



**One
Water
Summit
2022**



**One Water Commitments to Action:
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**



ONE

Collaboration—it's what drives the One Water movement and everything that we do at the US Water Alliance. The board and staff at the US Water Alliance were honored to welcome 41 One Water Delegations to One Water Summit 2022.

Collectively, the Delegations are an impressive and diverse group of dedicated leaders representing regions and communities across the country. During the closing plenary, 20 delegates made a commitment to action to advance One Water in the coming year.

The Alliance looks forward to continued engagement with these Delegations and celebrating what is accomplished during One Water Summit 2023 in Tucson, AZ.

The Conservation Fund Delegation

The Conservation Fund Delegation commits to supporting and participating with all Atlanta partners to advance the Atlanta Water Equity Taskforce's work to the next level. Taskforce members will reach out strategically to City leaders and other place-based partners to elevate the recommendations of Atlanta's Water Equity Roadmap and seek additional guidance and support. We also commit to using a current stream restoration project as a model for expanding equitably-driven community engagement and workforce development efforts with partners. We will work collectively to activate a network of community leaders that partners have been developing for the past five years through the Watershed Learning Network. We also commit to implementing peer learning opportunities for municipal and community partners, in particular in Montgomery, AL, and Raleigh, NC, using Atlanta as the host and model. This will include sharing equitable development principles, ideas on innovative funding, and honest dialogue on challenges and lessons learned for implementing One Water solutions.

Environmental Justice Coordinating Committee (EJCC) Delegation

The EJCC Delegation consisted of EJCC Cohorts, Environmental Initiative (EI), and Minnesota Environmental Partnership (EP). The water needs facing our community include PFAS, salt contamination (from winter anti-icing practices), source water protection, lead pipes/infrastructure and drinking water, and water quality issues in urban lakes and streams. We as a Delegation commit to work to increase attention to and take action to address Contaminants of Emerging Concern by community organizations, elected officials, and government agencies (EPA, MPCA, and DOH). This could include impacts on surface water, deposition, and rainwater. We will also craft an education component on this issue, meet with community, business, and government organizations, and evaluate a campaign regarding the most effective strategies for action.

Great Lakes Groundwater Governance Delegation

We will continue to convene those across EPA Region 5 who are working on groundwater governance to maximize groundwater's social value and build broad-based, inclusive prosperity. We also aspire to repair past harm—especially to Indigenous communities, the tribal governments representing them, and the ecosystems of which they are intrinsically part of. Given the likely population and climate stresses in our region's future and pressure from outside our region, we believe that urgent action and careful, coordinated planning is warranted.

Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange (GILE) Delegation

The GILE Delegation commits to better connecting to senior leaders and more deeply engaging with beginner communities in the green infrastructure space. Presently, exchange staff are developing an organizational strategy to accomplish these. The Exchange staff are also committing to the development of a State of the Field Report to help measure and benchmark green stormwater infrastructure implementation. We are also working on broadening equity guide training to include a diversity of leaders within water utilities, and an MOU between the Exchange and Greenprint Partners is under review to achieve this. Finally, the Exchange commits to offering our members adaptive leadership programming aligned with the US Water Alliance's One Water Change Leadership Capacities.

Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative Delegation

We affirm our commitment to do our part to advance actions to secure the waters of our island home on behalf of generations of ancestors past and generations of descendants to come. Specifically, we are committed to increasing our water security by an additional 100 MGD of reliable freshwater by 2030, bringing federal funding, leveraged public-private partnerships, and resources to local projects and communities. We are proud of our local leaders and their work with One Water Honolulu and will scale the momentum of the US Water Prize to accelerate action in our next phase of work. For systems to change for people and the planet requires us to remember that our water and the systems dependent on them are extensions of our family, and taking care of family is what we do.

Iowa Delegation

Next year marks the 10th anniversary of Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. This strategy has a clear goal to reduce both nitrogen and phosphorus loads to the Gulf of Mexico by 45%. In the last 10 years, many partners from across Iowa have made strides towards this goal by streamlining the process for implementing conservation practices; through urban and rural collaborations, such as cities using green infrastructure upstream with farmers and landowners to reduce flood risk and protect source water; and with public-private partnerships through grants that have brought millions of dollars to address Iowa's water quality challenges. While it's important to celebrate these successes, it's also critical that we build off our momentum and get more conservation practices on the ground. We see how successful we've been, and we challenge ourselves to go further and faster in the next 10 years.

New Jersey Delegation

The New Jersey Delegation commits to integrate climate resilience in Jersey Water Works committee work. We will promote the need and prioritization of funding for water infrastructure projects to remove barriers that under-resourced and systemically marginalized communities face. We will also pursue partnerships to advance water workforce development and career pathways. And finally, we will enhance understanding of the importance of clean, affordable access for all New Jerseyans to essential water, wastewater, and stormwater services via education and outreach.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Delegation

Our commitment to action is to provide financial and technical support to the communities we serve to accomplish One Water goals through watershed coordination, natural resources protection and enhancement, and sound infrastructure investments. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Delegation commits to ensure that the State of New Jersey assists communities as we collaboratively design and implement a climate conscious One Water approach. To that end, the Department will help communities to understand the stressors that impact their watersheds and work together to preserve, restore, and plan for the future—including climate impacts. We will focus not only on New Jersey’s natural assets, which protect our water sources, but we will also work to enhance investment in hard infrastructure and the built environment, both of which provide for the health and safety of our communities. Specifically, the Department is committing to offer technical assistance to communities in need throughout the State and will report our successes at the next Summit. NJDEP will also continue to build an internal network to implement a data driven and coordinated watershed approach across the agency. In this approach, programs that address land resource protection issues, such as wetland disturbances, mitigation, restoration, and land acquisition, as well as programs that support hard infrastructure, will ensure that they are appropriately considering and working towards watershed water quality improvements in all they do. The Department acknowledges that a coordinated approach will require consistent communication amongst internal groups and with external collaborators that may not have traditionally interacted, and that examination of opportunity and constraints are likely to identify needed policy and regulatory reforms. By focusing on a coordinated approach that addresses both nature-based solutions and the facilitation of investments in a resilient built environment, the Department believes that New Jersey can improve water quality even as the climate is changing.

North Carolina Delegation

We will seek technical and policy solutions statewide to enable One Water solutions. We will focus this year on making the Jordan Lake One Water Coalition stronger, more effective, and strategic. We will also focus on the role of One Water in the Jordan Lake and Falls Lake watersheds and explore the opportunity and role for One Water in the High Rock Lake watershed. We also see opportunities in the High Rock Lake Nutrient Rules and the Wake County One Water Plan. Wake County is the seat of government in NC, and the most populous county in NC with 1.15 million people. The Wake County One Water Plan will be a collaborative effort between municipalities and community partners with a focus on equity. We will explore opportunities to integrate One Water solutions into resilience, recovery, and adaptation work. We will continue to build relationships with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) and other partners to share knowledge and networking. We will move forward by moving together! It’s a big blue tent.

Pittsburgh Water Equity Delegation

One Water Summit 2022 has been both incredible and informative, sparking thoughts, ideas, and accountability to continue to push Pittsburgh forward with water equity. We are committing to the continuation of the implementation of the many informative recommendations of the Water Equity Taskforce roadmap for Pittsburgh, and to expand our network to develop a One Water framework and agenda for our city. And thanks to the Water Equity Network convening, we have been able to expand our networks and resources and are eager to put new things in motion and in place.

Root-Pike Delegation

Our Delegation commits to improve the quality of stormwater runoff through the implementation of naturalized stormwater best management practices throughout the Root-Pike basin. The Root-Pike Delegation consists of members from a watershed nonprofit (Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network), Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC), an organic farmer, and staff from Habitat for Humanity in Racine. Each of us will bring the One Water mindset back to our unique disciplines to improve the quality of stormwater runoff in the five watersheds that comprise the Root-Pike basin. Over the next year, the Root-Pike delegation commits to developing a producer-led watershed group for Kenosha County that will focus on bringing sustainable agriculture practices to the rural areas of the basin. In addition, naturalized stormwater best management practices which focus on infiltrating stormwater using native vegetation will be promoted at future homes built by Habitat for Humanity in Racine, as well as by SWRPC. Using The Stormwater Pond Playbook developed by Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network, SWRPC will focus on bringing these green infrastructure practices to underserved communities in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Soil and Water Conservation Delegation

The Soil and Water Conservation Delegation commits to broadening the participation of the land and water resource management community in the One Water movement. This will include helping to connect soil and water conservation professionals, conservation districts, state agencies, and partners with counterparts in the drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater sectors; championing collaborative activities; and sharing examples of these partnerships to inspire others.

We work daily on watershed management, protecting and enhancing the ecosystem services provided by our natural and working lands. We will strive to reach out to and bring together people for One Water that we have not connected with before. The Soil and Water Conservation Delegation also commits to promoting the One Water approach in our own convenings, and by including One Water messaging in outreach and education programming. One Water will be a topic during the 2023 meetings of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, National Association of State Conservation Agencies, and National Association of Conservation Districts, as well as the theme for the 68th annual

Stewardship Week held on April 30–May 7, 2023. By joining together around a holistic approach to watershed management across all landscapes and communities, we can be responsible stewards of our natural resources—all connected by One Water.

Southeast Michigan Delegation

The Southeast Michigan Delegation may be new to the One Water Summit, but as a region that includes the City of Detroit and represents approximately half the population of the State of Michigan, we are no strangers to the ever-increasing challenges related to water resource management and its importance to the social and economic wellbeing of our region.

We hail from The Great Lakes State. Our history and our future are rooted in our waters and the lands through which they flow. We use our hands to tell you where we are, and we measure distance in time traveled—perhaps a carryover from the Walpole Island First Nation Ojibwe and Odawa ancestors who worked with French Canadians as they arrived to trap and trade in the 16-1700s.

Today, we have more boat registrations in our waters than anywhere else in Michigan. We catch more fish per mile than anywhere else in the entire Great Lakes region. We are Detroit, which the French so named as we are the strait between the great lakes.

We have amazing natural water resources, but as population and industry grew in the 18-1900s, so did our built infrastructure. And with this population growth came land use change, new regional identities, and new challenges. We have one of the largest water and wastewater distribution systems in the United States. We have altered landscapes and watersheds. Many of our natural river systems are now enclosed in underground “ghost rivers.” We face challenges related to:

- Water management (combined sewer, storm and sanitary, basement flooding, CSO, and reliability).
- Asset management (age, condition, sizing, sinkholes, water breaks, grey, and green assets).
- Water equity (regionalization, consolidation of water services, and affordability).
- Water quality (surface water, potable water, and emerging contaminants).
- Climate change (infrastructure and human impacts).

- Loss of knowledge/skilled workforce (retention, recruitment, and education).
- Building One Water capacity (public, municipal, utilities, nonprofits, academia, and industry).

As the Southeast Michigan Delegation, we pledge to continue integrate the One Water mindset as we continue working on these challenges and more. As Michiganders, we use our hands. And as we heard at Summit, we will use our hands: one hand to reach forward on our One Water journey, and the other hand to reach back as we invite others into this new paradigm.

Tap Into Resilience Delegation

Our Delegation’s commitment is to educate local leaders and policymakers about distributed infrastructure as a significant One Water Strategy. Localized distributed or onsite water infrastructure provides resilient and affordable water management alternatives that can address a wide range of water resource challenges. They are long-term investments offering both scalability and long-lasting benefits. The realization that local decision makers, including mayors, city council members, and utility management and staff make 95% of water investments nationwide reveal that connecting with the local leaders about these sustainable solutions is key. WaterNow Alliance and the Tap into Resilience Delegation commit to elevating distributed water infrastructure as a key One Water strategy; educating our local leaders and policymakers on the multiple benefits of distributed water infrastructure solutions; ensuring that the benefits are realized in neighborhoods and communities that need them the most; promoting implementation of community-centered distributed strategies; and advocating for the incorporation of equitable, affordable, and climate resilient distributed strategies in water infrastructure planning and capital budgets.

Texas One Water Delegation

The Texas Delegation represents a broad network of water professionals, advocates, decision makers, and community leaders that are dedicated to working collaboratively towards an equitable, sustainable, and resilient water future for all Texans. We commit to working collaboratively, both as a delegation and in our communities, to embrace One Water and put in place policies and practices that will ensure that we can meet our future water needs while also creating healthier and safer communities and ecosystems. We commit to sharing models of development and innovative policy initiatives that will enhance livability and long-term resilience for all Texans. The Delegation recognizes the importance of centering equity in One Water planning and commits to partnering with the Texas Water Equity Network Delegation to move our state towards solutions that accelerate the development and adoption of equitable One Water policies and practices.

Texas Water Equity Network Delegation

The Texas Water Equity Network Delegation commits to building its ranks through intentional recruitment and training. We will strengthen our cohort through creatively and spiritually transforming our understanding of core equity issues. And we will lead in a way that connects Texas as one state and One Water through partnership with the Texas One Water Delegation.

Tucson Regional Delegation

Living in a desert, we in Tucson know water is precious. We have one of the oldest conservation programs in the country, but our commitment here is to continue to expand that program and evolve it in ways that will ensure we are delivering what our community wants most, which is to see us really act on managing our demand and ensuring our water security for the future. We further commit to making our Storm to Shade (GSI) Program permanent. We are also going to bring a One Water 2100 Master Plan to our mayor and council to ensure it is reflective of community voice and priorities. We also commit to making incremental changes to processes and practices wherever possible to ensure equity is foundational to Tucson Water. Our final commitment is to show everyone a great time in Tucson at One Water Summit 2023!

Twin Cities Regional Delegation

Our Delegation commits to promoting and facilitating a One Water approach in the Twin Cities metro area regional planning. In the 2050 regional policy process, we will collaborate with regional partners, agencies, and traditionally underrepresented communities to improve and protect waters while creating a climate-resilient and equitable region. We will rely on and utilize the expertise of all to highlight challenges and opportunities in this vision. We will work collaboratively to develop equity-centered, resilient policies, projects, and services. We will work to build and strengthen trust and relationships through this work to ensure that a high quality of life and prosperity is shared by all. Through these actions, we will safeguard clean water for future generations.

Water Equity Network Delegation

On behalf of the Water Equity Network, we commit to providing the space and resources for utility leaders, community partners, and advocates to continue to gather and learn from each other to achieve our One Water goals—uniting people and places, upstream and downstream. We commit to proactively and intentionally reaching out to folks from all communities, because the work we are doing demands all voices to be heard.

One Water, One Future.

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