiple jurisdictions and nonprofit organizations, who are jointly creating a vision of long-term water sustainability for this Sonoran Desert community. The vision prioritizes the protection of Tucson's finite groundwater resources and the efficient use of Tucson's entire renewable water portfolio, including imported water from the Colorado River, reclaimed water, potable reuse, and, increasingly, harvested seasonal rainwater and

stormwater. Tucson is advancing innovative strategies to make water conservation a way of life, and has pioneered flexible water-sharing agreements with other Arizona cities to collaboratively manage water resources. Conservation, water sharing, rainwater and stormwater harvesting, potable reuse, and groundwater recharge will be increasingly important responses to long-term drought and changing climate conditions in the Southwest. The City of Tucson, Pima County, and a broad range of community-based water professionals are committed to forging regional water sustainability throughout southern Arizona.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin's One Water delegation brings together leaders from Madison and Milwaukee, as well as leadership from regional and state governmental agencies, who are advancing a sustainable vision for how to manage water resources in the state that is "America's Dairyland." The Wisconsin delegation is committed to implementing a range of innovative One Water management strategies including generating energy through the wastewater treatment process; removing concrete from rivers; installing green infrastructure; creating more resilient facilities through non-traditional partnerships; working on shared water quality objectives between different utilities; and working upstream on water quality issues with the agricultural community. At last year's summit, the Wisconsin delegation committed to a state-wide agreement focused on sharing best practices and learning across utilities to accelerate watershed scale cooperation for improved water quality. During the 2017 One Water Summit, the Wisconsin delegation will use our time together to explore what an equitable water future looks like for our "bio region." What are the unique natural, political, and social characteristics of the region and how does water equity play a role? Our focus on water equity is inspired by the recently released report by the US Water Alliance, *An Equitable Water Future*. Water equity is a new area for the delegation so we look forward to learning and strategizing with other One Water delegations.

One Water, One Future.

#OneWater17

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