



# One Water Summit 2022

September 13-15  
Milwaukee, WI



# One Water, One Future.



# ONE

# Welcome!

## Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the US Water Alliance, thank you so much for joining us in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for One Water Summit. We're honored you chose to spend a few days with us, and we're looking forward to all the wonderful conversations, knowledge sharing, and networking that makes the One Water Summit such a unique and valuable experience.

Our hope is to build a safe Summit that provides a platform for genuine connection and peer exchange, whether you meet emerging artists for the first time or connect with an old friend you've worked with for years. We have an exciting and diverse array of programming featuring an incredible range of professionals and opportunities to visit interesting and innovative projects here in Milwaukee—a city defined by its freshwater resources.

Over the next three days, you will connect with changemakers from diverse walks of life. The One Water Summit is a space for everyone who is committed to a sustainable water future to share experiences, insights, and energy.

Our collective water future is under immense pressure, and we need everyone to bring their **power**, their **purpose**, and their **joy** to this critically important work. The US Water Alliance staff, network, and Board of Directors hope you enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones over the next three days.

## One Water, One Future.



**Mami Hara**  
CEO, US Water Alliance

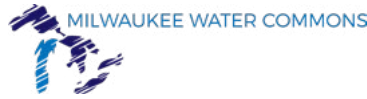


**Oluwole A. (OJ) McFoy**  
General Manager, Buffalo  
Sewer Authority; Board Chair,  
US Water Alliance

# Our Sponsors

The US Water Alliance thanks our sponsors for their generous support of One Water Summit 2022—without them this event would not be possible.

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## Leaders Circle



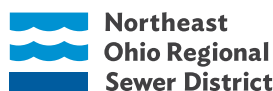
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**Thank you to our key partners for their support in advancing One Water.**

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- The JPB Foundation
- The Kresge Foundation
- Pisces Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Spring Point Partners LLC
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# About the US Water Alliance



The US Water Alliance advances policies and programs to secure a sustainable water future for all. Established in 2008, the Alliance is a nonprofit organization that brings together diverse interests to identify and advance common-ground, achievable solutions to our nation's most pressing water challenges. Our members and partners include community leaders, water providers, public officials, business leaders, environmental organizations, policy organizations, labor unions, and more. We:

**Educate** the nation about the true value of water and water equity, as well as the need for investment in water systems. Our innovative approaches to building public and political will, best-in-class communications tools, high-impact events, media coverage, and publications are educating and inspiring the nation about how water is essential and in need of investment.

**Accelerate** the adoption of One Water principles and solutions that effectively manage water resources and advance a better quality of life for all. As an honest broker and action catalyst, we convene diverse interests to identify and advance practical, achievable solutions to our nation's most pressing water challenges. We do this through our strategic initiatives and One Water Hub, which offer high-quality opportunities for knowledge building and peer exchange. We develop forward-looking and inclusive water policies and programs, and we build coalitions that will change the face of water management for decades to come.

**Celebrate** what works in innovative water management. We shine a light on groundbreaking work through storytelling, analysis of successful approaches, and special recognition programs that demonstrate how water leaders are building stronger communities and a stronger America.

## Vision

**A sustainable water future for all.**

**We are driving the One Water movement—an approach to water stewardship that is innovative, inclusive, and integrated. As a member-supported national nonprofit organization, the Alliance educates the nation about the true value of water and proactively advances policies and programs that manage water resources to advance a better quality of life for everyone.**

## Mission

**To drive One Water breakthroughs that positively transform our environment, economy, and society.**

**Our approach is inclusive. We bring all stakeholders together to co-create and leverage solutions. Through a program of national dialogues, collaborative platforms for knowledge building and peer exchange, the development of forward-looking and inclusive water policies and programs, public education, and coalition building, we are driving a national movement to ensure that clean, reliable water is available for all.**

**One Water, One Future.**

# Our Members

As of September 2022





Our members work across the country in every discipline of water management including drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, water reuse, flood and groundwater management, and watersheds. We represent all who have a stake in America's water future—local water agencies, public officials, the private sector, community organizations, environmental groups, labor, research institutions, and more.

We invite you to join our national membership of change-makers. To learn more about the benefits of US Water Alliance membership, please email: [membership@uswateralliance.org](mailto:membership@uswateralliance.org)

We are proud to have the following organizations as members of the US Water Alliance:

**Public Utilities/Agencies:**

Alexandria Renew Enterprises (VA)  
Atlanta Department of Watershed Management (GA)  
Atlantic County Utilities Authority (NJ)  
Austin Water (TX)  
Baltimore City Department of Public Works (MD)  
Boston Water and Sewer Commission (MA)  
Buffalo Sewer Authority (NY)  
Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (NC)  
Cascade Water Alliance (WA)  
Cedar Rapids Utilities Department (IA)  
Central Arkansas Water (AR)  
Charlotte County Utilities (FL)  
City of Ashland Public Works (OR)  
City of Bend (OR)  
City of Bloomington (MN)  
City of Boerne (TX)  
City of Buena Vista Public Works (CO)  
City of Columbus (OH)  
City of Des Moines Public Works (IA)  
City of Flint (MI)  
City of Fort Collins/Utilities (CO)  
City of Jackson Public Works Department (MS)  
City of Newark Department of Water and Sewer Utilities (NJ)  
City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities (VA)  
Clayton County Water Authority (GA)  
Clean Water Services (OR)  
Cleveland Water (OH)  
DC Water (DC)  
DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management (GA)  
Denver Water (CO)  
Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (MI)  
Great Lakes Water Authority (MI)  
Greater Cincinnati Water Works (OH)  
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (TX)  
Hampton Roads Sanitation District (VA)  
Houston Water (TX)  
Independence Water Pollution Control Department (MO)  
Johnson County Public Works & Infrastructure (KS)  
KC Water (MO)  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (CA)  
Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (KY)  
Louisville Water Company (KY)  
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (WI)  
Madison Water Utility (WI)  
Marana Water (AZ)  
Metro Water Recovery (CO)  
Metropolitan Council (MN)  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (CA)  
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (IL)  
Miami Conservancy District (OH)  
Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer District (FL)  
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (WI)  
Milwaukee Water Works (WI)

Mount Pleasant Waterworks (SC)  
New Braunfels Utilities (TX)  
NEW Water (WI)  
New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NY)  
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (OH)  
Orange Water and Sewer Authority (NC)  
Philadelphia Water Department (PA)  
Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority (PA)  
Prince William County Service Authority  
Raleigh Public Utilities (NC)  
Saint Paul Regional Water Services (MN)  
San Antonio Water System (TX)  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (CA)  
Seattle Public Utilities (WA)  
Seminole County Environmental Services Department (FL)  
Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (LA)  
Town of Cary (NC)  
Town of Maysville (NC)  
Tucson Water (AZ)  
Valley Water (CA)  
Wake County (NC)  
WSSC Water (MD)

**Private Companies:**

AECOM  
Aiqueous  
American Water  
Arcadis  
Autodesk  
Black & Veatch  
BlueConduit  
Brown & Caldwell  
Carollo Engineers  
Evoqua Water Technologies  
Ferguson  
GHD  
Greeley & Hansen  
Greenprint Partners  
Hazen and Sawyer  
HDR  
HydroDigital, LLC  
Jacobs  
Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc.  
Promise  
Raftelis  
Stantec  
Tetra Tech, Inc.  
Veolia North America  
Xylem

**Nonprofit Organizations:**

Alliance for Water Efficiency  
American Rivers  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies  
Bay Area Council  
California Water Association  
California Water Efficiency Partnership (CA)  
Clean Water Construction Coalition  
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress  
The Conservation Fund  
DigDeep  
Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association  
EJ Water Cooperative  
Freshwater  
The Freshwater Trust  
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America  
Great Lakes Commission  
Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange  
International Code Council  
Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance  
Iowa Soybean Association  
Moonshot Missions  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association  
National Rural Water Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Nature Conservancy- Florida Chapter  
New Jersey Future  
Pacific Institute  
PolicyLink  
River Network  
Rural Community Assistance Partnership  
Soil and Water Conservation Society  
Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.  
Water & Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association  
Water Design-Build Council  
WaterNow Alliance  
Water Professionals International  
Water Research Foundation

**Labor Unions:**

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades  
Laborers' International Union of North America

# Agenda at a Glance



# Tuesday September 13

All activities will take place on the main floor at the Wisconsin Center.

Time	Event	Location
7:00am – 4:00pm	<b>Registration Open</b>	Ballroom Pre-Function
7:15am – 8:15am	<b>Networking Breakfast</b>	Ballroom Pre-Function
8:00am – 4:00pm	<b>One Water Summit Open Space</b> <i>Open to all Summit attendees.</i>	Hilton Milwaukee City Center, 6th and Green
8:15am – 8:30am	<b>One Water Delegations: Welcome</b> <i>Open to all Summit attendees.</i>	Ballroom CD
8:30am – 9:45am	<b>One Water Delegations: Peer Dialogues, Round One</b> <i>Open to all Summit attendees.</i>	
	Climate Resilience and Equitable Water Systems	Room 102B
	Improving State Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing	Room 102C
	Regional Approaches to One Water	Room 102D
	Still Waters Run Deep: Artists, Expression, and Impact	Room 103B
	Connecting Urban and Rural Communities with Natural Infrastructure	Room 103C
9:45am – 10:15am	<b>Break</b>	
10:15am – 11:30am	<b>One Water Delegations: Peer Dialogues, Round Two</b> <i>Open to all Summit attendees.</i>	
	Distributed Infrastructure and One Water	Room 102B
	The Future of Great Lakes Water Infrastructure	Room 102C
	Emerging Leader Perspectives on the Challenges of One Water	Room 102D
	From Wastewater to One Water: Investing in the Circular Economy	Room 103B
	The Water Equity Network	Room 103C
11:30am – 12:00pm	<b>Break</b>	

12:00pm – 3:00pm	<b>Institutes</b> <i>Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Lunch will be provided.</i>	
	Aligned for Action: Water as Part of the Climate Solution	Room 102B
	Equity in Green Infrastructure: A Guide to Measuring & Evaluating Progress	Room 102C
	Water as a Public Good: Balancing Affordable Water Access and Utility Financial Resilience	Room 102D
	One Water Council Meeting (closed session)	Room 103B
	A Bridge Over Troubled Waters: Artistic Principles for Strengthening Connection and Culture Change	Room 103C
12:00pm – 3:30pm	<b>Site Visits</b> <i>Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Lunch and transportation will be provided. Attendees should meet in the Ballroom Pre-Function of the Wisconsin Center 15 minutes before scheduled departure time.</i>	
	<b>12:00pm – 3:00pm</b>	
	Jones Island MMSD Treatment Facility	
	Tour of the UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences	
	Workforce Development at the IUPAT Training Facility	
	<b>12:30pm – 3:30pm</b>	
	Flood Control Along the Kinnikinic River	
	Milwaukee's Green Infrastructure	
	Menomonee River Corridor Restoration	
	Milwaukee River and Greenseams	
4:40pm – 5:00pm	<b>Transportation to the US Water Prize Ceremony</b> <i>Transportation service will depart at 4:40pm, 4:50pm, and 5:00pm to Discovery World</i>	N. Vel R. Phillips Ave.
5:00pm – 7:00pm	<b>US Water Prize Ceremony and Celebratory Reception</b>	Discovery World 500 N Harbor Dr. Milwaukee
7:10pm – 7:30pm	<b>Transportation to the Wisconsin Center</b> <i>Transportation service will depart at 7:10pm, 7:20pm, and 7:30pm to Wisconsin Center</i>	Discovery World

# Wednesday September 14

All activities will take place on the main floor at the Wisconsin Center.

Time	Event	Location
7:30am – 8:45am	<b>Continental Breakfast and Networking</b>	Ballroom Pre-Function
7:30am – 8:30am	<b>Value of Water Member Appreciation Breakfast</b> (members only)	Room 103D
7:30am – 4:00pm	<b>Registration Open</b>	Ballroom Pre-Function
8:00am – 4:00pm	<b>One Water Summit Open Space</b> <i>Open to all Summit attendees.</i>	Hilton Milwaukee City Center, 6th and Green
8:45am – 10:15am	<b>Opening Plenary</b> <b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> <b>Ebbs and Flows: Milwaukee's Water Story</b>	Ballroom CD
10:15am – 10:30am	<b>Break</b>	
10:30am – 12:00pm	<b>Series 1: Concurrent Sessions</b>	
	Utility Strategies to Advance Racial Equity	Room 102B
	Alternatives for Pricing Water: Learnings from Two Cities	Room 102C
	Understanding and Measuring One Water	Room 102D
	Arts and Culture in Advancing One Water	Room 103B
	Climate and Community Resilience: Emerging Approaches that Reach for Justice	Room 103C
12:00pm – 1:15pm	<b>Networking Luncheon</b> <b>Special Video Address: Vice President of the United States Kamala Harris</b> <b>Meeting Water's Moment: A Fireside Chat with Mitch Landrieu</b>	Ballroom CD
1:15pm – 1:30pm	<b>Break</b>	

1:30pm – 3:00pm	<b>Series 2: Concurrent Sessions</b>	
	Successful Customer Service and Engagement	Room 102B
	Centering Community Experience and Expertise	Room 102C
	Community-Centered Capital Financing, Structuring, and Delivery	Room 102D
	Culture Change Insights to Transform the Water Sector	Room 103B
	Governance, Policy, and One Water	Room 103C
3:00pm – 3:15pm	<b>Break</b>	
3:15pm – 4:45pm	<b>Series 3: Concurrent Sessions</b>	
	Strengthening the Labor/Water Partnership	Room 102B
	Extended Producer Responsibility for PFAS	Room 102C
	One Water Solutions for Water Supply and Drought	Room 102D
	Centering Water Stewards	Room 103B
	Practical Solutions to Closing the Water and Sanitation Access Gap	Room 103C
4:45pm – 5:00pm	<b>Break</b>	
5:00pm – 6:30pm	<b>Networking Reception at the Wisconsin Center</b>	Ballroom Pre-Function

# Thursday September 15

All activities will take place on the main floor at the Wisconsin Center.

Time	Event	Location
7:30am – 9:30am	<b>Registration Open</b>	Ballroom Pre-Function
8:00am – 9:00am	<b>Continental Breakfast and Networking</b>	Ballroom Pre-Function
9:00am – 10:15am	<b>Morning Plenary</b> <b>Laboratories of Innovation: One Water in the States</b>	Ballroom CD
10:15am – 10:30am	<b>Break</b>	
10:30am – 12:00pm	<b>Series 4: Concurrent Sessions</b>	
	Attracting and Retaining the New Water Workforce	Room 102B
	Transforming our Infrastructure Paradigm	Room 102C
	Anti-Displacement and Social Infrastructure Development	Room 102D
	The Critical Role of Soil and Watersheds in Water Resource Management	Room 103B
	Creatively Accessing Capital in a post-BIL World	Room 103C
12:00pm – 1:30pm	<b>Closing Plenary and Luncheon Celebration</b> <b>Bringing It Home: One Water Commitments to Action</b>	Ballroom CD
1:30pm	<b>Adjourn</b>	



Tuesday September 13

One Water Delegations Peer Dialogues,  
Site Visits, and Institutes



All activities will take place on the main floor at the Wisconsin Center.

7:00am – 4:00pm

## Registration Open

Ballroom Pre-Function

7:15am – 8:15am

## Networking Breakfast

Ballroom Pre-Function

8:00am – 4:00pm

## One Water Summit Open Space

Hilton Milwaukee City Center—6th and Green

Head outdoors for some fresh air at 6th and Green at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center. **Open to all Summit attendees.**

8:15am – 8:30am

## One Water Delegations: Welcome

Ballroom CD

Welcome by **Mami Hara**, CEO, US Water Alliance, and **Scott Berry**, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, US Water Alliance. **Open to all Summit attendees.**

8:30am – 11:30am

## One Water Delegations Peer Dialogues

The US Water Alliance dedicates the morning of Tuesday, September 13 to a series of strategic peer-to-peer dialogues inspired by our One Water Delegations. These conversations are designed by and for the One Water delegates. **Open to all Summit attendees.**

8:30am – 9:45am

## One Water Delegations: Peer Dialogues, Round One

### Climate Resilience and Equitable Water Systems

Room 102B

Hosted by the Kresge CREWS Delegation

During this Peer Dialogue, attendees will learn about the history, goals, and aspirations of the Kresge Foundation-supported CREWS (Climate Resilient & Equitable Water Systems) Initiative and hear powerful stories and wisdom from practitioners who have been driving their grant-funded work at the intersection of climate, flooding, and equity in communities across the country for more than five years. Come learn from this dynamic community of environmental nonprofit leaders, academics, and community and environmental justice advocates about examples of collaborative governance work happening in partnership between community-based organizations, utilities, and government. Deepen your understanding of the principles and better practices that can help propel such cross-cutting work. Explore and discuss in community what valuable lessons learned from CREWS work and practitioners should help inform and grow the One Water movement to scale.

## Improving State Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing

Room 102C

*Hosted by the SRF Advocates Delegation*

Join fellow advocates for a world café-style conversation designed to surface analysis of State Revolving Fund administration and related water infrastructure topics, share learnings, and get to know fellow advocates. Topics may include principal forgiveness and definitions of “disadvantaged communities,” workforce development, lead service line replacement, and more with plenty of room for informal conversation and community building.

## Regional Approaches to One Water

Room 102D

*Hosted by the Southern California Regional Delegation*

The Southern California Delegation will be hosting a dialogue focused on Regional Partnerships and Collaboration. In the face of unprecedented water challenges, we truly believe collective action is key in addressing and overcoming governance and institutional barriers. A diverse group of leaders from both the public and private sectors will be framing this discussion. We’re excited to have this important conversation with our fellow delegations to learn and exchange ideas on scaling up data sharing, regional climate readiness strategies, coordinated policies, and creative multi-agency cost-sharing approaches.

## Still Waters Run Deep: Artists, Expression, and Impact

Room 103B

*Hosted by the National Arts and Culture Delegation*

We must embrace new forms of knowledge, ideas, and approaches to build effective and equitable One Water solutions and partnerships. By honoring the expertise and processes of artists spanning design, folk arts, visual arts, theater, music, literature, film and media, culinary arts, and dance, as well as storytelling, spiritual rituals, craft traditions, games, and other creative practices, One Water leaders can expand their skills and impact. Participants in this peer to peer dialogue will engage with artists and cultural leaders around experiential insights, creative interventions in our current climate, and the impact of arts partnerships that center artists and communities.

## Connecting Urban and Rural Communities with Natural Infrastructure

Room 103C

*Hosted by the Soil and Water Conservation Delegation and the Iowa Delegation*

The management of land and water has been accelerated by agricultural and urban dynamics, and the potential to utilize policy, planning, and partnerships to unite rural and urban landscapes for the betterment of our natural resources and communities is being realized now more than ever. This dialogue will allow for discussion on how we work on a watershed scale to bring together urban and agriculture partners and include all watershed residents to implement a One Water approach in which all water is managed in an integrated, inclusive, and sustainable manner to secure a bright, prosperous future for our children, our communities, and our country.

**9:45am – 10:15am**

**Break**

## One Water Delegations: Peer Dialogues, Round Two

### Distributed Infrastructure and One Water

Room 102B

*Hosted by the Tap into Resilience Delegation*

The Tap into Resilience Peer Exchange will foster discussion about distributed water infrastructure as a key One Water strategy. The Tap into Resilience Delegation invites participants to engage on ideas and bring their questions about:

- The water management and multiple co-benefits of distributed infrastructure, including how localized strategies build resilience to climate change and offer equitable and affordable solutions;
- Distributed infrastructure as a long-term investment that should be financed alongside centralized systems with capital dollars;
- Making the case for distributed strategies to local leaders and policymakers; and
- Opportunities to expand access to equitable, affordable distributed systems in communities that stand to benefit the most from these investments.

WaterNow Alliance and the Tap into Resilience Delegates are hosting this Peer Exchange to accelerate the adoption of distributed strategies as core strategies to transform how communities engage with water and advance the One Water future.

### The Future of Great Lakes Water Infrastructure

Room 102C

*Hosted by the SRF Advocates Delegation*

Join the Alliance for the Great Lakes and Great Lakes Commission staff to workshop the pending document, *Approaches for Improving Great Lakes Water Infrastructure: A Blueprint*. This roadmap for equitable and climate resilient water infrastructure in the Great Lakes region has been created by a Regional Working Group convened by the GLC. Great Lakes Commissioners may consider the resulting blueprint for decision-makers when they convene this October in Erie, Pennsylvania. This effort seeks to advance public health, climate resilience, and equitable community participation in water infrastructure planning and implementation. Lend your expertise to this exciting and timely project!

### Emerging Leader Perspectives on the Challenges of One Water

Room 102D

*Hosted by the Duke University WILD Delegation and the Mentoring Connections Delegation*

The water sector will need to replace nearly three million workers over the next decade, with some areas experiencing staff vacancies of up to 50%. Many utilities are already experiencing significant changes in executive leadership teams and specialized departments. While this “silver tsunami” is putting the sector on edge, a “rising tide” of inspiring young and mid-career professionals is already stepping up. This dialogue will elevate the voices of emerging One Water leaders to discuss their top priorities and challenges the water sector will face as they take on leadership positions, including workforce development, affordability, digital solutions, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. They will also discuss what is needed to shift the water sector’s culture to be more inclusive, equitable, and resilient.

### The Water Equity Network

Room 103C

*Hosted by the Water Equity Network Delegation*

Water is a force for equity and opportunity. Historically marginalized communities face an array of equity challenges: affordability, water quality concerns, flooding, and more. At the same time, water can be an essential part of building thriving, healthy communities for all. As a nationwide community of practice, the Alliance’s Water Equity Network connects leaders from utilities, community organizations, environmental groups, and local government working to advance equitable policies in the water sector on the local, regional, and national levels. Learn from and connect with a broad range of peers during an informal and engaging dialogue about current water equity challenges. This Alliance-led session will include a brief overview of the Water Equity Network followed by deep-dive small group discussions organized around the three pillars of water equity. New and familiar faces are all encouraged to attend.

## From Wastewater to One Water: Investing in the Circular Economy

Room 103B

*Hosted by the International Climate and Water Delegation*

The Ellen McArthur Foundation defines a circular economy as one that “designs out waste and pollution, keeps products and materials in use, and regenerates natural systems.” Many sectors are leveraging this model, putting more money in their pockets and sustainable resources back into society. The water sector has yet to take this leap. Why wait? Wastewater contains water, nutrients, and five times the amount of energy needed to treat it. These are tremendous resources in our current processes just waiting to be put to good use. Leveraging a circular economy in wastewater can displace products society already purchases—swapping synthetic fertilizers for biosolids, transitioning fossil fuel energy to renewable natural gas or electricity produced onsite, and more. These are just the low-hanging fruit. Products from wastewater are better for the environment and locally generated, and revenues can offset the cost of capital upgrades while improving affordability in our communities. Yet current planning and investment processes do not factor in the opportunity to participate in the circular economy when organizations are asked to make critical investments in infrastructure. As a result, many of our treatment trains fall short in fully taking advantage of the great resources entrusted to our care. How can we shift the core business of treating wastewater to an investment in our collective future? How can we take this once-in-a-lifetime federal infrastructure investment and rise to meet market demand? How can we embed investment strategies in capital programs that leverage end use in mind to benefit our environment and communities, as well as produce goods that consumers want?

11:30am – 12:00pm

## Break

12:00pm – 3:00pm

## Institutes

One Water Summit 2022 offers a series of skill-building institutes that are designed to develop practical knowledge and foster dialogue on pressing issues in the water sector. *Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Lunch will be provided.*

### Aligned for Action: Water as Part of the Climate Solution

Room 102B

Every day, we hear more examples of the devastating toll climate change is having on ecosystems and communities. Even when we recognize the critical importance of eliminating emissions and building climate resilience within the water sector, it can be difficult to know where to start or where our actions can have the greatest impact. What we do know is that we can no longer delay or act alone. The scale of this problem requires collaboration and coordination across and beyond our sector. Together with core partners, the US Water Alliance convened over 40 One Water leaders from across the US from September 2021 through June 2022 to reimagine water as a key pathway to address the climate crisis. This “Imagination Team” looked carefully at the data, needs, and opportunities, and identified leverage points for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of utilities, watersheds, and beyond. The team emerged with a vision and set of recommendations for mobilizing the water sector to take bold and proactive action to ensure a livable and living planet for the long term. This Institute will share and build on the Imagination Team’s insights, deepening our understanding of water’s role in climate mitigation and adaptation and helping us see how we can work across sectors and scales for collective impact. Experts will share how they are setting and pursuing their Net Zero Plus goals. Participants will engage in creative activities to unlock new thinking, overcome barriers, and align around climate action. Participants will leave empowered to act now, with a better sense of how they can contribute to shaping water management strategies and investments for both people and the planet.

#### Moderators:

- **Alexis Frasz**, Co-Director, Helicon Collaborative
- **Katy Lackey**, Director of Climate Action, US Water Alliance

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**Speakers:**

- **Nureen Faiza Anisha**, Water Resources Engineer, Oregon State University
- **Jason Bregman**, Partner, Singer Studio
- **Al Cho**, Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy and External Affairs Officer, Xylem
- **Sne Desai**, Executive Vice President and Chief Growth & Sustainability Officer, Evoqua Water Technologies LLC
- **Jane Atkinson Gajwani**, Agency Chief Decarbonization Officer, New York City Department of Environmental Protection
- **Erik Meyers**, Vice President, Climate and Water Sustainability, The Conservation Fund
- **Ari Neumann**, Director, Community & Environmental Services, Rural Community Assistance Corporation
- **Cindy Wallis-Lage**, Executive Director, Sustainability and Resilience, Black and Veatch
- **Walt Walker**, Associate / Water Equity Practice Leader, Greeley and Hansen

## **Equity in Green Infrastructure: A Guide to Measuring & Evaluating Progress**

*Room 102C*

*Hosted by the Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange and Greenprint Partners*

The growth in the use of green infrastructure for stormwater management in the US offers tremendous potential for advancing an equitable future in which one's race, economic status, zip code, and other personal and community identities do not predict one's quality of life. When thoughtfully designed, it not only manages stormwater but can simultaneously reduce residents' exposure to harm (such as polluted water, localized flooding, severe heat, poor air quality, and blight that invites crime and communicates worthlessness) and increase their opportunities to thrive (through visible investments that communicate worth and increased access to naturalized spaces that support health). It is an approach that when developed with community can elevate the power for communities to shape their own future and build their economic vitality. In this session, participants will develop a strong understanding of how GSI influences equity and take an in-depth look at the Equity Guide for GSI Practitioners, developed by the Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange (the Exchange) in collaboration with Greenprint Partners. At the conclusion of the session, participants will be able to describe how

GSI influences equity and identify what levers practitioners can use to advance equity in their day-to-day practice and interpret the Equity Guide and recognize how to utilize it in their own work to create meaningful change.

## **Water as a Public Good: Balancing Affordable Water Access and Utility Financial Resilience**

*Room 102D*

Universal access to safe, affordable, water and wastewater service is essential to maintaining public health and wellbeing—as the COVID-19 pandemic made clear. It is in our collective national interest that everyone has sustained access to clean water and sanitation. Yet, the reality is that maintaining and operating water systems is incredibly costly, and both people who cannot pay water bills and utilities who cannot cover costs can face severe consequences. The time is right to re-envision how we price and fund water in a way that reflects its value as a public good. Effective tools are emerging to help utilities to reach financial stability alongside more compassionate policies and practices to ensure no residents go without critical water and sanitation services. Participants will hear from water sector leaders about the opportunity for a paradigm shift in affordability, as well as practical insights on strategies they are implementing to support low-income households in the wake of the pandemic.

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**Speakers:**

- **Kelly Caplan**, Division Manager, Customer Engagement & Advocacy, Customer Service, WSSC Water
- **Letitia Carpenter**, Senior Program Manager, US Water Alliance
- **Tony Curtis**, Executive Director, Metropolitan Housing Coalition
- **Oluwole (OJ) McFoy**, General Manager, Buffalo Sewer and Water Authority
- **Zeno Röller**, Consultant, US Water Alliance
- **Emily Simonson**, Director of Strategic Initiatives, US Water Alliance
- **Greg Wukasch**, External Affairs Manager, San Antonio Water System

## One Water Council Meeting

Room 103B

Through the One Water Council, the US Water Alliance aims to build, strengthen, and activate a network of innovative leaders who are driving One Water across the country. The One Water Council fosters peer exchange and knowledge building among US Water Alliance members, provides advice and serves as a sounding board on Alliance programming and strategic direction, and produces practical One Water tools and products that are informed by the expertise and innovation of Council members. Through monthly meetings, the Council offers a valuable opportunity to talk candidly with leaders outside the usual sphere of influence and work together to solve today's most difficult water issues. During this annual Council planning and strategy session, we will dive into big trends shaping One Water, impact on individual members' work and joint opportunities for the sector, and guide key work and priorities for the Council and the Alliance over the next year. ***This is a closed session for US Water Alliance One Water Council members only.***

## A Bridge Over Troubled Waters: Artistic Principles for Strengthening Connection and Culture Change

Room 103C

We are currently facing the reality that many communities suffer from poor water quality, too much or too little water, and aging water infrastructure that is in urgent need of replacement. Our water systems and management approaches are further stressed by the unprecedented impacts of climate change—unpredictable weather, sea-level rise, flooding, migration, and more. In 2020, the US Water Alliance launched a recurring 18-month One Water Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program as part of a commitment to integrating arts and culture into all aspects of our work. By partnering with artists and using creative interventions, we can accelerate our ability to achieve a sustainable water future for all. To find equitable solutions to water challenges, we must cultivate the necessary conditions that foster collaboration and innovation. Inspired by the Simon and Garfunkel 1970's song, and subsequent Aretha Franklin cover, "Bridge Over Troubled Water," this institute will utilize participatory exercises, dialogue, and reflection to reveal the value of artistic processes as a tool to shift organizational and sector-wide culture, prioritize meaningful engagement, and create space for new possibilities.

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### Speakers:

- **Benny Starr**, Senior Fellow, US Water Alliance
- **sTo Len**, Artist in Residence, NYC Department of Sanitation
- **Runa Ray**, Fashion Designer and Environmentalist

12:00pm – 3:30pm

## Site Visits

One Water Summit 2022 offers a series of site visits that offer an in-depth view into the challenges, opportunities, progress, and partnerships underway in Milwaukee, WI. Site visit partnerships leave from the Milwaukee Center during designated times. *Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Lunch and transportation will be provided. Attendees should meet in the Ballroom Pre-Function of the Wisconsin Center 15 minutes before the scheduled departure time.*

12:00pm – 3:00pm

### Jones Island MMSD Treatment Facility

*Hosted by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and Veolia Water Milwaukee*

Tour Wisconsin's largest water reclamation facility that produces a fertilizer cherished by golf course superintendents and master gardeners. Jones Island sits on the shores of Lake Michigan in the City of Milwaukee. The facility is on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Thousands of people tour Jones Island each year to see one of the greatest inventions for protecting public health and wastewater treatment.

**Speaker: Meredith Wittmann**, Veolia Water Milwaukee, Tour Coordinator & Guide

### Tour of the UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences

*Hosted by UWM School of Freshwater Sciences*

The School of Freshwater Sciences at UW-Milwaukee is the first graduate school in the nation dedicated solely to the study of freshwater and the largest academic research institution on the Great Lakes. UWM's freshwater expertise has been key to advancing Milwaukee's reputation as a world water hub. Take a closer look at their state-of-the-art facility and learn how, for more than 50 years, the faculty and scientists have been conducting internationally recognized freshwater research across four essential themes: human and ecosystem health, freshwater system dynamics, freshwater technology, and freshwater policy and economics.

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#### Speakers:

- **Eric Leaf**, Assistant Dean for Advancement, UWM School of Freshwater Sciences
- **Liz Sutton**, Outreach Program Manager, UWM School of Freshwater Sciences

### Workforce Development at the IUPAT Training Facility

*Hosted by IUPAT District Council 7—Finishing Trades Institute*

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) will be hosting a walkthrough tour of their training facility in Milwaukee as part of the Finishing Trades Institute Coatings & Glazing Forum. The forum is designed for contractors, developers, engineers, and others to see the IUPAT Finishing Trades Institute (FTI) work on display. IUPAT and FTI are committed to expanding opportunities in our trades, and part of the purpose of the forum is to demonstrate how our career pathway from pre-apprentice to certified journey worker allows opportunities for individual workers and communities alike and will allow us to assist in meeting the needs of our nation's water infrastructure maintenance, climate retrofits, and new construction. To that end, we will be joined by WRTP | Big Step representatives to present a path forward in workforce acceleration in communities throughout Wisconsin.

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#### Speakers:

- **Lindsey Blumer**, President and Chief Executive Officer, WRTP/Big Step
- **Chytania Brown**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Employ Milwaukee
- **Karen Dettmer**, Managing Director for Infrastructure Implementation, EPA Office of Water
- **John Doherty**, SAGP, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
- **Adam Holmes**, Director of Training, IUPAT District Council 7
- **Amanda Martin**, President, Porta Painting
- **Eric Piotrowski**, Business Development Manager, Global Operations, Association for Materials Protection and Performance
- **Jac Weitzel**



## Flood Control Along the Kinnikinic River

*Hosted by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District & Sixteenth Street Community Health Center*

Updated rainfall data now shows more than 660 homes and businesses are at risk for flooding in the watershed, up from 60 homes and businesses in a previous floodplain map. It's the most densely populated, urbanized watershed in the State of Wisconsin with little room for storing excess water when heavy rains hit. Miles of concrete-lined riverbeds have claimed lives and become extremely dangerous with flows reaching a rate of 20 feet per second, the equivalent of 400 to 500 pounds of force. More than \$400 million of work is planned to reduce flooding in the watershed and make neighborhoods and homes near the water safer for everyone. The tour includes a couple of sections of the Kinnikinic where work has been completed—the river stripped of concrete lining and returned to a naturalized amenity.

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### Speakers:

- **Patrick Elliott**, Senior Project Manager, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- **Kelly Moore Brands**, Sustainability and Environment Project Manager, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers
- **Christina Taddy**, Senior Public Engagement Specialist, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

## Milwaukee's Green Infrastructure

*Hosted by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District*

There are enough green infrastructure projects completed in the Milwaukee area to capture and store more than 80 million gallons of water each time it rains. Combined, 73 green roofs account for 13 acres of water-absorbing land on top of buildings of all sizes. Hundreds of rain barrels and rain gardens dot the landscape with more and more homeowners reaching out to learn more about the benefits of managing water where it falls. Cities and villages have adopted bioswales, native landscaping, and many other techniques to help reduce water pollution.

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### Speakers:

- **Heather Dietzel**, P.E., Sustainability Project Manager, Milwaukee Public Schools
- **Justin Hegarty**, P.E., LEED A.P., Executive Director, Reflo
- **Kyle Heller**, Facilities and IT Manager, 88Nine Radio
- **Chris Schultz**, CPM, Senior Project Manager—Integrated Watershed Management, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- **Andy Kaminski**, P.E., ENV SP, Project Manager—Integrated Watershed Management, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- **Erick Shamberger**, Director, City of Milwaukee Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO)

## Menomonee River Corridor Restoration

*Hosted by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District*

Fish from Lake Michigan can travel an additional 37 miles upstream on the Menomonee River and its tributaries thanks to the removal of 1,000 feet of steeply-pitched concrete channels. The tour will also highlight hundreds of millions of dollars of flood management projects on the Menomonee, including a 65-acre basin with walking/biking trails around the perimeter. A half-mile-long underground tunnel that's 17 feet in diameter feeds flood water to the basin. Just downstream, a busy park was redesigned to store floodwater until flows in the river subside after heavy rain.

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**Speaker: Mark Mittag**, P.E., CFM, MMSD Senior Project Manager

## Milwaukee River and Greenseams

*Hosted by Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District*

Greenseams® permanently protects land that contains “sponge-like” hydric soils, a great asset to have for reducing the risk of future flooding in areas expecting significant growth and development. So far, MMSD has acquired just over 5,000 acres of Greenseams® property, capable of storing 2.4 billion gallons of water. The program only buys land from willing sellers. Properties are restored and in most cases are open to the public for bird watching and passive recreation.

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**Speaker: Kristin Schultheis**, Greenseams® & Working Soils® Program Manager, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

4:40pm – 5:00pm

### Transportation to the US Water Prize Ceremony

*N. Vel R. Phillips Ave.*

Transportation service will depart at 4:40pm, 4:50pm, and 5:00pm to Discovery World.

5:00pm – 7:00pm

### US Water Prize Ceremony and Celebratory Reception at Discovery World

*500 N Harbor Dr, Milwaukee, WI*

Awarded on an annual basis, the US Water Prize celebrates outstanding achievements in the advancement of sustainable, integrated, and inclusive solutions to our nation’s water challenges. It is the preeminent national recognition program for exemplary efforts to secure a One Water future for all. *Transportation will be provided.*

7:10pm – 7:30pm

### Transportation to the Wisconsin Center

Transportation service will depart at 7:10pm, 7:20pm, and 7:30pm to the Wisconsin Center.

Wednesday September 14

Plenaries and Concurrent Sessions



All activities will take place on the main floor at the Wisconsin Center.

7:30am – 8:45am

## Continental Breakfast and Networking

Ballroom Pre-Function

7:30am – 8:30am

## Value of Water (VOW) Member Appreciation Breakfast

Room 103D

*This breakfast is open only to VOW members.*

Because of you, our Value of Water members, the VOW campaign has inspired the nation and built public support and political will for investment in an equitable and sustainable water future for all. Join your fellow VOW members in a moment of celebration and discuss what the future holds for this important campaign.

7:30am – 4:00pm

## Registration Open

Ballroom Pre-Function

8:00am – 4:00pm

## One Water Summit Open Space

Hilton Milwaukee City Center—6th and Green

Head outdoors for some fresh air at 6th and Green at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center. **Open to all Summit attendees.**

8:45am – 10:15am

## Opening Plenary

### Welcome and Opening Remarks Ebbs and Flows: Milwaukee's One Water Journey

Ballroom CD

#### Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Mayor Cavalier Johnson**, City of Milwaukee
- **Oluwole A. (OJ) McFoy**, General Manager, Buffalo Sewer Authority; Board Chair, US Water Alliance
- **Mami Hara**, CEO, US Water Alliance

#### Ebbs and Flows: Milwaukee's Water Story

The name "Milwaukee" is a settler variation of the Anishinaabemowin word *minowaki*, which means "good land." The city of Milwaukee sits at the confluence of the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnikinic rivers and along the shores of Lake Michigan. Water is foundational to the city, and it is at the root of the lives of the many people who have lived here. But, as with many US cities, Milwaukee's history is also rooted in environmental and economic injustice. Milwaukee is one of the most segregated cities in the country—its historically marginalized communities disproportionately bear the weight of environmental challenges associated with water quality, climate change, flooding, aging infrastructure, and combined sewer overflows. Our opening plenary will explore how water and equity shapes and defines our host city. Milwaukee's water story brings a multitude of different perspectives and stories of water access, environmental justice, climate change, infrastructure, innovation, environmental protection, economic development, and more. Hear from Milwaukee leaders on water's ebbs and flows in the region and learn lessons from Milwaukee's water journey to take back to your community.

**Moderator: Elizabeth Cisar**, Senior Advisor, Office of Water, US Environmental Protection Agency

#### Speakers:

- **Shalina S. Ali**, Co-Executive Director, TRUE Skool
- **Mark Denning**, Educator, Consultant, and Native American Water Protector
- **Cavalier Johnson**, Mayor, City of Milwaukee
- **Kevin Shafer**, Executive Director, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- **Kirsten Shead**, Co-Executive Director, Milwaukee Water Commons

10:15am – 10:30am

## Break

10:30am – 12:00pm

## Series 1: Concurrent Sessions

### Utility Strategies to Advance Racial Equity

Room 102B

With the growing call for racial justice and equity across the country, many water organizations are committing to advancing racial equity in the sector. This includes taking internal action, such as recruiting a diverse workforce and establishing a culture of inclusivity, to ensure the retention of that workforce. Further, recognizing that Black, Indigenous, communities of color, and low-income communities are often disproportionately impacted by water equity issues affecting water access, affordability, quality, and flooding, water organizations are building critically important and authentic relationships with community partners. Hear from key water sector players on how they are working both internally and in relationship with external partners to advance racial equity practices and outcomes and learn about the US Water Alliance's new utility-focused Racial Equity Toolkit.

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**Moderator: Sheryl Ude**, Senior Advisor to the COO, DC Water

#### Speakers:

- **Lorenzo Freeman**, Watershed Manager, Department of Watershed Management, Atlanta Department of Watershed Management
- **Ronnie Versher**, Director of Community Benefits, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- **Kellie Watson**, Equity and Compliance Officer, Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District

### Alternatives for Pricing Water: Learnings from Two Cities

Room 102C

As part of the Recovering Stronger Initiative and in partnership with Stantec, the US Water Alliance explored innovative pricing models that make residential water bills more affordable and equitable while preserving utility revenue. Using real data from Milwaukee and Cincinnati, the team modeled a local funding scheme that allows for a certain amount of costs and an associated essential level

of water service for all residents to be paid for by property taxes or another similar property-based cost recovery mechanism. While the Alliance and its partners are still early in this work, significant findings are inspiring these two cities to make real change. Hear from representatives from both cities and rate structure experts to learn how these findings might inform how we view, value, and manage our nation's water systems.

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**Moderator: Zeno Röller**, Consultant, US Water Alliance

#### Speakers:

- **Verna Arnette**, Deputy Director, Greater Cincinnati Water Works
- **Andy Burnham**, Vice President, Water Management, Stantec
- **Jane Islo**, Water Business Operations Manager, Milwaukee Water Works

### Understanding and Measuring One Water

Room 102D

One Water is an ever-expanding and changing movement. As more water leaders seek to break down silos and manage water in an inclusive, sustainable, and equitable manner, understanding the trajectory of the One Water movement and the growing embodiment of One Water values is becoming paramount. In partnership with the One Water Council, the US Water Alliance started a State of the One Water Field initiative to define baseline information and metrics to track the growth of the One Water movement. In addition, the Water Research Foundation has an ongoing project to create a rating system with key metrics and benchmarks that cities will use to assess their progress toward One Water adoption. Learn about these efforts and understand the synergies between them that can strengthen your own One Water journey.

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**Moderator: John Take**, Executive Vice President, Chief Growth & Innovation Officer, Stantec

#### Speakers:

- **Mazdak Arabi**, Borland Endowed Professor of Water Resources, Colorado State University
- **Joseph Danyluk**, OneWater Director, Jacobs
- **Jennifer Walker**, Director, Texas Coast and Water Program, National Wildlife Federation
- **Inge Wiersema**, Vice President, National One Water Director & Water Resources Practice Lead, Carollo Engineers

## Arts and Culture in Advancing One Water

Room 103B

Working with artists can unlock new approaches to achieving One Water ambitions and also spark innovation across water management. In the Alliance's Arts Accelerator, four utilities engaged artists to explore the power and value of arts, culture, and the creative process for problem-solving, relationship-building, and community engagement. Hear directly from the artists and utilities about how they formed their partnerships, what water issues they chose to address, and key lessons learned. Utilities will share their thoughts about the role of arts and culture in transforming approaches to water management, including helping them build deeper, more authentic relationships with the communities they serve.

**Moderator: Alexis Frasz**, Co-Director, Helicon Collaborative

### Speakers:

- **Catherine Harris**, Pollution Prevention Specialist, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- **Jane Hurley**, H2Outreach Specialist, Central Arkansas Water
- **Tanya Hollifield**, Artist in Residence, Central Arkansas Water
- **Maura Jarvis**, Assistant Manager, Public Engagement Team, Philadelphia Water Department
- **Alex! Jimenez**, Artist in Residence, Tuscon Water
- **James MacAdam**, Administrator, Tuscon Water
- **nipinet landsem**, Artist in Residence, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
- **Trapeta Mayson**, Poet, Teaching Artist, Community Organizer

## Climate and Community Resilience: Emerging Approaches that Reach for Justice

Room 103C

Increasingly, water leaders are embracing strategies to address the climate crisis: from innovations in water reuse and decentralized systems, to scaling urban green infrastructure and nature-based solutions, to enhanced sea level rise planning and adaptation. How can these models also address underlying issues of racial, economic, and social inequities in our communities? Speakers will explore how One Water strategies can ensure thriving communities by embedding social justice into water management programs and decisions.

**Moderator: Ayanna McCloud**, Executive Director, Bayou City Waterkeeper]

### Speakers:

- **Ann Grodnik-Nagle**, Climate Policy Advisor, Seattle Public Utilities
- **Marcus Hendricks**, Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Planning, Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience and Justice Lab, University of Maryland
- **Cheyenne Holliday**, Water Justice Coordinator, Verde
- **Jonathan Seefeldt**, Senior Communications Manager, National Wildlife Federation

12:00pm – 1:15pm

### Special Video Address:

#### Vice President of the United States Kamala Harris

Vice President of the United States Kamala Harris addresses the One Water Summit attendees with an important and inspiring message. This special video appearance delivers a critical call to action to ensure all Americans have reliable, long-term access to clean water and conveys some of the Biden Administration's priorities over the coming decade.

## Networking Luncheon Meeting Water's Moment: A Fireside Chat with Mitch Landrieu

Ballroom CD

Mitch Landrieu serves as White House Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator. As a former mayor of the iconic water city of New Orleans, he knows first-hand the challenges and opportunities of investing in water infrastructure. US Water Alliance CEO Mami Hara will lead an informative and inspiring "fireside chat" with Mr. Landrieu on the historic federal investment in water infrastructure via the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the administration's goals for equitable infrastructure, and how communities can position themselves to be competitive for investment and make the most of available dollars in the coming years.

**Moderator: Mami Hara**, CEO, US Water Alliance

### Speaker:

- **Mitch Landrieu**, Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator, White House

1:15pm – 1:30pm

## Break

1:30pm – 3:00pm

## Series 2: Concurrent Sessions

### Successful Customer Service and Engagement

*Room 102B*

Engaged, responsive, and compassionate customer service is a powerful formula for utilities to best serve their communities. While there is no universal approach for effective engagement, many successful strategies have emerged from local programs that share common elements. This session will explore those elements and how they were implemented. In addition to sharing their local stories, speakers will share critical insights, innovations, and strategies that allow for success, meeting community needs, increasing participation in existing programs, and restoring trust.

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**Moderator: Juliet Ellis**, Head of Utilities, Promise Network Inc.

#### Speakers:

- **Kelly Caplan**, Division Manager, Customer Engagement & Advocacy WSSC
- **Peggy Conerly**, Affordability Specialist, San Antonio Water System
- **Deborah Martinez**, CEO, Mission of Love Charities
- **Shannon Tivitt**, Executive Director, Louisville One Water Partnership

### Centering Community Experience and Expertise

*Room 102C*

From water shutoffs and urban flooding to contamination and drought, the US Water Alliance believes that the people closest to the problem (most often Black, Indigenous, communities of color, and low-income communities) are also closest to the solutions. However, systemic racism and the flawed design of our government and power structures often prevent those closest to water challenges from participating in and influencing decision-making.

The work of the Water Equity Network and other cross-sector partnerships has demonstrated the immense impact that intentionally centering community experience and expertise can have in solving complex water challenges. This session features community leaders and culture bearers who are transforming business-as-usual utility engagement methods into practices that value community expertise as vital to success. This session will explore how to center and lift community voices, as well as how to meaningfully listen. Opportunities will be provided for the audience to share their own expertise.

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**Moderator: Nana Fofie**, Cultural Organizer

#### Speakers:

- **Ben Hirsch**, Co-Director, West Street Recovery
- **Monica Lewis Patrick**, CEO & President, We the People of Detroit
- **Alice Liu**, Co-Director, West Street Recovery
- **Ben Broadway**, West Street Recovery
- **Frederick Tutman**, CEO, Patuxent Riverkeeper

### Community-Centered Capital Financing, Structuring, and Delivery

*Room 102D*

A powerful movement in program and project development seeks to achieve multiple goals historically perceived to be prohibitively expensive to attain in concert: responsiveness to community priorities such as community wealth-building, sustainable delivery and maintenance, and effectively achieving and lowering the cost of environmental protection. Key models and approaches, such as community based public-private partnerships and cooperatives that have emerged over the past decade, will be explored in this session.

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**Moderator: Dan Kennedy**, Senior Director, Utility & Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey

#### Speakers:

- **Michael Burke**, President, Quest2 Consulting
- **Dominique Lueckenhoff**, Senior Fellow, US Water Alliance
- **David St. Pierre**, Senior Advisor, EJ Water Cooperative, Inc.

## Culture Change Insights to Transform the Water Sector

Room 103B

To achieve One Water, the culture of the water sector must transform to be inclusive, environmentally and culturally competent, and co-create solutions in partnership with community. This session will explore successful cross-sector culture change strategies from GSI/distributed infrastructure and tribal and community partners. Participants will learn how these strategies can be applied to the water sector. Speakers will discuss how they have worked to move the culture in the water sector.

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**Moderator: Jamil Bey**, President/CEO, UrbanKind Institute

### Speakers:

- **Paula Connolly**, Director, Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange
- **César A. García**, Co-Founder/Co-Director, Lake City Collective
- **Martye Griffin**, Director of Ecosystem Services, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

## Governance, Policy, and One Water

Room 103C

When working to achieve One Water, political and governance barriers can be some of the most difficult to overcome. While it is true that it often takes a combination of the right people at the right time with the right methods, what is emerging from the work of our speakers is a demonstration that barrier removal can be achieved as well as scaled. Speakers will share their approaches, lessons learned, and strategies that will help define your approach to overcoming political and governance barriers.

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**Moderator: Albert (Al) Cho**, SVP, Chief Strategy & External Affairs Officer, Xylem

### Speakers:

- **Emily Barrett**, Environment & Resilience Program Manager, Triangle J Council of Governments
- **Sarah Buck**, Chief Programs Officer, Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- **Adel Hagekhalil**, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- **Karyn Riley**, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, WSSC Water

3:00pm – 3:15pm

## Break

3:15pm – 4:45pm

## Series 3: Concurrent Sessions

### Strengthening the Labor/Water Partnership

Room 102B

The recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included \$15 billion in new set-aside funds for lead service line remediation. While this on its own does not solve the lead crisis in this country, it will drive significant water sector action for years. Lead service line replacement is a complicated task and often requires extensive training and certifications. Building the workforce that is needed to meet this moment requires a significant investment of time and resources. For many places, this is a significant opportunity to deepen partnerships with area labor organizations. Hear from labor organization leaders and partners about their strategies for training and workforce development around meeting the lead service line challenge.

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**Moderator: Zach Schafer**, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, US Environmental Protection Agency

### Speakers:

- **Steve Breitlow**, Business Manager, United Alliance of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 75
- **Richard Diaz**, Midwest Regional Field Organizer, BlueGreen Alliance
- **Patrick Pauly**, P.E., Superintendent, Milwaukee Water Works
- **John Swan III**, Secretary Treasurer/Business Representative, Laborers International Union of North America Local 113



## Extended Producer Responsibility for PFAS

Room 102C

Contamination of our nation's water by chemicals like PFAS is largely due to the unregulated actions of industry far removed from the water sector. When contamination occurs, families, community members, and water and wastewater utilities are on the front lines of community frustration and end up footing the bill for the infrastructure necessary to respond to the contamination. This workshop will explore what we can learn from producer responsibility efforts in states and from other issue areas (such as plastic waste) and how those learnings can be applied to the water sector. Hear from impacted community members, policymakers, advocates, and utility professionals about ideas and strategies that hold upstream polluters responsible for the downstream impacts on communities and costs to families and utilities.

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**Moderator: Michael Mucha**, Chief Engineer & Director, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

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### Speakers:

- **Huda Alkaff**, Founder & Director, Wisconsin Green Muslims
- **Erica Brown**, Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
- **Dune Ives**, Director of Brand and Communications, US Water Alliance
- **Gary Krueger**, Supervisor, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

## One Water Solutions for Water Supply and Drought

Room 102D

Immense areas of our country are facing water scarcity, bringing significant challenges to communities across the United States from East to West and throughout tribal nations. Water supply challenges and historic droughts are becoming the "new normal." The One Water movement can face these challenges head-on using innovative, equitable, and integrated outcomes-based solutions. Watershed planners, utilities, community leaders, and private sector partners all have roles to play in equitably addressing tradeoffs and implementing sustainable strategies. This session will explore the latest drought challenges facing basins across the United States, as well as forward-looking water supply planning to enhance water and watershed resilience.

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**Moderator: Vijay Sundaram**, Global One Water Practice Leader, AECOM

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### Speakers:

- **Marisa Flores-Gonzales**, Program Manager III, Water Resources and Supply, Austin Water
- **David Johnson**, Deputy General Manager, Operations, Southern Nevada Water Authority
- **Cynthia Koehler**, Executive Director, WaterNow Alliance
- **John Kmiec**, Director, Tucson Water

## Centering Water Stewards

Room 103B

Great water stewards have managed our nation's waters long before and alongside the development of contemporary utilities and their practices. One Water encompasses Indigenous and local water knowledge and leadership—understanding place, addressing past harm, and co-developing strategies for moving forward is foundational to advancing sustainable One Water practices. Transformational place-based water infrastructure projects center local community partners at every stage of the project—from research and planning to design to ongoing operations and maintenance. This panel highlights model partnerships that illuminate the necessity and benefits of collaboration and knowledge sharing among water stewards, community advocates, and culture bearers.

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**Moderator: Shanai Matteson**, Artist, Cultural Organizer, Honor the Earth

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### Speakers:

- **Rev. Houston Cypress**, Artist and Co-Founder, Love The Everglades Movement, Inc.
- **Carrie Jennings**, Research and Policy Director, The Freshwater Society
- **Paulina López**, Executive Director, Duwamish River Community Coalition
- **Emma Robinson**, Executive Director of the Navajo Water Project, DigDeep

## Practical Solutions to Closing the Water and Sanitation Access Gap

*Room 103C*

In 2019, the US Water Alliance partnered with DigDeep and Michigan State University to conduct extensive field research on the water access challenges facing communities throughout the United States. This work revealed that two million people currently lack access to drinking water and indoor plumbing, and that factors such as race and historic disinvestment are primary indicators of who will experience this reality. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing disparities and showed that low-income and communities of color that lack access to critical resources are affected much more drastically during a public health crisis. Water equity champions across the country have developed practical, cross-sector solutions to closing this access gap. This session will feature policy leaders, frontline community representatives, and local water professionals working to implement innovative strategies for ensuring universal access to water and indoor plumbing services.

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### Moderator:

**Yasmin Zaerpoor**, Director of Water Equity and Climate Resilience, PolicyLink

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### Speakers:

- **George McGraw**, Founder/CEO, DigDeep
- **Karen Dettmer**, Managing Director for Infrastructure Implementation, EPA Office of Water
- **Susana De Anda**, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Community Water Center
- **Denis Qualls**, Program Manager, Dallas Water Utilities

4:45pm – 5:00pm

## Break

5:00pm – 6:30pm

## Networking Reception at the Wisconsin Center

*Ballroom Pre-Function*

Thursday September 15

Plenaries and Concurrent Sessions



All activities will take place on the main floor at the Wisconsin Center.

7:30am – 9:30am

## Registration Open

Ballroom Pre-Function

8:00am – 9:00am

## Continental Breakfast and Networking

Ballroom Pre-Function

9:00am – 10:15am

## Morning Plenary Laboratories of Innovation: One Water in the States

Ballroom CD

State leadership is the foundation of achieving One Water breakthroughs. Leveraging historic federal mandates and funding, much of the local implementation is supported at the state level through policy change, funding formulas, regional infrastructure projects, cross-agency collaboration, and more. Hear from exceptional state leaders about how they're moving One Water agendas forward in their own states as well as in the regions where they govern. Gather inspiration and bold ideas for policy and partnerships that can move One Water from a concept to a reality in your state.

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**Moderator: George Hawkins**, Founder & President, Moonshot Missions

### Speakers:

- **Preston Cole**, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- **Shawn LaTourette**, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- **Katrina Kessler**, Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

10:15am – 10:30am

## Break

10:30am – 12:00pm

## Series 4: Concurrent Sessions

### Attracting and Retaining the New Water Workforce

Room 102B

There is a tremendous opportunity in the water sector to meet the sector's workforce needs while also ensuring the growing water workforce reflects the diversity of the communities it serves. Speakers will share their successful approaches to recruiting and retaining the new water workforce, as well as emerging thinking on multi-agency, cross-sector workforce strategy efforts.

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**Moderator: Meishka Mitchell**, President & CEO, Emerald Cities Collaborative

### Speakers:

- **Korey Gray**, Vice President, Contract Compliance and Business Development, DC Water
- **Dr. Shannah Tharp Gilliam**, Deputy Director, Aging Services, Allegheny County Dept of Human Services
- **August Ball**, CEO/Founder, Cream City Conservation
- **Chris Koch**, CEO, Civic Method

## Transforming our Infrastructure Paradigm

Room 102C

While much of the current focus of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is on how to quickly and effectively push out the massive infusion of funding through existing mechanisms, ensuring the best use of these funds requires a deeper look. Funds for water, roads, transit, housing, and more are flowing to communities across the country. We need to be taking a whole-of-government approach that thinks about infrastructure holistically across types. We must also ensure every dollar of this historic investment makes the most inter-generational impact by delivering critically important environmental impact and equity goals. Session experts will discuss water's role in this change and what the water sector can learn from working across infrastructure categories to transform the water sector's infrastructure investment and implementation paradigm in a way that centers equity, climate action, and economic opportunity for all communities.

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**Moderator: Cindy Wallis-Lage**, Executive Director, Sustainability and Resilience, Black & Veatch

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### Speakers:

- **Carolyn Berndt**, Legislative Director for Sustainability, National League of Cities
- **Emily Feenstra**, Chief Policy and External Affairs Officer, American Society of Civil Engineers
- **Ifetayo Venner**, Senior Vice President, Arcadis

## Anti-Displacement and Social Infrastructure Development

Room 102D

With new IIJA funding flowing to “disadvantaged” and “underserved” communities, how do we ensure that there are strategies in place to ensure these funds do not perpetuate, or even accelerate, the gentrification and displacement of people and cultures? In this session, participants will learn how policy interventions, investment, culturally competent practices, and cross-sector collaboration can support more equitable infrastructure development that mitigates the unintended negative economic and cultural impacts that large-scale investment has historically had on Black, Indigenous, communities of color, and low-income communities. Topics to cover include community ownership, capital absorption, anti-displacement policies, and inclusive decision-making.

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**Moderator: Zeno Röller**, Consultant, US Water Alliance

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### Speakers:

- **Daniel Wiley**, Managing Director, Ironbound Community Corporation
- **Omar Carrillo Tinajero**, Director, Center for Community Investment
- **Julie Owens**, Watershed Manager, Atlanta Department of Watershed Management

## The Critical Role of Soil and Watersheds in Water Resource Management

Room 103B

While tremendous benefits of nature-based solutions to watershed health exist, the barriers to implementation can be immense. This session will explore the benefits of soil health, intact forests, wetlands, and agriculture-utility partnerships, key success factors, and challenges of rural and urban conservation. Attendees will leave with the inspiration, knowledge, and tools to return home and partner, fund, and scale up long-term nature-based conservation in their communities' watersheds.

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**Moderator: Clare Lindahl**, CEO, Soil and Water Conservation Society

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### Speakers:

- **Ethan Brown**, InfrastructureNext Partner, Willamette Partnership
- **Susan Kozak**, Division Director of Soil Conservation and Water Quality, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
- **Denise Savageau**, Board Member, National Association of Conservation Districts

## Creatively Accessing Capital in a post-BIL World

Room 103C

A central question of the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), as well as other infrastructure funding sources, is getting investment to places that need it most. Opportunities abound to both work within our existing systems of water finance, as well as imagine alternatives and the removal of policy and structural barriers. In this session, hear from leading experts in infrastructure funding and finance about their creative initiatives around access to capital and improving access in areas of highest need and other communities around the country.

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**Moderator: Arthine Cossey van Duynes**, CEO & Founding Partner, WaterFunder, LLC

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### Speakers:

- **Sanjiv Sinha**, Senior Vice President, Environmental Consulting and Technology
- **Erin Riggs**, Executive Director, Environmental Finance Center at UNC-Chapel Hill
- **Eric Letsinger**, CEO, Quantified Ventures
- **Wendi Wilkes**, Senior Advisor, Office of Water, US Environmental Protection Agency

12:00pm – 1:30pm

## Closing Plenary and Luncheon Celebration

### Bringing It Home: One Water Commitments to Action

Ballroom CD

Let's take the next step together by assembling key learnings from the past two days and turning them into action in our own communities. During our closing plenary, we will focus on how to best work with our colleagues, neighbors, and diverse partners to craft America's water future. Our day will close with both celebration and new beginnings as our One Water delegations share past accomplishments and make inspiring commitments to action for the year to come. Come to learn, collaborate, and support each other!

1:30pm

## Adjourn

# Delegations



## **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 recognize Delegations as the heart of the One Water movement. We are thrilled to welcome 41 One Water Delegations to One Water Summit. It is an impressive group of dedicated leaders representing diverse regions and constituencies from across the country. We thank our many partners who helped form these delegations.

Delegates are champions for an equitable, sustainable, and inclusive water future and are dedicated to sharing knowledge, building relationships, and bringing the learnings from One Water Summit 2022 back to their home regions or communities of practice. We look forward to working with you all in the months and years to come.

## **One Water, One Future.**

# **2022 One Water Delegations**

## **American Rivers Delegation**

American Rivers' mission is to protect wild rivers, restore damaged rivers, and conserve clean water for people and nature. We couldn't accomplish our mission without acknowledging the massive impact that cities and the built environment have had in changing the hydrology of our rivers and streams. Water withdrawals, stormwater discharges, and wastewater treatment all change the way our rivers function, impacting not only the natural environment, but also the very cities that depend on this water. The American Rivers delegation is committed to bringing together different stakeholders with a vested interest in water—from the large utility to the small community group—to identify common goals, overlooked efficiencies, and practical solutions to water challenges. Our hope is that by actively working across a broad spectrum of interests that we can work together to make the needed policy changes and solve the funding challenges needed to create both healthy communities and healthy cities.

## **Climate Resilient and Equitable Water Systems (CREWS) Delegation**

The Climate Resilient and Equitable Water Systems (CREWS) Delegation is convened by the US Water Alliance and The Kresge Foundation's Environment Program. The Delegation is composed of environmental non-profits, academics, and community and environmental justice advocates around the nation advancing equitable solutions to address climate-related water impacts on low-income and communities of color. Climate change is placing significant pressure on water management systems and decision-making processes, with a strong emphasis on urban flooding. Low-income, communities of color, and other climate-vulnerable populations feel the compounding impacts of climate change first and more frequently. Yet, they are often left out of the development and implementation of solutions. Local climate resilience planning that supports a One Water approach must include an eye toward water equity and involve communities throughout the decision-making process and resilience project implementation. The CREWS Delegation is seeking to scale efforts and support a national network of learning and practice that amplifies marginalized voices, integrates climate data and lived experience into planning, and strengthens climate-vulnerable communities from a health, wealth, and equity standpoint. We are looking to highlight and share powerful examples of community-government collaboration on strategies and



solutions at the nexus of climate, flooding, and equity, and to learn of other successful strategies for equitable resilience planning, particularly in response to climate-related flood and storm impacts.

### **The Conservation Fund Delegation**

As a national nonprofit working on the integration of environmental and economic outcomes through land and water conservation, partnerships, and leadership training, The Conservation Fund is focused on implementing One Water Solutions in all communities, urban and rural, and across watersheds. Natural green infrastructure provides climate, water quality, economic, and social benefits, especially in historically underserved communities. Advancing green infrastructure is at the center of the Fund's work. Equally important is empowering individuals to become champions for change. The Fund's 2022 One Water Delegation proudly includes community leaders and other partners from Atlanta and other cities to share their stories and ideas on how to improve water equity, advance stewardship, and raise the quality of life on individual and community scales.

### **Duke University WILD Delegation**

The Duke University Water Innovation Leadership Development (WILD) Delegation brings together drinking water, clean water, and stormwater utility leaders from across the United States who participated together in a water leadership curriculum developed by Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. While the delegates come from diverse geographies across 11 states, they are driven by shared leadership challenges including improving water equity and affordability; building a sustainable and representative water workforce; becoming more resilient to the impacts of climate change; and developing solutions to aging water infrastructure, revenue shortfalls, and evolving regulatory frameworks. The delegates represent small, medium, and large water utilities, serve in a variety of leadership and functional roles, and contribute to an assortment of national, state, and local water committees and professional organizations for the betterment of our shared water resources. The delegation comes to the Summit with a desire to connect with other One Water stakeholders and exchange innovative, equitable solutions to all aspects of water stewardship and leadership including community relations and trust-building; workforce development; business and financial planning; customer service; operations and maintenance; engineering; regulatory compliance; and more. As a collective of rising utility leaders, the delegation is committed to engaging the next generation of water professionals and growing a circular economy of water nationwide.

### **Environmental Justice Coordinating Committee Delegation**

Created by Public Policy Project, Environmental Justice Coordinating Council (EJCC) is an entirely black and brown leadership base of environmental and social justice agents of change, working cooperatively to understand and address the environmental justice overburden in their community. The vision of EJCC is to eradicate environmental and economic injustices in Minnesota and beyond. EJCC visualizes, creates, and implements ecological, economic, and strategic investments to end environmental racism. EJCC believes "all issues are environmental issues, and all environmental issues are ours." EJCC participants are volunteers who serve a term of one year, receive a stipend for their time, and are reimbursed for all expenses. EJCC participants receive intense training and education on various environmental issues impacting them and their community. EJCC applies what they learn to educate their community and work to correct environmental injustices in black and brown communities. With EJCC cohorts in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Public Policy Project will develop EJCCs in environmental justice communities across the state and throughout the US. The EJCC Delegation includes EJCC participants and partner organizations—Environmental Initiative and Minnesota Environmental Partnership.

### **Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water Delegation**

EPA's Office of Water (OW) works to ensure that drinking water is safe and that our nation's waters are protected to support healthy communities, vibrant ecosystems, agriculture activities, and economic opportunities across the nation. OW plays a key role in implementing the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act, investing in America's water infrastructure, and conducting research to advance EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, EPA is working with its partners to invest more than \$50 billion—the largest investment in water infrastructure in the nation's history. The One Water Summit delegation represents leadership and dynamic staff that are playing key roles in implementing BIL, from removing lead service lines to addressing emerging contaminants, lifting climate solutions, creating good jobs, and ensuring disadvantaged communities have equitable access to federal resources and the technical assistance needed to apply for them.

### **Great Lakes Groundwater Governance Delegation**

The Great Lakes Groundwater Governance Delegation includes people working on groundwater in a state, tribal, nonprofit, or legal capacity from the six Great Lakes states in EPA Region 5 (Minnesota to Ohio). They were interviewed during a Joyce Foundation-funded project by a Freshwater-led team regarding the status of groundwater regulation in their jurisdiction; the technical knowledge production informing regulations; the degree of coordination across units of government, and challenges or needs. They are convening here to review the draft report that emerged from their interviews, document research, and shape the next steps for our shared groundwater future.

### **Green Bay/Lower Fox River Regional Delegation**

The Delegation from the Lower Fox River/Green Bay region is comprised of a diverse group representing a tribal nation, county land conservation, municipal wastewater utilities, and multiple nonprofit organizations. Collectively, this group is focused on improving soil health, water quality, habitat, and enhancing the economic value of the region. Green Bay is the largest embayment of Lake Michigan, a Laurentian Great Lake. Collectively, the Laurentian Great Lakes represent 20% of the world's remaining surface freshwater. As the world's largest freshwater estuary, Green Bay captures nutrients and sediment from the surrounding watershed. Excess nutrients can fuel the growth of cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms, which can be detrimental to recreation, health, and safety. The Lower Fox River/Green Bay region is home to nearly half a million people in four counties and most of the Oneida Nation. It is impacted by urban development, industry, and agriculture. The Lower Fox River and Green Bay are listed as impaired waterways, designated an Area of Concern by the EPA and the International Joint Commission, and have a state and federally recognized total maximum daily load (TMDL). This Delegation is a subset of practitioners that are collectively working on watershed recovery and revitalization in the area, looking for long-term sustainable solutions under a changing climate. From this Summit, we are seeking innovative and collaborative examples for our delegates to return to Northeast Wisconsin and put into practice.

### **Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange Delegation**

The Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange (“the Exchange”) is a highly connected, member-driven peer learning network whose mission is to activate local governments and water agencies in the US and Canada to equitably implement GSI. Our network focuses on three areas: 1) creating new tools, resources and innovations that support equitable implementation of green stormwater infrastructure, 2) building the leadership skills of current and future public water sector leaders, and 3) making the case for green stormwater infrastructure, supportive policies, and funding. Our Delegation is attending the Summit in the spirit of shared learning and collaboration. We recognize the opportunity for GSI to advance shared goals, cut across sectors and siloes, and center One Water strategies for making positive, systemic change. We are excited to explore the synergies GSI can foster and support as part of the One Water movement.

### **Hawaii Freshwater Initiative Delegation**

Hawaii sent their first delegation to the One Water Summit in 2017 with a focus on engaging elected officials in the water sector. In 2018, another Hawaii delegation was sent to the One Water Summit with a focus on digging into the State and County partnerships that were needed to move the needle on expanding water reuse. This year we are excited to be back again, in person, with leaders from water utilities, wastewater utilities, stormwater facilities maintenance, the Department of Health, Office of Climate Change Sustainability and Resiliency, and our Fresh Water Council chair. Many of the delegates are part of the One Water Honolulu Panel, which is one of the first to pass a city ordinance formalizing the commitments of One Water for the City & County of Honolulu. Our focal areas this year are accelerating the water sector's access to federal funding and exploring alternative funding pathways, continuing to pursue solutions to reach our water reuse goal of 30 million gallons per day of reuse by 2030, making connections between water and equity, and finally, knowledge exchange about our One Water Honolulu to build out One Water futures for our city and beyond. Our delegation is excited this year to learn from other municipalities, connect to national programs and water solutions, provide professional development and recognition for Hawaii's leaders, and continue relationship-building with new and old partners.

## **Iowa Delegation**

Across Iowa, there are many examples of the One Water ethos: water management that is innovative, inclusive, and integrated. Joining the Iowa Delegation this year are water sector professionals who span both the urban and rural landscape of Iowa. These individuals and their organizations are coming together to align and engage in leading One Water action in the state. Erratic and variable weather, including perennial flooding and droughts, continues to present challenges to managing water for Iowa communities—both upstream and downstream. While we believe we are seeing good directional progress, achieving downstream performance with implementation of practices at scale remains elusive. Iowa's goal is to continue bringing diverse stakeholders together to advance working solutions to our mutual water challenges. We envision collaboratively reducing flood risk, building stronger soils, fostering investments with upstream and downstream agriculture and municipal partnerships, improving conservation use on farms across watersheds, and investing in conservation infrastructure. Our hope is this will result in an enduring land and water legacy. We believe the value of the One Water approach is driving continuous improvement and delivering better outcomes for all Iowans.

## **International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Delegation**

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) is committed to protecting the environment and taxpayer resources by applying protective coatings to the nation's water infrastructure. The Delegation is dedicated to ensuring infrastructure projects utilize a diverse workforce to produce high-quality construction and to contribute to the development of an inclusive middle class. One Water Summit affords our delegation the opportunity to bring our organizational values, expertise, and resources to stand up Pillar Two in the US Water Alliance's *An Equitable Water Future* report with a focus on maximizing the community and economic benefits of water infrastructure investments. IUPAT is committed to making sure water infrastructure remains a public asset, that it protects the health of residents, and that investments in infrastructure benefit communities. In particular, IUPAT works to assure economic opportunities generated from infrastructure investment create union jobs and support low-income communities of color. IUPAT will also be hosting a Site Visit to its Milwaukee Training Facility that will include a panel conversation featuring local and federal speakers discussing the recently passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and its workforce implications.

## **International Water and Climate Delegation**

The International Water and Climate Delegation is comprised of water utilities, academics, nonprofits private sector partners, environmental advocates, and climate leaders from watersheds across the globe. Climate change is too big for anyone to address on their own. Improved collaboration is needed to meet the scope and scale of the crisis. The Delegation, therefore, brings together water and climate professionals to advance One Water as a pathway for climate action. Members will engage with one another to share best practices, build knowledge, and foster strategic relationships to strengthen adaptation, resilience, and mitigation efforts in the water sector.

## **Jackson Regional Delegation**

The Jackson Regional Delegation brings together political leaders, utility staff, community members, and other change-makers in a commitment to prioritizing equity as they address the city's most pressing water concerns. This diverse group of water stewards and community leaders hope to gain a deeper understanding of the integrative and equitable solutions and approaches presented throughout the One Water Summit. They also hope to share their expertise and build community with other passionate water leaders from across the nation. In gathering to brainstorm solutions to aging infrastructure, affordability concerns, and climate resiliency, the Jackson Regional Delegation commits to building a water future centered on equity, inclusion, and economic development.

## **Madison Regional Delegation**

The Madison Region Delegation is comprised of water stewards from the Madison area. Communities in the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District regional service area expect the District to be fair, responsive, and equitable for access to safe, clean, affordable wastewater services. A 2023 focus item is to explore interests in equity fully and outline potential next steps. The Madison Regional Delegation will have exploratory discussions about such opportunities.

### **Mayors' Commission on Water Equity Delegation**

The Mayors Commission on Water Equity was founded by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative in 2020 to promote access to safe, clean, and affordable water for all residents of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. The Commission is comprised of 20 mayors representing cities of all sizes from across the basin, from Milwaukee to Rochester. The Commission was proud to partner with the US Water Alliance to develop a policy agenda on lead service line removal, water affordability, urban flooding, and water workforce development, contributing to the infrastructure debate in Washington, DC. The delegation is participating in the One Water Summit to elevate water equity priorities of Great Lakes cities, explore opportunities to be a partner for change to expedite the replacement of lead service lines, and promote the equitable implementation of federal infrastructure investments.

### **Mentoring Connections Delegation**

Underlying the growth of the One Water movement is a story of change leadership that is shifting the water sector toward more holistic, sustainable, and inclusive water management. While technological advancement is a key variable contributing to change within the sector, the human dimensions and essential capacities that successfully drive culture change are equally important, though often overlooked. In 2020, the US Water Alliance launched an inaugural Mentoring Connections Program to match established water leaders with Rising Professionals early on in their One Water leadership development. Through focused one-on-one mentoring relationships, pairs work together to prioritize areas for leadership growth and then develop strategies to strengthen their capacities to affect change. This Mentoring Connections Delegation includes Rising Professionals from the 2020 and 2022 cohorts to continue building on their leadership capacities and also to share their knowledge and perspectives as emerging One Water leaders.

### **Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern Delegation**

The Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern Delegation is made up of members of the Waterway Restoration Partnership (WRP). The WRP is a group of long-standing, trusted partners from the private and public sectors that have been working together for years to improve water quality in the Milwaukee River Basin. With a once in a generation opportunity on the horizon, the organizations have formalized their partnership and are redoubling their commitment to work together to clean up and restore the Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern. With support from the EPA, Wisconsin

DNR, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, and other agencies, the Milwaukee Estuary AOC is on track to be “delisted” in the coming years. This means that contaminated sediment will be removed from Milwaukee’s rivers and harbor and their natural function will be restored by creating habitat, removing invasive plants and animals, planting vegetation, and reducing pollutants. As part of the cleanup, a diverse and representative Community Advisory Committee is working to ensure that Milwaukee residents, especially those underrepresented in/excluded from environmental decision-making, play an active role in shaping the decisions made during the Area of Concern delisting process. The Delegation is especially excited to hear how other attendees are centering community, equity, arts, and cultural assets in their work.

### **Milwaukee Next Generation Water Workforce Delegation**

The Next Generation of Milwaukee’s Water Workforce Delegation is made up of a variety of organizations with current high school internship programs that either currently or are willing to have an environmental and water focus. The goal of this delegation is to continue prior discussions around developing an aligned approach to career awareness/exploration activities, work-based learning (internships, mock interviews, job shadowing), and a sustainable partnership model. We hope to possibly develop joint training, shared metrics, and grant opportunities. We are interested in hearing about ways other areas have developed and implemented approaches to fostering the next generation of water workers.

### **Milwaukee One Water, Our Water Delegation**

In southeast Wisconsin, communities benefit from the abundance of freshwater flowing throughout the region, from the rivers, creeks, and streams to Lake Michigan—the source of drinking water for millions. This water supply belongs to everyone and every community member can play a role in keeping this precious resource clean and safe where they live, work, learn, and play. Milwaukee is equally fortunate to have many organizations and agencies in the region working together to protect our water. Many organizations with a long history of partnering to protect our waterways and Lake Michigan have now come together to create Milwaukee’s One Water, Our Water initiative. This delegation is focused on collaborative strategies that connect water-focused organizations to community-based organizations to strengthen our impact on both our waters and our communities.

### **National Arts and Culture Leaders Delegation**

Convened by the US Water Alliance, the National Arts and Culture Delegation includes arts and culture bearers centered in the Great Lakes region, expanding the ways in which artistic and cultural strategies can advance sustainable, integrated, and equitable water and environmental management. The local Great Lakes artists and culture bearers are joined by artists from the US Water Alliance's 2021 – 2022 Water, Arts, and Culture Accelerator program, which supported utilities and artists in building effective partnerships and using artistic thinking and creative interventions to address water and climate challenges in their locality. The One Water Summit will serve as an important inflection point in connecting artists, culture bearers, and water professionals to leverage one another's diverse expertise and power to co-create equitable paths forward. Our goals are to increase cross-sector collaboration and partnerships by integrating and institutionalizing arts and culture strategies in water management. Through peer exchange at One Water Summit 2022, we seek to deepen connections, strengthen the network of arts and culture leaders working in the water sector, and build a growing field of innovative and creative practice. The Delegation will further provide feedback and guidance for the US Water Alliance as it continues to institutionalize the Accelerator and Artist-in-Residence programs and expand work through an Arts Network to inspire, share, and accelerate artistic processes and creative interventions in the water sector.

### **Natural Resources Defense Council Delegation**

With the support of scientists, lawyers, and policy advocates across the country, the Natural Resources Defense Council Delegation works to ensure safe, sufficient, and affordable water for people and the environment in a changing climate. NRDC believes that access to safe, sufficient, and affordable drinking water from source to tap is a human right. We also believe in a world where climate-changing and other health-harming impacts from our energy system are virtually eliminated and where communities and ecosystems are made resilient to the effects of climate change that cannot be avoided. NRDC is invested in working with partners who foster systems-changes to promote these goals. In coordination with businesses, elected leaders, and community groups—particularly those that represent individuals who have suffered from disinvestment and inequitable distribution of resources—we are working towards the development of equitable, healthy, and sustainable communities.

### **New Jersey Delegation**

The New Jersey Delegation includes representatives from Jersey Water Works, a statewide cross-sector collaborative of more than 600 members working to transform New Jersey's inadequate water infrastructure through investments in sustainable, cost-effective solutions that provide multiple community benefits. Representatives include individuals that work in the water sector via nonprofit organizations, utilities, and businesses. The Delegation will use its time to explore new ways to move the JWW's strategic direction forward. These include 1). Integrating climate resilience in JWW committee work; 2). Promoting the need and prioritization of funding for water infrastructure projects to remove barriers that under-resourced and systemically marginalized communities face; 3). Pursuing partnerships to advance water workforce development and career pathways; and 4). Enhancing 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 Delegation**

This year, the NJDEP has carefully selected a delegation consisting of representatives from all Department programs that play a key role in water and watershed management. These programs include the Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration, the Division of Water Quality, the Division of Water Supply and Geoscience, the Division of Water Monitoring and Standards, and the Division of Science and Research. These programs are increasingly coordinated and aligned to implement a One Water approach. The Department is excited to gain insights from other states, communities, and organizations around the nation that are actively addressing the challenges of water quality, quantity, management, and equity. These concerns will only be amplified in the future due to climate change, and as New Jersey strives to be a leader, we will continue to seek the best available solutions through close coordination in light of our shared goals to keep the waters of New Jersey fishable, swimmable and drinkable for the years to come.

### **North Carolina Delegation**

The North Carolina Delegation is composed of leaders in local, regional, and state government, water utilities, community organizations, conservation organizations, and academic institutions from both rural and urban areas of North Carolina. Key represented geographies are the Research Triangle area, including Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, and the Piedmont area, including Greensboro. These regions and the state as a whole are some of the fastest growing areas in the country; the rapidly growing population is outstripping the traditional water management tools upon which these communities have relied. Years of traditional management and single-metric regulatory frameworks have exacerbated conflicts and hindered the ability to solve the region's most pressing and increasingly demanding water resources problems. Area leaders seek to identify innovative water management alternatives to allow multi-variate, multi-benefit approaches and build effective relationships to achieve collective goals. Our delegates are working to integrate One Water principles into a proposed alternative regulatory framework that can be endorsed by state agencies and adopted by diverse partners across the region and possibly the whole state. This framework would allow for a flexible, collaborative approach to water resources management built on the full value of water. Among many other benefits, it will balance human and ecological uses, identify, unlock, and enhance triple bottom line benefits, protect water quality and quantity, and incorporate green infrastructure into redevelopment. This year, the North Carolina Delegation welcomes several leaders of the Jordan Lake One Water Coalition, a new nonprofit working to achieve these goals in a million-acre watershed stretching from the Piedmont to the Triangle.

### **Oregon Delegation**

The Oregon Delegation is composed of water professionals in the public and nonprofit sectors working with Oregon communities on multi-sector collaborative approaches to integrated water management. The challenges our practitioners have and continue to address are systemic and exacerbated by climate change: from water scarcity from droughts and overallocation, to the recovery of ESA-listed salmonid species, to addressing harmful algal blooms, to preparing and recovering from wildfires. The Oregon Delegation seeks to learn from other states and leaders at the One Water Summit about the collaborative models, tested policies, innovative projects, and cross-sector programs that can help us address these challenges to keep Oregon's water clean, clear, and cold.

### **Pittsburgh Water Equity Delegation**

Since releasing its Water Equity Roadmap in 2021, Pittsburgh continues to make progress in addressing its water challenges; though our work is not done. This delegation joins the 2022 One Water Summit comprised of members from the original Water Equity Taskforce and new members representing the City of Pittsburgh, as well as advocates who bring a commitment to environmental preservation, public health, and workforce development. Collectively, our collaboration strives to create an equitable water future for the entire city of Pittsburgh. Our focus is to prepare our city for the impacts of climate change through improved stormwater management, create workforce development opportunities that address demographic shifts in our population, and improve public health and protect water quality by continuing to remove lead service lines from our drinking water system. These efforts require collaboration from a broad cross-section of the population. Together, we strive to attract diverse and talented workers, modernize water infrastructure, and provide equitable water services at affordable rates across the region. The Pittsburgh Delegation works together to address these critical water issues, while also striving to create healthier, safer, and more vibrant communities.

### **Root-Pike Delegation**

The Root-Pike Delegation consists of individuals from the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, school board, and board of park, recreation, and cultural services for the City of Racine. Our delegation combines diverse perspectives and experiences in community outreach, project development, watershed management, regional planning, education, and local government to find solutions to the water quality problems in the Root-Pike Basin. Developmental pressures, residential and agricultural chemical use, and loss of high-quality native landscapes have resulted in eroded streambanks, degraded water quality, and larger volumes of stormwater runoff to be managed. Working together, we will identify clean water initiatives to implement throughout the Root-Pike basin that will reduce flooding, improve recreational opportunities, provide better habitats, and strengthen community connections to Lake Michigan and its tributaries.

### **Soil and Water Conservation Delegation**

The Soil and Water Conservation Delegation, convened by the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), and the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) brings soil and water conservationists advancing conservation on natural and working lands to the One Water Summit. The delegation seeks to broaden the participation of the soil and water community in the One Water movement and connect conservation professionals, conservation districts, and state conservation agencies with their counterparts in the drinking, wastewater, and stormwater sectors. Participants in the Soil and Water Conservation Delegation work at the local, state, and federal levels and understand how land and water resources are connected. They bring expertise in watershed management and conservation practice implementation, including climate-smart agriculture practices such as soil health and forest land protection that protect water resources from source to sea. The combined membership of SWCS, NACD, and NASCA includes conservation professionals, academics, students, public officials, and employees of America's nearly 3,000 conservation districts and their state conservation agency partners. Our members champion voluntary, locally-led conservation and are proven leaders in watershed management, implementing soil and water conservation practices at the watershed scale across the nation.

### **Southeast Michigan Delegation**

A delegation from Southeast Michigan convened by the Erb Family Foundation will be in attendance and is looking forward to learning more about how they can address stormwater and water supply issues in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties. The delegation includes representatives from Macomb County Public Works, the Great Lakes Water Authority, Oakland County Water Resources, the Huron River Watershed Council, Wayne State University, the University of Michigan, and the Erb Family Foundation.

### **Southern California Regional Delegation**

The Southern California Regional delegation is formed by public and private sector One Water thinkers that are committed to connecting people, water, projects, and policy to drive regional transformation. Southern California is experiencing unprecedented challenges and severely limited water supplies in the face of a changing climate. These challenges are compounded by a historically complex water governance system. Our delegation is grounded in the belief that partnerships and collective action are crucial in overcoming these barriers. We are committed to bolstering regional climate readiness, equitable outcomes, and community resilience through regional partnerships, multi-beneficial projects, and collaborative policy. Together, we will meet this moment.

### **SRF Advocates Forum Delegation**

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) Advocates Forum is a diverse community of practice for community leaders, researchers, and advocates across the country who work on SRF administration and reform with an equity and climate resilience lens. In light of historic federal investment in water infrastructure flowing through the SRF program, advocates and experts across the country are working to meet the moment by pursuing more equitable and climate-resilient infrastructure investments. The Forum creates opportunities to learn, share lessons, and synergize across geographies and levels of government. Participants include state and national advocates, local leaders, and technical experts motivated to address our nation's most pressing water infrastructure challenges including drinking water safety, affordability, lead service line replacement, and climate resilience while centering procedural, distributive, and restorative justice. The Forum is convened by the Alliance for the Great Lakes, Environmental Policy and Innovation Center, River Network, and PolicyLink. Our delegation is excited to meet in person and connect with like-minded One Water leaders.

### **Tap Into Resilience Delegation**

Decentralized, onsite, and localized water strategies are a critical path to achieving the One Water vision in communities nationwide. From green stormwater infrastructure, to water use efficiency measures, to onsite reuse, to private lead service line replacements, localized options distributed widely across communities have tremendous potential to enhance water supply, manage and control stormwater runoff, and ensure public health. What they have in common is that while not owned and controlled by water utilities, they serve the same functions as centralized utility infrastructure and operate in concert with such systems. They can be financed, incentivized, and supported by utilities as a vital part of their service offerings. At the same time, distributed systems present unique financing and implementation challenges compared with conventional infrastructure. Tap into Resilience is WaterNow's marquee program to elevate these strategies and present clear financial and other pathways for cities, towns, and water resource agencies to adopt them at large scale. The Tap into Resilience Delegation is a group of collaborators working nationwide to create opportunities to expand access to equitable, affordable distributed systems. Together, we hope to make these the new normal, having a central place in planning, budgeting, and financing nationwide and leading to a transformation of how communities engage with water and accelerating the transition to a One Water future.

### **Texas One Water Delegation**

The Texas One Water 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. Texas has one of the fastest growing populations in the nation and has experienced both record-setting droughts and floods over the last decade. Climate change is making these swings more pronounced and will continue to strain both rural and urban water supplies alike. The aquifers, springs, and rivers that have sustained our region for centuries are under mounting stress from growth and development pressures, over-withdrawal of water resources, and a lack of coordinated planning. Communities in Texas are embracing One Water and putting in place policies and practices that will help ensure that we can continue to meet our future water needs while also creating healthier, safer, more sustainable communities. The Texas One Water Delegation is attending the summit to learn about scalable and holistic solutions that help relieve the

current pressures on our surface and groundwater supplies. We are looking for models of development, innovative policy initiatives, and urban-rural collaborations that will enhance livability and the long-term resilience of water supply 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 Cohort of the US Water Alliance's Water Equity Network is pioneering a regional approach to advancing equitable water management practices. For the past year, representatives from Austin, Dallas, Galveston, Houston, and San Antonio have convened as a Texas Water Equity Network Cohort with the goal of collaboratively advancing equitable water management practices across the state. The Texas Water Equity Network Delegation brings this work to the One Water Summit, serving as a space for this Cohort to continue fostering collaboration and trust while identifying shared priorities and opportunities for cross-sector partnership. Water utilities from each member city anchor The Texas Water Equity Network Delegation. The Delegation also includes community partners and additional utility staff working to build partnerships for water equity. The Delegation recognizes the importance of centering equity in One Water Planning and commits to partnering with the Texas One Water Delegation to move our state towards solutions that accelerate the development and adoption of equitable One Water policies and practices.



### **Tucson Regional Delegation**

The Tucson Regional Delegation is excited to return to the One Water Summit for its fourth year. Our strategy is to build active, impactful One Water leadership and momentum to ensure that our goal of water resiliency and livability for the one million people and unique species of wildlife that make their homes in our southwest desert region is met. In Tucson, local government is at the forefront of strategically managing all available water resources, including multi-generational water. Recognizing that water resource benefits and availability vary by type and that solutions to climate-related challenges are ever evolving, the Tucson Regional Delegation seeks holistic solutions for quantifying and utilizing resources for maximum community and environmental benefit, long-term utility-scale planning, and investing in diverse strategic partnerships. The community engagement campaign that supports our One Water 2100 master plan will help us expand our view through communication and collaboration with employees, elected officials, and the public. Tucson's story is one of long range, visionary planning, innovation, and persistence. Decades ago, the groundwork was laid to add renewable surface water and recycled water to our water portfolio. Over recent decades, the region has embraced harvested rainwater and stormwater runoff as additional resources that can be harnessed to offset potable water demand in the urban environment. Climate forecasts reiterate the need for robust planning tools and diverse strategies that protect our aquifers, restore our watersheds, and mitigate increasing temperatures.

### **Twin Cities Regional Delegation**

The Twin Cities Delegation is comprised of water and planning professionals and policy-makers that work on water supply, wastewater, storm and surface water, and community development at the local, watershed, and regional scale. Our members come from city public works offices, watershed organizations, and staff and Council Members from the Metropolitan Council. The Metropolitan Council is the regional policy-making body, planning agency, and provider of essential services in the seven-county Twin Cities metro area. It operates the regional public transportation and wastewater treatment systems; plans for future population growth and land use development, sustainable water resources and drinking water supplies, and regional park and trail systems; and provides affordable housing for qualified households. The Twin Cities metro area is already home to over half the population of the state of Minnesota and is projected to continue to grow. In addition to planning for our future residents, we know

that we have environmental, social, and infrastructural challenges ahead of us including climate change, severe racial disparities, and aging infrastructure. The Twin Cities Delegation was assembled to help with the 2050 Regional Planning process and desires to learn and share lessons from our peer utility and planning agencies. We want to plan for our regional challenges holistically and through collaboration to create an equitable and resilient region with clean, plentiful, and sustainable water for our future generations.

### **Urban Water Funders Delegation**

The Urban Water Funders Delegation includes leading national and regional funders working on urban water issues. Urban Water Funders explores the role of water in urban settings to the benefit of the environment, equity, and economies of communities, with specific interest in climate resilience, natural infrastructure, green stormwater infrastructure, and One Water or integrated water strategies. Urban Water Funders is designed to create a forum for funders to learn together, build relationships, align efforts to scale up sustainable water practices, and collaborate on joint projects and special initiatives. The Urban Water Funders is a working group of the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, a membership organization that helps grant-makers across North America advance strategies to create fair, prosperous, and sustainable regions and communities that offer everyone the chance for a good life. The Funders' Network also manages the Partners for Places grant program, which includes targeted funding for green infrastructure projects in partnership with the Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network.

### **Water Equity Network Delegation**

Water is a force for equity and opportunity. Black, Indigenous, communities of color, and low-income communities face an array of water-related challenges: affordability, water quality concerns, flooding, and more. At the same time, water can be an essential part of building thriving, healthy communities for all. With the collaboration of cross-sector partners like community organizations, environmental groups, and local government, cities can build more equitable water systems. An extension of the Alliance's Water Equity Network, a nationwide community of practice, the Water Equity Network Delegation brings together leaders from water and wastewater utilities, organizations that have strong relationships with or are representative of communities most impacted by inequities, environmental groups, and philanthropy to work toward a more equitable water future. Delegates hail from cities, towns, and regions across the county and are dedicating themselves to addressing a range of issues such as affordability, climate resilience, workforce development, community engagement, internal racial equity programs, and more.

### **Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus Delegation**

Launched in April 2018, The Water Equity and Climate Resilience (WECR) Caucus convenes the foremost leaders working at the intersection of water equity and climate resilience to build strategy, peer power, and policy change—all centered around frontline communities. There is a need to build a shared analysis and understanding of the problems, codify policy strategies, and enable members to deliver on water equity results for their communities. The Caucus does this through peer learning, tool and knowledge development, and shared local, state, federal, and sovereign advocacy around three main objectives: obtaining and maintaining safe and affordable drinking water for economically vulnerable residents; ensuring water infrastructure investments build climate resilience and expand economic opportunities for communities of color; and lifting vulnerable communities to have agency in water infrastructure policymaking processes that shape their lives. The WECR Caucus Delegation is seeking to scale frontline efforts for water equity and climate resilience. This platform will be rooted in agreed-upon key policy considerations that address the challenges of our water equity work.

### **West Tennessee H2O Delegation**

The West Tennessee H2O Delegation is a broad group consisting of water authorities, NGOs, agriculture interests, private industry, utilities, and academia. The delegation will discuss regional water management in light of increased development headlined by the \$5.6 billion Ford Motor Company electric vehicle plant. West Tennessee sits atop one of the largest aquifer systems in the country, which provides all water for municipal, industrial, and agricultural needs. The Aquifer Recharge Zone covers the eastern portion of the region. Overall goals include building cross-jurisdictional relationships and determining strategies for wastewater expansion and flood mitigation while increasing the overall resilience of our aquifers and streams to protect human health. The delegation aims to build on TN H2O—Tennessee's first-ever state water plan released in 2018—to find sustainable solutions to an area poised for rapid growth.

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