



OneWater Summit 2025



July 8-11
Pittsburgh, PA

Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

The Board of Directors and staff of the US Water Alliance thank you for joining us for the 2025 One Water Summit and for your commitment to the Alliance community. We're honored that you are sharing your time and insights with our network, and we aim to honor your time with a program that meets this moment and creates opportunities for truly meaningful connections.

This year's program is shaped by our most diverse array of cross-sector water leaders to date and includes a range of opportunities to learn from Pittsburgh—a city defined by its three rivers and its incredible people. Come ready for the fantastic conversations, knowledge sharing, skills building, tours, performances, and networking that make Summit such a joyous, unique, and invaluable experience.

We've been designing new ways to foster a dynamic and comfortable environment that encourages genuine connection and peer exchange with familiar colleagues and friends-to-be. Keep an eye out for 'docking slips,' where partner organizations will host informal conversations and invite you to stay a while.

Each Summit is a key moment in the One Water movement. We've come a long way and have even more ahead in shaping a sustainable water future for all. Let's use this moment together to grow, build enduring bridges and bonds, strategize together, and make great strides in creating impactful approaches in water advocacy, management, funding, access, participation, opportunity, and all that you aim for.

Over the next three days and beyond our time together in Pittsburgh, we can't wait to continue this journey with you.

One Water, One Future.

Mami Hara
CEO, US Water Alliance

Calvin Farr, Jr.
Board Chair, US Water Alliance
General Manager/CEO, Prince William Water

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Leaders Circle



Local Host Partners



Summit Sponsors



Delegation Supporters

Thank you to our key partners for their support of One Water Delegations and their year-round One Water work:

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| → GitLab | → Spring Point Partners LLC |
| → The Joyce Foundation | → Texas Wellspring Fund |
| → The Kresge Foundation | → The Walton Family Foundation |

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About the US Water Alliance



Our Vision

A sustainable, One Water future for all.

Our Mission

We inspire and sustain a diverse movement to advance transformative solutions to pressing water challenges so communities can thrive.

Our Values

Authentic Relationships: We value connections anchored by honesty, transparency, respect, and vulnerability.

Collaboration: We consistently seek our partners' and one another's contributions, incorporating ideas and combining strengths to meet our collective goals.

Equity: We acknowledge histories of injustice, mitigate power imbalances, seek and honor the perspectives of all people with a stake in our work, and hold ourselves accountable for our processes and impacts.

Innovative Ideas: We uncover opportunities and develop, pilot, and spread transformative solutions.

Service: We are humble and rooted in care for people, our planet, and the water we share.

Who we are:

The US Water Alliance is a member-supported national nonprofit organization that aligns diverse stakeholders—including utilities, public agencies, community organizations, engineering and technology firms, environmental groups, agricultural interests, labor unions, researchers, artists and culture bearers, and many others—to develop common-ground and transformational solutions to our nation's most pressing water challenges.

We aim to create and foster powerful relationships with our members rooted in shared vision, purpose, and values.

Our Approach: Movement Building and Problem Solving

The US Water Alliance believes the nation needs a robust, cohesive, and highly visible movement to build upon One Water innovation and progress in the water sector: a movement of champions who advocate for One Water to become the new normal in water management and thriving communities.

Right now, the One Water movement is expanding and becoming more diverse, which deepens the approach's practices and impacts. This widening spectrum of participation and thought leadership in the movement supports the development of innovative practices, which can lead over time to the creation and adoption of new standards of practice and policy in the water sector.

As we grow the movement and its impact, we also develop and apply One Water methods to solve water challenges. As an alliance, we advance our work through four methods, and where our role ends, we actively partner and leverage the talents of our colleagues—inside and outside the water sector—to forge progress.

Educate: The nation on the true value of water and engage an expanding base of One Water champions through mutual discovery, learning, and communications.

Initiate: New approaches and solutions to our most pressing water challenges, leveraging powerful partnerships, authentic engagement, and cultural strategies to advance One Water solutions.

Accelerate: The adoption and scaling of the mindset, practices, and policies behind the One Water approach to advance a better quality of life for all.

Celebrate: What works to advance the One Water movement and solutions to inspire and spread innovation in water system transformation.

Our Members

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 changemakers.

To learn more about the benefits of US Water Alliance membership, please email membership@uswateralliance.org.

We are proud to have the following organizations as members:

[AECOM](#)

[Allegheny County Sanitary Authority \(ALCOSAN\)](#)

[Alexandria Renew Enterprises](#)

[Alliance for Water Efficiency](#)

[American Rivers](#)

[American Society of Civil Engineers](#)

[American Water Works Association](#)

[ARCADIS](#)

[Associated General Contractors of America](#)

[Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies](#)

[Atlantic County Utilities Authority](#)

[Austin Water](#)

[Bay Area Council](#)

[Black & Veatch](#)

[BlueConduit](#)

[Boston Water and Sewer Commission](#)

[Brown and Caldwell](#)

[Buffalo Sewer Authority](#)

[California Water Association](#)

[Cape Fear Public Utility Authority](#)

[CDM Smith](#)

[Cedar Rapids Utilities Department](#)

[Central Arkansas Water](#)

[Charlotte County Utilities](#)

[Charlotte Water](#)

[Chester Water Authority](#)

[CIS \(formerly Corvias Infrastructure Solutions\)](#)

[City of Ashland Public Works](#)

[City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management](#)

[City of Baltimore Department of Public Works](#)

[City of Bend, OR](#)

[City of Bloomington, MN](#)

[City of Columbus Division of Sewerage & Drainage](#)

[City of Decatur, IL](#)

[City of Des Moines Public Works](#)

[City of Fort Collins, CO](#)

[City of Jackson Public Works Department](#)

[City of Kalamazoo Department of Public Services](#)

[City of Minneapolis Water Department](#)

[City of Newark Department of Water and Sewer Utilities](#)

[City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services and Portland Water Bureau](#)

[City of Richfield, MN](#)

[City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities](#)

[City of Thornton, CO](#)

[Clayton County Water Authority](#)

[Clean Water Construction Coalition](#)

[Clean Water Services](#)

[Cleveland Neighborhood Progress](#)

[Cleveland Water](#)

[Colorado State University](#)

[Dallas Water Utilities](#)

[DC Water](#)

[DeKalb County Dept of Watershed Management](#)

[Denver Water](#)

[Detroit Water & Sewerage Department](#)

[DigDeep](#)

[Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association](#)

[Electro Scan, Inc.](#)

[Ferguson Enterprises](#)

[Freshwater Society](#)

[Good Company \(a division of Parametrix\)](#)

[Greater Cincinnati Water Works](#)

[Greeley and Hansen, A TYLin Company](#)

[Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange](#)

[Greenprint Partners](#)

Green Sports Alliance	National Association of Clean Water Agencies	Tetra Tech, Inc.
Grundfos	National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association	The Conservation Fund
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority	National Rural Water Association	The IAPMO Group
Hampton Roads Sanitation District	National Wildlife Federation	The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment
HDR, Inc.	Natural Resources Defense Council	The Nature Conservancy
Honolulu Board of Water Supply	New Braunfels Utilities	Town of Apex, NC
Houston Public Works	New Jersey Future	Town of Cary, NC
Howard County Department of Public Works	NEW Water (Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District)	Town of Maysville, NC
HydroDigital, LLC	New York City Department of Environmental Protection	Tucson Water
Independence Municipal Services Department	Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District	U.S. Pipe
Independence Water Pollution Control Department	Ocean Sewage Alliance	Vallecitos Water District
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	Orange Water and Sewer Authority	Valley Water
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades	Pacific Institute	Veolia Water North America, LLC
Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance	Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association	Virginia Health Catalyst
Jacobs	Philadelphia Water Department	Virridy
Joshua Basin Water District	Pittsburgh Water	Wake County Government
KC Water	Policylink	Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC Water)
Laborers' International Union of North America	Prince William Water	Water Collaborative Delivery Association
Las Vegas Valley Water District and Southern Nevada Water Authority	Promise	Water Environment Federation
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	Protect Our Aquifer	WaterNow Alliance
Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District	Raftelis	Water Professionals International
Louisville Water Company	Raleigh Public Utilities Department (Raleigh Water)	Water Research Foundation
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District	River Network	Xylem
Marana Water	Rural Community Assistance Partnership	
Metropolitan Council	Saint Paul Regional Water Services	
Metropolitan Planning Council	San Antonio Water System	
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago	Seattle Public Utilities	
Metro Water Recovery	Seminole County Board of County Commissioners	
Miami Conservancy District	Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans	
Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department	Soil and Water Conservation Society	
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District	Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project	
Milwaukee Water Works	Stantec	
Moonshoot Missions	Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM	



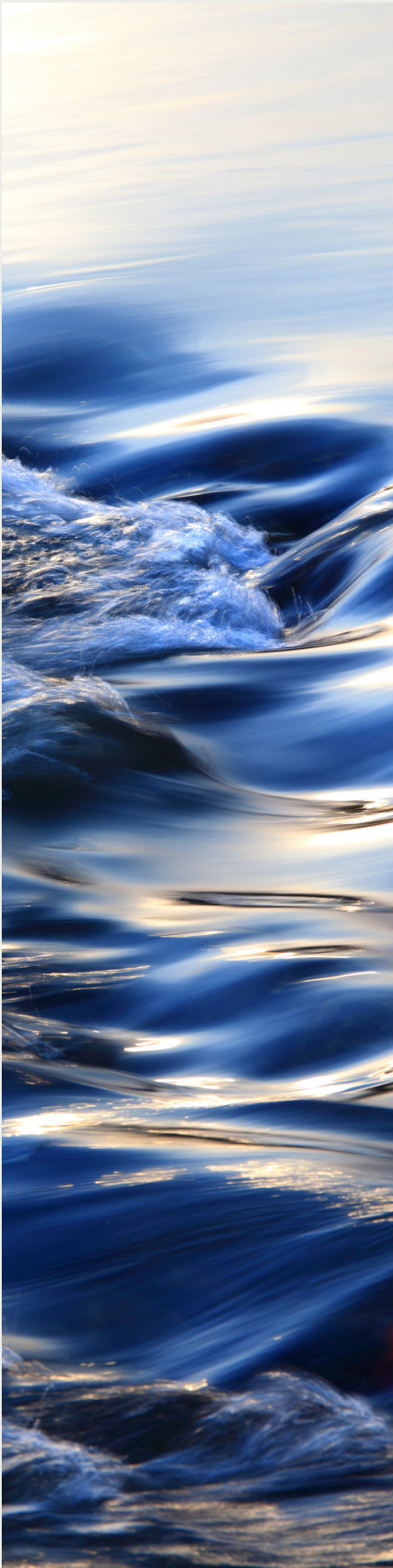
Land and Water Acknowledgment

The US Water Alliance values building and holding authentic relationships, including through our place-based work and with Indigenous communities. We aim to be rooted in respect and humility while listening and learning throughout our engagements and processes.

We respectfully acknowledge that the 2025 One Water Summit takes place on the lands of the Lenape, Susquehannock, Shawnees, and Iroquois people. A group of over 15 Tribal nations belonging to the Iroquoian language family occupied the states of Pennsylvania and New York. These nations included a formal league of five of these Tribes, which was a confederation called Haudenosaunee (Longhouse People). Three centuries ago, Lenape, Haudenosaunee, and Shawnee tribes migrated to the upper Ohio and Allegheny Valleys, close to present-day Pittsburgh. We honor the caretakers of this region and their historic, unique, and enduring relationship with this land, which is their ancestral territory.

We also acknowledge the waters of this area and their significance to the past, present, and future of all communities here. Native American names are used for the rivers: the Ohio (Iroquois for “the great river” or “beautiful river”), Monongahela (Lenape for “falling banks”), and Allegheny (Lenape for “best flowing river of the hills” or “beautiful stream”). Their use in this region is emblematic of how profoundly the area is shaped by and in relationship with Indigenous communities.

We recognize this acknowledgment is only a small step in honoring the land, water, history, and Indigenous cultures on this land. As we build our partnerships here both through programmatic work and One Water Summit, we commit to learning about the history of this region and the ongoing role of Indigenous communities and to sharing this history and resources with our broader network. The US Water Alliance encourages attendees to carry this acknowledgement throughout their time here at Summit and in their ongoing work.



Community Guidelines for One Water Summit

At One Water Summit, Alliance staff, members, and partners aim to create a space that centers learning, collaboration, and constructive dialogue to advance our shared goal of a One Water future for all. The complex topics presented at Summit can lead to conversations that may be difficult or uncomfortable. These Community Guidelines help identify ways that we can uphold a respectful culture and engage more mindfully.

Be open and respectful. Seek first to understand and give full consideration to new ideas, approaches, and creative processes.

Be present. Listen deeply and give your full attention.

Speak from your own experience. Use “I” statements and resist expressing assumptions about the experience of others or asking others to speak on behalf of a group.

Respect all kinds of knowledge. Value the full spectrum of knowledge in attendance—from personal lived experience to artistic approaches and technical expertise.

Be conscious of intent vs. impact. The things we say or do may have a negative impact on others, despite our intent. Be accountable for the impact of your actions and words.

Be aware of power dynamics. Notice how you might be unconsciously using your power or privilege and hold awareness of histories of injustice.

Avoid jargon, acronyms, and industry language. Use inclusive language that is accessible to people with varying sector knowledge.

Summit Agenda



AGENDA GUIDE:



Learning Labs



Receptions / Events



Concurrent Sessions



Site Visits



Plenaries



Peer Exchanges

July 8th - 11th

Tuesday, July 8th

12:00pm – 6:00pm

Registration Open:
Regional Gallery (DLCC 3rd Floor)

1:00pm – 1:10pm

One Water Delegations: Welcome
Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom

All One Water Delegates gather to officially kick off and celebrate Delegations Day 2025

1:30pm – 2:45pm

One Water Delegations:
Peer Exchanges, Round One

Peer Exchanges are developed and hosted by One Water Delegations. They provide a unique opportunity to share insights and best practices, discuss challenges, and engage more deeply with peers from across the sector. All Summit attendees are welcome!

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Tapping into Distributed One Water Solutions
*Hosted by the Tap into Resilience Delegation and
the American Rivers Delegation*
Room 301-302

Localized water strategies distributed widely across communities hold immense potential to transform how we manage water for healthier rivers and more resilient communities. From green stormwater infrastructure and water use efficiency measures to on-site reuse and lead service line replacements, distributed options spread widely across communities have tremendous potential to enhance water supply, manage and control stormwater runoff, and ensure public health. While distributed water systems offer incredible potential, they also present unique challenges in terms of financing and implementation compared to traditional infrastructure. Collaboration helps navigate these challenges by enabling collective strategies in planning, budgeting, and financing. Ultimately, this can transform how communities engage with water and accelerate a One Water future. Join WaterNow Alliance and American Rivers for a Peer Exchange to strategize, build partnerships, and discover clear pathways for adopting distributed water solutions at scale. During world café-style round table discussions, Peer Exchange participants will share successes and challenges about distributed infrastructure as an innovative, resilient One Water strategy. The discussion will encompass national trends on the adoption of green stormwater infrastructure, water-wise landscaping and turf replacement, and the replacement of lead service lines, among others. It will also explore how utilities nationwide are collaborating and successfully expanding their water infrastructure portfolios to incorporate distributed infrastructure to be resilient to climate change, protect rivers, and help keep rates affordable.

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RAIN CHECK: The Water Game Show You Didn't Know You Needed
Hosted by the Iowa Delegation
Room 303-304

Get ready to jump in and level up your water wisdom in the game show every water nerd wants to win! And unlike TikTok, we will not drain your brain. We will help

you soak up knowledge like a dry sponge (more dad puns where that came from!). Between trivia, limericks, and spotting fake news, we'll go deeper into the science of soil health and water quality. We'll also hear real-life experiences from the farm to the drinking water plant of how soil has changed the game for water quality success. There will be prizes... sound effects... laughter... but there can only be one winner! Come to win (winner takes home an H2O-my-gosh gift basket) or shout from the audience to help competitors (we have treats for you, too!). And if you don't get a prize, you'll still walk away with fun facts for your next dinner party and more importantly, a better understanding of agriculture's impact on water quality. Your hosts are Ruth McCabe, an agronomist (and former moonlight comedian), and Rebekah Jones, a former morning news anchor.

1:30pm – 2:45pm

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Building Blocks for Youth Leadership in Water
Hosted by the Water Equity Network Frontline
Communities Delegation
Room 309

The water sector is facing mounting challenges as the need for young, skilled workers grows. Recent studies have shown that between 30 percent and 50 percent of the water and wastewater workforce in the United States will retire within the next 5 years. Thousands of community-based organizations nationwide are seeking to bridge the gap in our workforce, not only by educating the next generation but also by deepening their passion for the work through inspiration, art, and helping connect the dots between community empowerment and economic opportunity. To move forward, intergenerational conversations are essential for training the next generation of young leaders. As job markets shift and tech, AI, and social media dominate conversations, how can we inspire young people to love water work and see themselves in this sector for years to come through the lens of elders? In our peer exchange, we'll participate in intergenerational conversations with leaders from community-based organizations who are both building bridges and innovating new ways to educate and inspire. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their experiences, tools, and resources that have been effective in youth and young adult education and engagement, helping to lay the groundwork for tomorrow's leaders.

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Building a National Roadmap for Water and Sanitation Access:
A Call for Collective Vision
Hosted by the Vessel Collective Delegation
Room 315-316

Over two million people—and by some reports nearly 10 million people—lack running water and sanitation across the United States. Ensuring safe and reliable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) access for all in the US requires coordinated, inclusive action. To support this effort, the Vessel Collective is convening this session to gather insights that will help shape a national roadmap for expanding WASH access across the country. This session invites all sector partners, including community-based organizations, Tribal and rural water operators, public health practitioners, advocates, researchers, private companies, technologists, funders, and national nonprofits to come together in dialogue. Participants will rotate through small-group conversations focused on key levers for change, such as policy and legislation, financing and investment, technical assistance and implementation, narrative and behavior change, research and data, and technology and innovation. Each table will explore what's working, where gaps remain, and how we can accelerate progress together. Through this Peer Exchange, the Vessel Collective aims to ensure the roadmap is grounded

in real-world experience, aligned with ongoing efforts, and reflective of the diverse voices advancing this work. We call on you to lend your insight, expertise, and lived experience to help shape a path toward equitable water and sanitation access for all.

1:30pm – 2:45pm

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Advancing Equitable Water Access through Utility Policy: Lessons from the CWSC's Water Utility Leadership Fellows (WULFs)
Hosted by the CWSC Water Utility Leadership Fellows Delegation
Room 317-318

Utilities, communities, and local governments face a challenge: providing safe, reliable, and resilient water and wastewater in the face of aging infrastructure and workforces, climate change, expanding costs, and a growing affordability and financial crisis. Utilities must balance all these factors while ensuring their services are available to everyone, particularly those who are struggling to make ends meet. As members of the Center for Water Security and Cooperation's Water Utility Leadership Fellowship (WULF), fellows spend two years learning more about what it means to advance water and wastewater access and affordability through law, policy, and practice, engaging with their communities to understand their needs and hardships and developing solutions to help their water or wastewater utility better and more proactively address water and wastewater access and affordability. This dialogue creates an opportunity for fellows from the CWSC's first two WULF cohorts to discuss what they have learned (through the fellowship, from their utility, and from their community), what advancing water and wastewater access means to them, and how they have advanced and are advancing equitable water and wastewater access in their water access and affordability policies and daily work and thinking.

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Fostering Regional and Focused Dialogue on State Revolving Funds
Hosted by the SRF Advocates Forum Delegation
Room 319-320

Open to SRF State Advocates Forum Delegation members and anyone interested in increasing funding for water infrastructure improvements using State Revolving Funds, this Peer Exchange will provide an opportunity for attendees to connect in person through regional and topic-focused conversations related to State Revolving Fund implementation. This session will aim to increase an understanding of the issues facing specific EPA regions, as well as ways to tackle concerns by topic, such as decentralized wastewater systems, community-led project development, and emerging contaminants. By breaking down silos through facilitated round table discussions and open exchange between advocates, researchers, and utility staff, the primary goal of this Peer Exchange is for participants to come away with an increased connection within regions, an opportunity to discuss emerging challenges and concerns related to SRF funds, and actionable next steps for us to take in support of robust water infrastructure investments.

2:45pm – 3:15pm

Break

3:15pm – 4:30pm

**One Water Delegations:
Peer Exchanges, Round Two**

Peer Exchanges are developed and hosted by One Water Delegations. They provide a unique opportunity to share insights and best practices, discuss challenges, and engage more deeply with peers from across the sector. All Summit attendees are welcome!



Our Power, Our Water: Strategies to Address Racial and Economic Disparities in Times of Political Upheaval *Hosted by the Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus Delegation*
Room 301-302

Communities across the country face growing water challenges due to aging infrastructure, a historic lack of sufficient federal funding, growing climate impacts, and increasing cost burdens on utilities and households. While there is a growing recognition of the need to reckon with past and current systemic failures that perpetuated racial and economic disparities in water access, the new federal context threatens to rollback much of the reparative work that was happening through initiatives and federal investments (e.g., J40 and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law). But the dismantling of policies, programs, funding, and agencies has also created the necessity and opportunity to collectively build a transformative water agenda that ensures that everyone—regardless of race, ethnicity, income, or zip code—has access to clean and affordable water.

There is no single path to pursuing a future in which everyone has access to clean, affordable, and reliable water. This session is intended to be a starting conversation that invites people whether they are resisting, defending, building, or re-envisioning for the future. This Peer Dialogue—organized by the Water Equity and Climate Resilience (WECR) Caucus Delegation and anchored by PolicyLink—will create the space for strategy alignment across the water sector. Whether you are resisting harmful policies or practices, defending policies and practices that are critical to addressing racial/economic disparities in water outcomes, building alternative networks or mechanisms of care and support, or re-envisioning what comes next, please join us. Together, we will discuss the tools and strategies people are using, including policy advocacy, litigation, narrative change, movement building, and others and explore how we can strengthen our collective alignment to meet this moment.



Growing Roots for Future Leadership *Hosted by the Spring Point Partners Delta Delegation*
Room 303-304

Behind the infrastructure of our water and wastewater systems is the “human infrastructure”—the people that make the pipes and pumps work. The Delta partners are dedicated to nurturing emerging water, wastewater, and stormwater system leaders who represent the communities they serve and have proven track records of empowering these leaders with tools to elevate their utilities through amplification, skill development, peer learning, and robust support networks, which together are leading to deep systemic change. In times of uncertainty, our workforce leadership requires diverse experiences rooted in community perspective to guide our water sector forward. This fun and uplifting Peer Exchange will highlight the various approaches to leadership development from multiple Delta partner organizations, the benefits of investing in leadership development within the water workforce, and success stories for advancing leadership in the water sector. Established and emerging leaders will showcase their experience, collective impact, and wide-ranging ripple effects. Let’s learn together how we can strengthen organizations’ internal ecosystems and culture and share visions for the future and what’s needed to grow these vital programs and ensure their continued impact. Join the Spring Point Partners Delta Delegation for a dynamic Peer Exchange on human capital as an essential investment for a sustainable and resilient water future.



How Successful Are You? Exploring Success Metrics in One Water Practice

*Hosted by the Florida One Water Commission Delegation
Room 309*

Behind every bold One Water initiative is a question too often skipped: how do we know it's working? This session goes beyond strategy and into practice, bringing together utility leaders, planners, engineers, regulators, and data professionals to explore the metrics, methods, and real-world results behind One Water implementation. Structured as a facilitated Peer Exchange, this high-participation session invites attendees to sit at topic-specific tables and discuss how success is being defined and measured in areas like public engagement, integrated planning, nutrient reduction, and cross-sector collaboration. Whether participants bring mature KPIs or early-stage indicators, the goal is to drill down into the technical, organizational, and policy conditions that move the needle. The conversation will be anchored in actual success measures, quantitative or qualitative, and the stories behind them. Through structured prompts and real examples, participants will compare approaches, identify enabling factors, and walk away with insights that can inform their own work.



Making the Business Case for Green Infrastructure to Drive Adoption

*Hosted by the Nature Conservancy and Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange Delegation
Room 315-316*

Building a strong business case for elected officials and key decision-makers is a critical but often challenging step to advancing nature-based solutions like green infrastructure that promote One Water strategies. This interactive Peer Exchange brings together water utility leaders, policymakers, and advocates to identify key challenges and explore practical, evidence-based approaches for demonstrating the value of green infrastructure investments. Participants will engage in large- and small-group discussions, share regional experiences, and explore tools that help quantify co-benefits such as climate resilience, public health, and job creation. A key feature of the session is a hands-on demonstration of the GSI Impact Hub—a free, publicly available digital platform co-developed with utilities and technical partners. The Hub includes tools like the GSI Impact Calculator to help users evaluate return on investment and communicate the benefits of potential green stormwater infrastructure projects. This session offers a unique opportunity to learn from peers, access actionable resources, and strengthen cross-sector collaboration. Whether you're shaping policy, managing infrastructure, or advocating for sustainable solutions, we invite you to join us and explore how to make the business case for green infrastructure in your community.



One Water Thinking to Navigate Uncertainty in Finance and Governance

*Hosted by the Leveraging One Water Partnerships for Addressing Today's Finance and Governance Challenges Delegation
Room 317-318*

Complex financial issues and governance structures often stand in the way of true integration and collaboration. One Water approaches can offer cornerstone solutions that facilitate leveraging resources (i.e., project integration, multi-agency cooperatives, organizational changes, innovative cost-sharing strategies, etc.), building capacity, and enabling deeper collaboration. These solutions can constitute incremental steps

towards improved organizational efficiencies and greater financial resilience. In this Peer Exchange, a panel of One Water practitioners led by a facilitator will engage the room through strategic questions and a discussion. After the facilitator introduces the topic, the panel will provide brief context on the challenges their organizations are facing regarding finance and governance. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their relevant experiences and challenges as the facilitator guides the group through a series of discussion questions.

3:15pm – 4:30pm



Advancing Natural Infrastructure and One Water Approaches for the Colorado River and Beyond

*Hosted by the Colorado River Basin Delegation
Room 319-320*

In watersheds across the country, communities face mounting pressure from climate extremes, aging infrastructure, and competing demands. This Peer Exchange highlights efforts in the Colorado River Basin to advance natural infrastructure and One Water approaches to meet these challenges. Through a mix of quick spotlights on approaches and interactive dialogue, participants will explore major barriers and opportunities in their basins, share replicable strategies for mobilizing funding and collaboration, and co-develop ideas to scale impact through natural infrastructure and One Water investments.

4:30pm – 5:00pm

Break

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Delegation Meetings

Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom

Time and space for each Delegation to meet, review, discuss, strategize, plan—or simply enjoy one another's company.

6:30pm – 7:30pm



Welcome Reception

DLCC Rooftop

Wednesday, July 9th

7:30am – 4:30pm

Registration Open:

Regional Gallery (DLCC 3rd Floor)

8:00am – 9:30am



Breakfast (includes “Grab and Go” options)

Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom

9:30am – 11:30am



Optional Wellness Programming: Guided River Walks and Yoga

DLCC (check app for locations and additional information)

Site Visits*(offsite; bus transportation available from DLLC Ground Floor)***On-Site Water Reuse and Building Sustainability:
*The David L. Lawrence Convention Center***

This tour will feature an overview of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center (DLCC) on-site water reuse and treatment facilities while delving into the innovative water conservation strategies championed by the DLCC, a model of sustainability in the heart of the city. Learn how this venue is committed to reducing water consumption through advanced techniques and eco-friendly practices. Join us for this unique experience that not only highlights the beauty of Pittsburgh's waterways but also celebrates the importance of sustainability and responsible resource management. Don't miss the opportunity to see how Pittsburgh is setting a shining example for environmental stewardship!

**Community-Centered Watershed Restoration:
*Frick Park, Nine Mile Run, Fern Hollow, and Wightman Park***

Explore the Nine Mile Run Watershed with UpstreamPgh, focusing on a people-first approach to restoration in Frick Park—a 600-acre urban forest in Pittsburgh. The tour will highlight the Nine Mile Run Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the upcoming Fern Hollow Valley restoration following a recent bridge collapse. Afterward, you'll visit Wightman Park to learn about stormwater improvements made in partnership with Pittsburgh Water and the City of Pittsburgh. This green stormwater project aims to create a safer, cleaner, and more accessible park while managing stormwater effectively. Features include a wetland rain garden, retention tanks, and "green streets" to direct stormwater runoff. The project manages 1.5 inches of runoff from 12.2 acres of impervious surfaces, costing a total of \$7.5 million. Join UpstreamPgh and Pittsburgh Water for this engaging tour about the transformative power of community-driven environmental restoration!

**Pittsburgh's Living Buildings:
*Phipps Conservatory and Frick Environmental Center***

Enjoy a tour of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and its groundbreaking Center for Sustainable Landscapes (CSL) facility. The CSL at Phipps Conservatory generates all its own energy, treats all storm and sanitary water captured on-site, and is the first and only building to meet seven of the highest green certifications. As Phipps' education, research, and administration facility, the CSL is an integral part of the Phipps visitor experience as a "living museum," focusing attention on the important intersection between the built and natural environments and demonstrating that human and environmental health are inextricably connected. Attendees will enjoy a 90-minute tour focusing on the sustainable aspects of this state-of-the-art green building and two adjacent green facilities, the Nature Lab at Phipps and the Exhibit Staging Center (ESC). Together, united by a rainwater capture lagoon and constructed wetlands, these three buildings form Phipps' Living Campus, a real-world sustainability model that you can experience firsthand to gain new insights on green buildings, renewable energy, biophilic design principles, and more. After, you will be taken to the Frick Environmental Center to learn more about green building, sustainability, and Pittsburgh history. As a LEED Platinum and Living Building Certified building, the Frick Environmental Center is one of the greenest public buildings in the world. This one-hour tour of the building and surrounding landscape will use the Living Building Challenge framework to talk about what is possible with green buildings and how the quality of our buildings can have a positive impact on our health and future.



Green Infrastructure of Pittsburgh: *McKinley Park*

In 2016, the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Planning Association awarded the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy a \$435,000 Great Urban Parks Campaign grant for this improvement project. While centered around green infrastructure, the project incorporated key community priorities for upper McKinley Park, also known as Chicken Hill. These amenities include restored historical sandstone stairs, a new pavilion and gathering space with a built-in slide, a universally accessible trail throughout the area, overlooks made from reclaimed stone, rain gardens, and benches made from the trees that needed to be cut down on site.



One Water Laboratory: *The Xylem Innovation Hub*

Join us for a guided tour of the Xylem Sustainability and Innovation Hub to witness transformative technology in action. First, visit the laboratory, where you will see demonstrations of bench-scale testing techniques frequently used as a guide when scaling up treatability studies to pilot-scale equipment. Next, explore the Hub's pilot-scale equipment, designed to evaluate new technologies and conduct tailored wastewater treatability studies. Finally, discover the Pilot-Scale Anaerobic Digestion plant, which utilizes advanced water treatment methods like microfiltration and reverse osmosis to valorize commodities out of waste ethanol stillage. By July, this innovative process will include an on-site greenhouse with rotating algal beds to enhance mineral uptake for agriculture.



Urban Agriculture and Youth Engagement: *Hilltop Urban Farm*

Join us as we explore community farming, land remediation, and youth engagement during a tour of Hilltop Urban Farm (HUF). Previously the site of a former housing development in Pittsburgh's Hilltop community, HUF is now a vibrant green space situated on 23 acres within the Ohio River watershed, focusing on soil health, watershed management, and community building. During this tour, you'll see the programs included in HUF's multi-pronged initiative, including the community farm, which has donated over 20,000 pounds of culturally relevant crops to local food pantries, and the Farmer Incubators program that empowers emerging farmers with access to land, tools, and education. You'll also see young learners engaged in hands-on educational experiences through the Youth Farm program, working in 21 raised vegetable beds and a fruit tree orchard. Don't miss the opportunity to experience the intersection of agriculture, community, and environmental stewardship at Hilltop Urban Farm, including the 200-tree orchard, forecasted to divert an estimated 50,000 – 60,000 gallons of stormwater annually.



Growing Beyond Economic *Development in South Pittsburgh*

Join us for an insightful tour hosted by Watersheds of South Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Conservation District as we explore the long-term impacts of flooding along urban streams, focusing on the Saw Mill Run Valley in southern Allegheny County. This area is home to the Saw Mill Run stream, which faces frequent flooding, erosion, and pollution due to stormwater runoff—yet remains a hidden natural beauty attracting diverse wildlife. The tour will delve into the history of this valley over the past century, highlighting the concerted efforts by Watersheds of South Pittsburgh and their partners to raise awareness and address funding challenges. Our stops will include Wabash Park to discuss outdated flood mitigation techniques, the stunning Seldom Seen Greenway, Bausman Street & Rt 51, and Ansonia Place, a former neighborhood set for revitalization through a major green space project following a FEMA buyout. Join us as we uncover the potential for renewal within the Saw Mill Run Valley.

8:30am – 11:30am



**Colors of the River:
*Art, Storytelling, and Ecology in Pittsburgh***

Join Three Rivers Waterkeeper for an immersive art-based ecology program, Colors of the River. Colors of the River seeks to educate and connect people to Pittsburgh's waterways through hands-on ecology education and nature-focused art. Participants will engage with the natural environment in creative and meaningful ways, inviting you to explore and record site-specific information using materials found in nature and fostering a unique understanding of the ecosystems that surround us. Together, you'll build community connections and generate new knowledge about Pittsburgh's waterways, celebrating the beauty and significance of these vital natural resources. Get ready to discover the colors, textures, and stories of the river and join us in this exciting journey of exploration and creativity.



**Transformation and Preservation:
*Strengthening Water Infrastructure in a Shared Space***

Pittsburgh Water invites you to explore the construction of the new Highland Reservoir Pump Station. Part of the utility's Water Reliability Plan, the new pump station is strategically located within Pittsburgh's quintessential Highland Park. The construction of this 56 million-gallon-per-day pump station will enhance water distribution and improve service reliability for nearly two-thirds of Pittsburgh Water's drinking water customers. For more than a century, Highland Park has shared its footprint with critical components of Pittsburgh's water distribution system. As Pittsburgh Water modernizes its infrastructure for the next century, maintaining the balance between the built and natural environment is essential. The tour provides a unique look at the intricacies of the construction project and discusses how Pittsburgh Water and the Highland Park community balanced the construction of a modern pump station while preserving the idyllic setting of the park.



**Water Treatment and Reliability: Safeguarding Every
*Drop for Customers Now and in the Future***

Discover the heart of Pittsburgh's water infrastructure. Don't miss this exclusive tour of Pittsburgh Water's 100 million-gallon-per-day water treatment plant. Located along the Allegheny River, you'll witness firsthand the essential process that transforms raw water into a vital resource, meet the experts responsible for protecting water quality, and understand the challenges and solutions that keep water flowing. The tour also includes an overview of Pittsburgh Water's ABC Project. Crucial to the completion of the utility's Water Reliability Plan, the ABC Project will renew pumping capacity and improve treatment reliability, resulting in safer, more reliable water service for current and future generations of customers. This tour is a unique opportunity to understand how Pittsburgh Water is transforming Pittsburgh's water system while delivering on its commitment to provide safe, clean water for the half-million people it serves each day.

12:00pm – 1:30pm



**Lunch Plenary and Keynote:
*A Keynote Address from Mami Hara, CEO, US Water Alliance
Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom***



From Conflict to Collaboration Across Three Watersheds

Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom

Water is central to the Pittsburgh identity. The “City of Bridges” sits at the confluence of three rivers: the Allegheny, the Monongahela, and the Ohio. It is also a city facing a history of resource extraction, legacy pollution, aging infrastructure, and more. Yet this is a region making great progress through partnerships and collaboration. This Plenary will examine how these collaborative efforts are shaping the One Water future of our host city.

Speakers:

- **Shannon Perrine**, Co-Anchor, WTAE Pittsburgh's Action News 4 (moderator)
- **Dr. Jamil Bey**, Director of City Planning, the City of Pittsburgh, PA
- **Will Pickering**, CEO, Pittsburgh Water
- **Doug Jackson**, Director of Operations and Maintenance, ALCOSAN
- **Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis**, Executive Director, Women for a Healthy Environment

1:30pm – 2:00pm

Break

2:00pm – 5:30pm

Learning Labs



Storytelling with Purpose: From Personal Journeys to Movement Building

Room 315-316

Are you ready to tap into your personal journey with water and learn how to create powerful stories that inspire change? In this Learning Lab, we'll explore how your unique connection to water can fuel meaningful advocacy and bridge divides that resonate across diverse audiences. Through interactive exercises and guidance from creative practitioners, including Tony Award-winning artist and advocate Britton Smith, you'll uncover the deeper meaning behind your own experiences and learn how to shape them into compelling narratives. With support from our artist team, you'll discover the key ingredients for authentic storytelling, experiment with a range of creative methods, and explore best practices for amplifying community stories in ways that reach and move the right audiences. This workshop is an opportunity to reimagine how we responsibly share the water stories of the communities we serve. Come ready to challenge yourself, embrace vulnerability, and leave with the tools to transform the way you approach storytelling.

Speakers:

- **Alexis Frasz**, Co-Director, Helicon Collaborative
- **Maura Jarvis**, Program Manager, US Water Alliance
- **Mary Morton**, Creative Director, US Water Alliance
- **Britton Smith**, Artist/Advocate



Collaborative Climate Planning

Room 317-318

Water is at the heart of many climate challenges facing communities—from intensifying storms and prolonged droughts to sea level rise and declining water quality. Addressing these threats demands urgent, bold action that protects communities and reduces climate pollution. The water sector is uniquely positioned to lead this charge with opportunities to simultaneously reduce emissions and strengthen community resilience through One Water approaches. Despite the water sector's potential to drive systemic change, its role in climate

planning is often overlooked, leading to missed opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and the amplification of climate benefits. Changing this starts with rethinking not just how we engage, but who we engage with. This session explores how to strengthen the role of water in cross-sector collaboration for climate action. Participants will learn best practices for building authentic relationships and partnerships and identifying the components of equitable community engagement in climate action planning. We'll see how trust-based collaboration across diverse perspectives helps us see more clearly, uncover better solutions, and build lasting partnerships rooted in listening and understanding.

Speakers:

- **Maithilee Das Lappin**, Project Manager, TYLin
- **Amanda Inez Lovelee**, US Cultural Policy Fellow, Stanford University
- **Paulina Lopez**, Executive Director, Duwamish River Community Coalition
- **Erich José Juan Pacheco**, Strategy Integration and Policy Manager, Portland Water Bureau
- **David Ponder**, Director of Climate Action, US Water Alliance
- **Walt Walker**, Vice President and Equity Practice Leader, TYLin



**Building and Funding Equitable Water
Workforce Development**
Room 319-320

Despite being a stable industry offering family-sustaining jobs, the water sector is facing a workforce quantity and quality crisis. With one-third of the water workforce eligible for retirement within 10 years, this challenge is only expected to grow. Moreover, the current water workforce composition reveals persistent disparities by race and gender. This Learning Lab will consider how efforts to build a stronger water workforce can also contribute to closing wealth gaps, advancing racial and gender equity, and achieving broader community goals. Participants will hear examples of how water utilities are building and funding workforce programs in partnership with community-based organizations and begin to apply these strategies to their own workforce development plans, goals, and challenges. We will also examine the role that cross-sector partnerships can play in navigating barriers to water sector employment for communities currently underrepresented in the water workforce—and see how these partnerships can improve outcomes and expand possibilities for addressing water workforce challenges more generally.

Speakers:

- **Paula Sammons**, Program Officer, The W. K. Kellogg Foundation (moderator)
- **Angela Charles**, Director, Charlotte Water
- **Robert Clarke**, Executive Director, Continuing Education and Customized Training, City Colleges of Chicago
- **Edward Coleman**, Human Resources Manager, Environmental Justice Section, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
- **César García**, Co-Founder and Co-Director, Lake City Collective
- **Edna Primrose**, Founder and President, Differenza
- **Joeseeph Rosell**, Equitable Opportunities Advisor, Seattle Public Utilities



Creative Water Partnerships for Impact Room 301-302

Water challenges are complex—and solving them requires collaboration that's just as dynamic. This session explores how creative partnerships across sectors are delivering meaningful impact in communities and ecosystems. From global technology trends to hyper-local branding efforts and innovative corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategies, panelists will share real-world examples of how they've worked across traditional boundaries to spark action, build trust, and generate shared value. Join leaders from the private sector, utilities, and NGOs as they unpack what makes these partnerships successful—and what lessons others can carry forward.

Speakers:

- **David Goldwater**, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Stantec (moderator)
- **Chris Angell**, Senior Director, Strategy and Business Development, Xylem
- **Sinjin Eberle**, Southwest Communications Director, American Rivers
- **Doa Ross**, Deputy General Manager of Engineering, Southern Nevada Water Authority and Las Vegas Valley Water District
- **Sanjiv Sinha**, Chief Executive Officer, Corvias Infrastructure Solutions (CIS)



Scaling Nature-Based Solutions from Neighborhoods to Regions Room 303-304

As climate impacts intensify—including urban flooding to heatwaves, water shortages, and biodiversity loss—communities are urgently seeking solutions that build resilience while advancing equity, public health, and economic development. Nature-based solutions like restored wetlands, green infrastructure, and reforested corridors are rising to the forefront as essential, adaptable strategies. But for nature-based solutions to move from scattered success stories to transformative infrastructure, they must be implemented at multiple scales—and anchored in cross-sector partnerships, community leadership, and policy alignment. This session explores how nature-based solutions are being put into action at every level—from neighborhood-scale grassroots projects and parks and city-wide systems to watershed collaborations and regional policy frameworks. It will highlight how different scales of implementation can work in concert, how local context shapes design, and what's needed to bridge gaps between innovation and impact.

Speakers:

- **Ted Kowalski**, Senior Program Officer—Environment, Colorado River Initiative, Walton Family Foundation (moderator)
- **Tamara Graham**, Environmental Program Manager, City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management
- **George Jones, Jr.**, Executive Director, Partners for Environmental Justice
- **Felicia Marcus**, Landreth Visiting Fellow, Water in the West Program, Stanford University
- **Trent Rondot**, Conservation and Maintenance Director, Houston Parks Board



After IIJA: The Future of Funding Strategies for Water Infrastructure Room 301-302

The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) is drawing to a close, ending a landmark period of federal investment in water infrastructure. In the absence of one large federal funding source for water infrastructure, we need to develop an array of funding strategies to ensure investment in our water infrastructure—and our communities—continues. This session will explore federal, state, and local opportunities to fund water infrastructure projects after IIJA. We will consider how utilities might apply a portfolio approach to infrastructure funding in which federal, state, and local stakeholders are all involved. Join a group of federal, state, and philanthropic funders, researchers, and local government representatives as we discuss potential paths forward for water infrastructure funding.

Speakers:

- **Ross Van Dongen**, Chief of Infrastructure and Workforce Development, Accelerator for America and Director, United for Infrastructure (moderator)
- **Martin Doyle**, Professor of Water Science, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University
- **Phyllis Garcia**, Senior Director/Treasurer, San Antonio Water System
- **Alan Leonard**, Director of Policy, Texas Water Foundation
- **Aaron Smith**, Chief Bonds Program Director, Iowa Finance Authority



Advancing Towards Affordable and Reliable Water Systems Room 303-304

Access to clean water and reliable wastewater services benefits the whole community. As water costs continue to rise, it's crucial to ensure that everyone can afford these essential services. How can we make this happen, and how can water utilities secure the funds they need to maintain and operate water systems while also making sure residents don't lose access to water services due to financial hardship? This session will focus on why water bills must be considered in tandem with the costs of other essential needs, explore the factors that drive up water costs, and highlight key policy and practice levers for local leaders to consider when addressing unaffordable water bills with their communities.

Speakers:

- **Juliet Ellis**, Head of Government Practice, Promise Network Inc. (moderator)
- **Trevelyn Johnson**, Program Manager, IMPACT Community Action
- **Sharmila Murthy**, Professor of Law and Public Policy, Northeastern University
- **Tony Parrott**, Executive Director, Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District
- **Racquel Vaske**, General Manager, St. Paul Regional Water Services



Networking Reception DLCC Rooftop

Thursday, July 10th

7:30am – 4:30pm

Registration Open:
Regional Gallery (DLCC 3rd Floor)

8:00am – 9:30am



Breakfast Plenary

Welcome Remarks by the Hon. Ed Gainey, Mayor, City of Pittsburgh, PA
Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom

Re-imagining Water Governance and Funding

The current funding and governance models employed by the US water sector are fundamentally unsustainable. But what options are there for the future, and how do we get there? This Plenary will feature a fireside chat with some of the top thinkers in the water sector discussing their ideas for a brighter water future and the pathway to guide us there.

Speakers:

- **Mami Hara**, CEO, US Water Alliance (moderator)
- **Albert Cho**, Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy and External Affairs Officer, Xylem
- **Elizabeth Cisar**, Director of the Environment Program, The Joyce Foundation
- **Ben Grumbles**, Executive Director, Environmental Council of the States
- **John Take**, Executive Vice President and Chief Growth and Innovation Officer, Stantec

9:30am – 10:00am

Break

10:00am – 11:30am

Concurrent Sessions



The Power of Partnerships: An Exploration of Regionalization, Consolidation, and Other Innovative Water Collaborations *Room 301-302*

The United States today has over 50,000 public water systems in year-round operation. The Alliance has been and continues to be focused on how to address this fragmented water landscape and the many resulting challenges. But we also believe that with every challenge comes an opportunity—and we see an enormous potential in water partnerships to strengthen America's water sector and achieve a One Water future. This panel will explore exciting developments in regionalization, consolidation, and other water collaborations and offer ideas for unleashing the power of win-win water partnerships.

Speakers:

- **Ryan Wilson**, Senior Director, Metropolitan Planning Council (moderator)
- **Jamie Heisig-Mitchell**, Chief of Water Quality, Hampton Roads Sanitation District
- **Aaron Keatley**, Chief Deputy Director, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy
- **Olga Morales-Pate**, CEO, Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- **Julia Spicher**, Manager of Regionalization, ALCOSAN



Centering Community Needs by Asking the Right Questions *Room 303-304*

Authentic community engagement is essential to building trust and understanding how the nuances of local expertise can shape water infrastructure, access, or advocacy efforts. This includes challenging the assumptions of even the most seasoned water professionals and learning how to ask the right questions to truly understand community needs and priorities. In this session, participants will learn about innovative, collaborative, and community-driven methods for understanding the needs of their communities to make more informed decisions specific to their local context. After a short panel discussion to set the stage, experts will lead an interactive workshop, featuring a role-playing exercise designed to examine the myriad of factors that go into aligning community priorities with water projects, campaigns, research, and more.

Speakers:

- **Alicea Easthope-Frazer**, Senior Project Director, The Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Guadalupe Fernandez**, Policy and Partnerships Manager, Bayou City Waterkeeper
- **Jocelyn Lu Morinishi**, Senior Associate Engineer, Brown and Caldwell
- **Alicia Smith**, Community Engagement Director, Freshwater Future



Transitioning to an AI Economy: Data Centers, Challenges, & Opportunities *Room 315-316*

Data centers in the United States are expanding rapidly, driven by accelerating digitization and the rise of artificial intelligence (AI). This growth presents urgent challenges and new opportunities for sustainable water management. This session will explore the evolving landscape of water stewardship in the data center sector, highlighting innovative technologies, policy responses, and collaborative approaches grounded in the One Water framework. Join industry leaders, utility experts, and sustainability advocates to discuss solutions that advance water efficiency, climate resilience, conservation, and equity in the era of digital transformation.

Speakers:

- **Karri Ving**, Managing Principal, Business Consulting and ESG, Brown and Caldwell (moderator)
- **Kristen Atha**, Director, Columbus Water & Power, the City of Columbus, OH
- **Tom Birmingham**, Water Team Manager, Meta
- **Shivaji Deshmukh**, General Manager, Inland Empire Utilities Authority
- **Sarah Houston**, Executive Director, Protect Our Aquifer



Becoming a One Water Champion *Room 317-318*

What does it take to truly champion the One Water approach? This dynamic session explores the diverse and practical paths water professionals are taking to turn One Water principles into action. From conservation and reuse to land use planning, nutrient management, climate technology, and industry partnerships, participants will gain insights into real-world entry points that align with their work. Discover how each pathway connects to the broader One Water vision and leave equipped with strategies to embed One Water thinking into your own projects, programs, and planning efforts.

Speakers:

- **Susan Moio**, Senior Vice President and Global Market Director, Jacobs (moderator)
- **Lindsay Birt**, Client Solution Manager, Xylem
- **Gary Hubbard**, Director, Water Department, the City of Winter Haven, FL, and Chair, Florida One Water Commission
- **Robin Schwartz**, Development and Community Advocacy, Duwamish River Community Coalition
- **Mary Beth Stevenson**, Watershed and Source Water Coordinator, the City of Cedar Rapids, IA

10:00am – 11:30am**CS Water's Role in Achieving Regional-Scale Goals**
Room 319-320

As local communities, states, and regions navigate complex planning processes across economic development, land use, resilience, and water, opportunities emerge for stronger coordination and integration. The interconnectedness of water with these other sectors presents opportunities to break down silos in order to achieve long-term, holistic, and sustainable goals. Speakers will discuss how a One Water approach can foster collaboration and align strategies for more effective, sustainable solutions. It will also highlight the essential role of cross-sector collaboration in achieving integrated planning.

Speakers:

- **Wendy Broley**, Chief Technical Officer, Brown and Caldwell and Executive Director, California Urban Water Agencies
- **Nathan Boon**, Senior Program Officer, William Penn Foundation
- **Jessica Dandridge-Smith**, Executive Director, The Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans
- **John Farner**, Executive Director, Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- **Stephanie Ishii**, Director of Integrated Resource Technologies, Hazen and Sawyer
- **Cindy Lowry**, Executive Director, Alabama Rivers Alliance

11:30am – 12:00pm**Break****12:00pm – 1:30pm****United for Water: How Water Can Bring Us Together**
Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom

Partnerships and collaboration are essential ingredients for the One Water future we are all working towards. Water can be a great uniter; it touches all aspects of our lives, health, jobs, and environment. Now more than ever, in this moment of division and change, water represents one of the greatest opportunities to build bridges back to each other and strengthen our democracy and institutions.

Speakers:

- **Scott Berry**, Senior Advisor on Policy and External Affairs, US Water Alliance (moderator)
- **Maura Jarvis**, Program Manager, US Water Alliance
- **Erin Riggs**, Director of the Environmental Finance Center, US Water Alliance
- **Emily Simonson**, Senior Director of Water Leadership and Innovation, US Water Alliance

1:30pm – 2:00pm**Break**



One Water for Smaller Systems Room 317-318

Nearly 90 percent of public water utilities in the United States serve fewer than 10,000 people with more than half of these serving fewer than 500 people. Small and rural public water systems face a number of challenges in providing water and wastewater services due to a lack of resources, aging infrastructure, and other capacity limitations. Residents served by these systems are often not part of the process of developing and implementing solutions to water challenges, despite their deep knowledge of their community's needs and values. This Learning Lab will provide an overview of the burdens faced by small and rural systems, including regulatory violations and noncompliance. It will showcase realistic and replicable strategies and approaches to engaging community members in planning and implementation processes—building authentic relationships along the way. Participants will experience a community engagement event firsthand as they learn about the barriers that small and rural communities face in implementing One Water, how community members can be involved in processes that seem highly technical or technocratic, and how to apply community engagement strategies demonstrated by this Learning Lab to your own community and context. Participants will gain a deeper appreciation of how and why authentically engaging with smaller communities can improve lives, protect public health and the environment, promote economic development, and work toward regional solutions.

Speakers:

- **Katie Dailinger**, Project Director of the Local Infrastructure Hub, National League of Cities
- **Erin Riggs**, Director of the Environmental Finance Center, US Water Alliance
- **Carrie Smith**, Program Manager, US Water Alliance
- **Austin Thompson-Spain**, Senior Program Manager, US Water Alliance



Water Equity Now: Lessons, Tools, and Action Steps Room 319-320

The new federal context makes it more important than ever to ground ourselves in the foundational pillars of water equity: safe, reliable, and affordable water services for all, the opportunity to participate in the economic, social, and environmental benefits of water systems, and the ability for all communities to be resilient. This Learning Lab will provide a foundational overview of those pillars and their significance in the context of persistent racial disparities in water sanitation and access in the US. We will hear from water equity champions from across the country as they share stories, insights, and lessons learned and explore effective approaches to developing an equitable internal culture and building authentic community partnerships. Participants will engage in dynamic discussions and gain practical tools and strategies for advancing water equity in their respective communities. This is an opportunity to be inspired, reflect on personal and collective motivations, and connect with a network of leaders dedicated to advancing water equity now more than ever. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped with resources to help them chart their own paths forward.

Speakers:

- **Bobby Humes**, BHConsulting (facilitator)
- **Joe Fitzgerald**, Policy and Advocacy Director, Milwaukee Water Commons
- **Elizabeth Stout**, Water Resources Manager, City of Minneapolis, MN
- **Kellie Stallard Watson**, General Counsel and Legal Director, Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District
- **Greg Wukasz**, Manager, External Affairs, San Antonio Water System

2:00pm – 5:30pm



One Water Council Strategy Meeting

This is a closed session for US Water Alliance One Water Council members only
Room 306-307

Through the One Water Council, the US Water Alliance aims to build, strengthen, and activate a network of innovative leaders 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 bi-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 and guide key work and priorities for the Council and the Alliance over the next year.

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Concurrent Sessions



Driving State-Level Action with Public Awareness and Coalitions

Room 301-302

Prioritizing and securing necessary water funding and investments requires broad public and political support. This discussion will explore the critical role of statewide public awareness campaigns and cross-sector coalition building to foster support for water investments and policy solutions, including lead service line replacement. By bringing together diverse interests, including government agencies, utilities, environmental organizations, and community groups, state-level action can build a unified approach to advocating for long-term water solutions.

Speakers:

- **Danielle Giannantonio**, Senior Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs and Grants, NE Ohio Regional Sewer District (moderator)
- **Deandrah Cameron**, Policy Manager, New Jersey Future
- **Michelle Stockness**, Executive Director, Freshwater Society
- **Jennifer Walker**, Director, Texas Coast and Water Program, National Wildlife Federation



Fireside Conversations on Water Careers

Room 303-304

The future of the water workforce is about more than pipelines—it's about people, purpose, and partnership. This communal session brings together students, early-career professionals, mentors, and institutional leaders to explore how the development of the workforce involves various experiences and positions. Structured as a series of five intimate, 15-minute fireside chats, participants will rotate through small-group conversations that spotlight real-world experiences—from mentorship and HBCU-to-career opportunities to community-university partnerships, philanthropic investments, and youth engagement. Each pairing offers a view of how individuals and institutions are collaborating to prepare the future leaders of the water sector and make water workforce opportunities more visible, accessible, and resilient.

Speakers:

- **Gabriel Evans**, Program Associate, US Water Alliance (moderator)
- **Ryan Barton**, Hydrologist, Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources
- **Akissi Brooks**, Founder, Ambitious Girls, Inc.
- **Nicole Brown**, Area Growth Lead for the Water Sector, Gannett and Fleming and Vice President and Co-Founder, Black Water Professionals Alliance

- **Sarah Collins**, Managing Talent Director, Pittsburgh Water
- **Daniel Dominguez**, Project Coordinator, Water Fellows Program, Colorado Water Center
- **Aria Harris**, Water Infrastructure Engineering Designer, TYLin
- **James Hawthorne**, Engineering Program Manager, Lancaster County Water and Sewer District
- **Barbara Hopkins**, Executive Director, Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange

2:00pm – 3:30pm



From SCOTUS to States and Tribes: Water and Environmental Law at a Crossroads *Room 315-316*

It is an eventful and uncertain time for water and environmental law in America. This panel will bring together leading legal and practitioner experts to explore the fast-evolving legal landscape, including recent Supreme Court rulings, constitutional questions, and shifting interpretations of federal and state environmental protections. With implications for everything from enforcement of the Clean Water Act to Colorado River Basin management, this session will unpack what these changes mean for practitioners, policymakers, and communities alike.

Speakers:

- **Diane Schrauth**, Policy Director, Water, New Jersey Future (moderator)
- **Jessica Brody**, General Counsel, Denver Water
- **Leda Huta**, Vice President of Government Affairs, American Rivers
- **Erika Pirotte**, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Navajo Nation Department of Justice
- **Dr. Beverly Wright**, Founder and Executive Dir., Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

3:30pm – 4:00pm

Break

4:00pm – 5:30pm

Concurrent Sessions



New Approaches to Unlocking Climate Solutions Across Water and Working Lands *Room 301-302*

Water systems that sustain communities, agriculture, and ecosystems are deeply interconnected and increasingly shaped by the pressures of a changing climate. Addressing these challenges requires agricultural producers, utilities, and land managers to move beyond traditional roles and adopt a shared climate-centered approach to land and water management. Although the need to strengthen these connections to develop more integrated strategies is well established, progress is often constrained by the absence of consistent regulatory and financial drivers. This session will explore which fresh ideas rooted in trust-based relationships, local priorities, and cross-sector collaboration can unlock watershed-scale strategies that address both climate adaptation and mitigation. Speakers will highlight emerging approaches to protect water resources, reduce emissions, and sustain the viability of working lands.

Speakers:

- **David Ponder**, Director, Climate Action, US Water Alliance (moderator)
- **Dan Dalton**, Associate Director, PASA Sustainable Agriculture
- **Ruth McCabe**, Conservation Manager, Heartland Co-op
- **Hannah Tremblay**, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Farm Aid

4:00pm – 5:30pm



Water at the Heart of Disaster: Reimagining Preparedness & Response *Room 303-304*

From wildfires in Maui to hurricanes in Tampa and flooding in Asheville, water is a defining force in nearly every major climate disaster. According to Rebuild by Design's 2025 report, 99.5 percent of congressional districts have experienced at least one federally declared major disaster since 2011—many of them driven by extreme weather and water-related crises. This panel brings together frontline community leaders, leading advocates, and climate resilience experts to discuss the urgent need for a new approach to water security, disaster preparedness, and equitable response and recovery. Panelists will share lessons learned from the frontlines and explore innovative solutions for centering community-driven resilience strategies through state, local, and federal partnerships. Join us for a critical conversation on how we can move beyond reactive disaster response toward a proactive, equitable, and water-resilient future.

Speakers:

- **Beverley Stinson**, Chief Executive, Global Water Business Line, AECOM (moderator)
- **Melissa Hampe**, Partner, SR Partners and Facilitator, Maui Economic Recovery Commission
- **Heather Manzo**, Executive Director, Allegheny County Conservation District
- **Stephany Valdez**, Water Justice Organizer, Coalition for Environment, Equity, & Resilience



Overcoming Noise: Narrative Change and How Water Communicators Can Connect *Room 315-316*

We live in a complex, fragmented, and noisy media environment. Breaking through to truly connect, inform, and persuade is a challenge that so many of us are currently grappling with in the water sector. This session will bring together leading communicators to share their thinking on the latest trends, effective tactics, and future opportunities to ensure that we continue to grow public support and political will for water investments.

Speakers:

- **Zakiyaa Taylor**, Communications Manager, WaterHub (moderator)
- **Chelsea Boozer**, Executive Director, Rogue Water Lab
- **John Gonzalez**, Senior Communications Manager, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
- **Monica Lewis-Patrick**, President and CEO, We the People of Detroit
- **Samantha Villegas**, Principal Consultant, Raftelis

6:00pm – 9:30pm

US Water Prize Ceremony and Celebratory Reception *Ballroom Gallery & Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom*

The US Water Prize honors trailblazing leaders driving sustainable and equitable water solutions across the nation. This powerful celebration is elevated by a dynamic performance from Britton and the Sting, whose show MAMA weaves music, movement, and message into a captivating tribute to water's essential role in our lives. Together, we'll celebrate the power of bold ideas and the power of art in shaping a more just and resilient water future.

Speakers:

- **Renée Willette**, Chief Strategy Officer, US Water Alliance (emcee)

Friday, July 11th

7:30am – 10:00am

Registration Open:
Regional Gallery (DLCC 3rd Floor)

7:15am – 8:30am

re **One Water Fun Run**
Meet in Westin Lobby by 7:15 for check-in

8:00am – 9:30am

re **Networking Breakfast**
Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom

9:30am – 10:00am

Break

10:00am – 11:30am

Concurrent Sessions

CS **More than Just Pipes: Water Infrastructure as a Tool for
Community Investment in Pittsburgh**
Room 301-302

Improving water quality requires system-wide improvements. The benefits of these large-scale system upgrades can go beyond the traditional purview of utilities. This session will use the development and implementation of Pittsburgh Water's Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) program and Water Reliability Plan as case studies to demonstrate how utilities can work with community partners to reimagine infrastructure improvements as opportunities to invest in their communities and leverage them to produce co-benefits. Hear the story of how a coalition in Pittsburgh, including Pittsburgh Water staff, labor unions, CBOs, and others used water investments to improve public health and equity, build community trust, and develop a local workforce.

Speakers:

- **Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis**, Executive Director, Women for a Healthy Environment (moderator)
- **Mora McLaughlin**, Construction Communications Project Manager, Pittsburgh Water

CS **America's Water Access Gap: Fighting the Expansion**
Room 303-304

In 2018, the US Water Alliance and DigDeep released a seminal report revealing that 2.2 million people in the US lacked running water and/or sanitation at home. Since then, the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector has been steadily growing a movement to secure safe and reliable water access for all. By collaborating with the One Water movement, WASH advocates have broadened their coalition—bringing in new voices, expertise, and momentum. This session will explore how the WASH sector is tackling persistent and emerging gaps in water access. We'll look at progress made, lessons learned, and how strategies are evolving to ensure that every household in America has access to affordable water and sanitation.

Speakers:

- **Kabir Thatte**, Vice President of Policy & External Relations, DigDeep and Executive Director, The Vessel Collective (moderator)
- **LaTricea Adams**, Founder, CEO, & President, Young, Gifted, and Green
- **Dr. Stephen Gasteyer**, Associate Professor of Sociology, Michigan State University
- **The Hon. Shawyn Patterson-Howard**, Mayor, City of Mount Vernon, NY and Co-Chair, Mayors' Commission on Water Access
- **Dr. Crystal Tulley-Cordova**, Principal Hydrologist, Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources

10:00am – 11:30am

CS **Navigating Tough Conversations: Effective Communication in Complex or Divisive Contexts**
Room 315-316

Effective communication strategies are often easy to employ when the topic is clear, simple, or enjoyable. But what happens when the stakes are higher, the topic is divisive, or the conversation is fraught with complexity or discomfort? In these situations, effective communication becomes more challenging and important. This session will bring together a diverse group of practitioners to explore strategies for navigating these difficult conversations. Participants will gain practical tools to manage emotionally charged discussions, foster understanding across divides, and create spaces where productive dialogue can thrive—even in the most challenging scenarios.

Speakers:

- **Kerry Hastings**, Coordinator, Urban Water Funders (moderator)
- **Rebekah Jones**, Communications Director, Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance
- **John Kmiec**, Director, Tucson Water
- **Yvonne McCaskill**, Founder, Century City Triangle Neighborhood Association
- **Moirá O'Neil**, Senior Vice President of Research Interpretation, The FrameWorks Institute

CS **Meeting the Future Through One Water Planning and Development**
Room 317-318

One Water is a transformative way of viewing, valuing, and managing water. The One Water approach manages all water—whether from the tap, a stream, a storm, an aquifer, or a sewer—in a collaborative, integrated, inclusive, and holistic manner. However, bringing One Water to life can be a daunting undertaking. Fortunately, One Water leaders from across the country have forged roadmaps to success. Hear directly from these leaders as they showcase how their cities implemented One Water planning—where they started, the challenges they faced, and the partnerships that made it possible. This session will provide tangible insights to help you map out your own One Water journey. Whether you're just beginning or looking to refine your approach, this session will help you identify first steps, essential collaborators, and opportunities to connect with peers at One Water Summit who can serve as partners or sounding boards.

Speakers:

- **Zeynep Erdal**, VP of Integrated Solutions and Capabilities Director, Black & Veatch (moderator)
- **Nancy Daly**, Water Resources Program Manager, Wake County, NC
- **Priya Dhanapal**, Deputy City Administrator for Public Works, the City of Portland, OR
- **Robin Gary**, One Water Coordinator, New Braunfels Utilities
- **Ernie Lau**, Manager and Chief Engineer, Honolulu Board of Water Supply
- **Julie Stein**, Water Program Director for Civil, HDR

10:00am – 11:30am



Water Pathways for Building Trust *Room 319-320*

Water can be a pathway for building trust within communities and trust in our institutions. Water utilities play a critical role in establishing and maintaining trust in the water they provide. That trust can also create opportunities for water utilities to support broader community needs and elevate the voices of community members. Additionally, regulatory agencies, technical assistance providers, and other organizations play key roles in bridging the gap between utilities and community members. In this session, participants will hear directly from water utilities, agency representatives, and other organizations about their experiences working to build trust with communities around water.

Speakers:

- **Shamar Bibbins**, Managing Dir. of the Environment Program, The Kresge Foundation (moderator)
- **Idris Beauregard**, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Director, Seattle Public Utilities
- **Darnella Melancon**, Co-Chair, Indigenous Women's Leadership Network
- **Dave Metz**, Partner and President, FM3 Research
- **Brooke Poppe**, Senior Program Engineer, Engineers Without Borders USA-Community Engineering Corps

11:30am – 12:00pm

Break

12:00pm – 1:30pm



Closing Plenary and Luncheon Celebration **Closing Remarks from The Hon. Cavalier Johnson, Mayor,** **City of Milwaukee, WI** *Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom*

Bridging the Gap: One Water Delegation Commitments to Action

Let's take the next step together by assembling key learnings from Summit 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 both with 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!

Speakers:

- **Emily Simonson**, Senior Director of Water Leadership and Innovation, US Water Alliance (emcee)

1:30pm

Adjourn

One Water Delegations



One Water Delegations

Delegations are the heart of the One Water movement. Delegations are peer groups that initially form based on common geography, topical interest, field of practice, and/or policy goals. Some Delegations evolve into working groups that continue to collaborate beyond One Water Summit. Delegates are champions for an equitable, sustainable, and inclusive water future and are dedicated to sharing knowledge, building relationships, and bringing the learnings from Summit back to their home regions or communities of practice. Our 2025 One Water Delegations are:

AGC of America Water Contractor Delegation

AGC of America is the construction industry's leading trade association, representing over 28,000 member firms nationwide, including America's leading general contractors and specialty contracting firms. Many of our members engage in utility construction related to water, such as the construction of water and wastewater facilities and pipelines and specialty work, including excavation, tunneling, boring, and site preparation. Our water contractors support projects funded through federal and state funding mechanisms, such as the state revolving fund, and we hope our first time attending One Water Summit as a Delegation helps us develop long-term relationships toward the future of water infrastructure funding.

American Rivers Delegation

American Rivers is a national conservation organization working to make every river clean and healthy for people and wildlife. For more than 50 years, our staff, supporters, and partners have been driven by a common belief: Life Depends on Rivers – and we can't do that without inspiring a River Majority around healthy rivers and clean water. The American Rivers delegation is committed to expanding the movement by bringing together diverse stakeholders with a vested interest in water—from large utilities to government agencies to community groups. We work across a broad spectrum of interests, driving the needed policy changes to solve funding challenges in support of healthy rivers, healthy communities and a healthy economy. .

The Black Water Professionals' Alliance Delegation

BWPA Inc. is a supportive community of technical and nontechnical water industry professionals who share the heritage of the African diaspora working to promote, recruit, retain, and develop leaders in the water industry. Our vision is to be a catalyst for true change in the water sector, creating an environment where race is not a determinant of access to clean water or proximity to water crises. The mission of BWPA is to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion by fostering a community focused on networking, professional development, and leadership opportunities for Black people in the water industry.

Centering Water in Climate Action Delegation

The Centering Water in Climate Action Delegation is made up of organizations working at the intersection of environmental and climate justice, clean energy, and public health. We aim to deepen our understanding of the water advocacy landscape, strengthen our knowledge of water governance, and foster meaningful connections with key stakeholders. By building these connections, we hope to strengthen collaboration, explore alignment of efforts, and amplify collective impact for communities where fossil fuel infrastructure is straining water resources.

Climate Resilient and Equitable Water Systems (CREWS) Delegation

The Climate Resilient and Equitable Water Systems (CREWS) Delegation is convened by the Kresge Foundation's Environment Program. The Delegation is composed of environmental nonprofits, academics, and community and environmental justice advocates around the

nation advancing equitable solutions to address climate-related water impacts on low-income communities 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, 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.

Colorado One Water Delegation

The Colorado One Water Delegation will bring together a broad network of water professionals and cross-sector partners who are dedicated to working together toward a sustainable, resilient, and equitable water future across the state. Colorado is facing a myriad of water challenges, including a limited water supply and growing population, maintaining a skilled and robust workforce, and water quality stressors, to name a few. Increasingly, Coloradans are turning to One Water solutions to address these watershed- and state-scale challenges. The City of Denver is implementing the Denver One Water Plan while One Water is featured prominently as a strategy for sustainable water management in the Colorado Water Plan. This Delegation seeks to connect individuals to coordinate efforts, exchange ideas, and build a strong One Water network across the state.

Colorado River Basin Leaders Delegation

The Colorado River Basin Leaders Delegation elevates the vital role of utilities and cross-sector partnerships to ensure a reliable and sustainable water future for generations to come. Experience tackling complex challenges through One Water approaches can benefit the Colorado River Basin, and regional and local water agencies are leaders in implementing these approaches to benefit the Basin as a whole. This Delegation kicks off a new initiative to build support for holistic, effective solutions that can serve Basin communities and ecosystems.

CWSC Water Utility Leadership Fellows Delegation

Utilities, communities, and local governments face a difficult challenge: providing safe, reliable, and resilient water and wastewater in the face of aging infrastructure and workforces, climate change, expanding costs, and a growing affordability and financial crisis. Utilities must balance all these factors while ensuring their services are available to everyone, particularly those who are struggling to make ends meet. As members of the Center for Water Security and Cooperation's Water Utility Leadership Fellowship (WULF), fellows spend two years learning more about what it means to advance water and wastewater access and affordability through law, policy, and practice, engaging with their communities to understand their needs and hardships, and developing solutions to help their water or wastewater utility better and more proactively address water and wastewater access and affordability challenges. This dialogue creates an opportunity for fellows from the CWSC's first two WULF cohorts to discuss what they have learned (through the fellowship, from their

utility, and from their community), what advancing water and wastewater access means to them, and how they have advanced and are advancing equitable water and wastewater access in their water access and affordability policies and daily work and thinking. Participants will leave the session with ideas for how they can advance greater access and affordability to water and wastewater services at their utility.

Don't Water it Down NOLA Delegation

The Don't Water It Down Delegation of New Orleans represents a collective of artists, activists, and practitioners working and creating at the heart of New Orleans' past, present, and future; always filled with resilience, celebration, and water. From the work of The Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans grew The Brackish Arts Collective to connect local artists to the storied history of New Orleans and its unique relationship with water. "Don't Water it Down" was born from policy and advocacy intertwined with artistic storytelling and a celebration of culture. The Don't Water It Down Delegation of New Orleans finds itself at the intersection of cultural justice, cultural entertainment, and cultural preservation. The joy we create and carry seeks to elevate conversations around climate inequity and generational environmental injustice. In the greater New Orleans area, we are using arts of many kinds, culture, and creative narration to bring about awareness, change, and a little hope for those most heavily impacted by water inequities. We acknowledge history and build on community power and historical narrative to achieve a just, sustainable water future. We don't water it down, we want to thrive while we are alive.

Florida One Water Commission

The Florida One Water Commission is a broad-based stakeholder group that champions integrated water resource management through: establishing policies to facilitate implementation, promoting the benefits of One Water, securing sustainable water resource funding, and providing increased regulatory flexibility. Together, we are transforming water challenges into opportunities, ensuring a water-secure future for Florida's ecosystems, economy, and communities.

Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange Delegation

The Exchange is a social innovation network and a community of practice that seeks to activate local governments and stormwater agencies in the US and Canada to implement green stormwater infrastructure equitably. It achieves this mission by engaging cross-sector practitioners in peer learning to frame best practices in green stormwater infrastructure, employ them in public sector projects, and share them with others through education and training programs.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) in Parks Delegation

The Parks and Green Stormwater Initiative is a partnership between the City Parks Alliance, the US Water Alliance, and the Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange to help parks and water professionals collaborate more effectively on green stormwater infrastructure within park systems. This collaboration aims to create new green spaces and recreational areas, boost climate resilience and biodiversity, improve public health and social equity, and offer fiscal benefits. We convened a cohort of parks and water agency leaders from eight cities (Atlanta, Boston, Houston, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, Raleigh, Seattle, and Tucson) to explore ways to enhance collaboration between these sectors and address historical inequities. The cohort shares experiences and strategies for overcoming barriers to developing green stormwater infrastructure in urban parks, highlighting the many benefits it can bring. The initiative is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative Delegation

The Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative (FWI) was established in 2013 by the Hawai'i Community Foundation, a statewide charitable services and grantmaking organization. Its goal is to provide 100 million gallons per day of additional, reliable freshwater supply to Hawai'i by 2030 through water conservation, reuse, and recharge strategies. The FWI sent its first Delegation to One Water Summit in 2017, most recently returning in 2023 with a group of leaders from Hawai'i nonprofits, utilities, and government agencies that have influence over and an impact on water plans and infrastructure in Hawai'i. At the last Summit, the FWI was in the early stages of launching its EPA-designated Hawaiian Islands Environmental Finance Center (HIEFC), providing training and technical assistance to nonprofits and government agencies applying for federal funding for water projects in Hawai'i. This year's Delegation is made up of HIEFC partners who are water stewards in their communities with direct influence in Hawai'i's water space.

Iowa Delegation

The Iowa Delegation is made up of farmers, public utilities, watershed coordinators, state agencies, university researchers, outdoor enthusiasts, business leaders, and other passionate advocates of water quality. We are increasing the pace and scale of both rural solutions such as soil health practices and urban solutions such as stormwater management and green infrastructure. We are embracing collaboration between municipalities and agriculture innovators. We will continue collaborating under the One Water ethos to ignite innovative action with multi-faceted benefits including improved water quality, stronger soils, more habitat, reduced flood risk, stronger upstream and downstream partnerships, and improved conservation infrastructure.

Leveraging One Water Partnerships for Addressing Today's Finance and Governance Challenges

Our Delegation is formed by public and private sector One Water thinkers who are committed to promoting water sustainability, reliability, and resilience amidst the challenges posed by uncertainty in climate, policy directives, and the economy. Our focus is on advancing One Water implementation through building capacity and employing multiple strategies to tackle the complex financial issues that often stand in the way of integration and collaboration. With diverse perspectives from across the nation, we believe that structured and formalized partnerships serve as a cornerstone for leveraging resources and optimizing infrastructure investments while progressively addressing governance and long-term capacity.

Mayors Commission on Water Access Delegation

The Mayors Commission on Water Access was founded by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative in 2020 to promote access to clean, safe, and affordable water for all residents of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. The Mayors Commission is comprised of approximately 20 mayors representing communities of all sizes—from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Rochester, New York. The Mayors Commission engages in regular policy dialogues with federal, state, and local stakeholders and facilitates peer-to-peer learning to address lead service line replacement, water affordability, water workforce development, and water quality in Great Lakes communities. The Mayors Commission Delegation is proud to be at One Water Summit to elevate water equity issues facing Great Lakes communities and explore collaboration to advocate for funding and safeguard the efficient, equitable implementation of current water infrastructure funding.

Minnesota Delegation

The Minnesota Delegation coordinates on water issues and facilitates partnerships between community, public, and private entities for One Water solutions. Our recent commitment was around improving community engagement around regional water issues through education, communication, and co-creation.

The Nature Conservancy Delegation

The Nature Conservancy Delegation brings together staff scientists, practitioners, policy experts, and researchers who work on water, wastewater, and stormwater issues with multi-sector partners across the country. A livable climate, healthy communities, and thriving nature need fresh water. We recognize that protecting and restoring rivers, lakes, wetlands, and floodplains demands a holistic, interdisciplinary approach for a lasting impact. By harnessing the power of science, collaboration, smart policy, and strategic investment, we can improve water security, conserve biodiversity, and sustain the livelihoods of millions through One Water approaches. The Delegation will explore new ways to partner to advance local, statewide, regional, and national solutions while accelerating One Water practices and policies that help meet future water needs, improve ecosystem health, create healthier and safer communities, and enhance long-term resilience for all.

New Jersey Delegation

The New Jersey Delegation includes representatives from New Jersey who work in the water sector via nonprofit organizations, utilities, businesses, and governments. Many of the representatives participate in the Jersey Water Works collaborative, a statewide cross-sector collaborative of more than 600 members working to transform New Jersey's water infrastructure through investments in sustainable, cost-effective solutions that provide multiple community benefits. The Delegation will use its time to explore new ways to advance statewide solutions.

North Carolina Delegation

The North Carolina Delegation is comprised of leaders in local, regional, and state governments, water utilities, community members, conservation and nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions from both rural and urban areas of North Carolina. Our state is one of the fastest growing areas in the country, which is outstripping the traditional water management tools upon which our 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. Now is the time to collaborate to help solve our problems. Collaboration is the key to finding solutions. We invite all North Carolina stakeholders to the table.

One Water NOVA Delegation

The One Water Northern Virginia (One Water NOVA) Delegation was created to provide an opportunity to collaborate and strengthen regional partnerships focusing on our shared objective to protect our water resources. As One Water champions, we have shared objectives to protect our water resources and support the communities we serve. As a Delegation, we will share information, explore emerging concerns, and identify partnering opportunities for innovative solutions.

Philadelphia Water Department Delegation

The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) serves the Greater Philadelphia region by providing integrated water, wastewater, and stormwater services. Members of the PWD Delegation represent staff and supervisors from various divisions within PWD, including Public Affairs, Finance, Planning and Environmental Services, and Operations. Like water utilities across the country, PWD is facing a multitude of challenges that include evolving and more stringent regulatory requirements, infrastructure financing, workforce development and retention, increasing climate risks, and equitable service delivery. The PWD Delegation acknowledges that to successfully address these challenges, an integrated One Water management approach is needed. Our Delegation is attending Summit with the goal of strengthening internal connections among staff in different PWD divisions while collectively building a greater understanding of One Water strategies that can support PWD in charting a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable path forward.

Pittsburgh Delegation

The 2025 Pittsburgh Delegation is a dynamic and dedicated coalition bringing together original members of our Water Equity Task Force alongside a new wave of passionate advocates and organizations. As One Water Summit convenes in our own backyard, our mission is clearer than ever: to accelerate our journey toward water equity in every Pittsburgh neighborhood. We are united in our vision to build a resilient Pittsburgh prepared for the impacts of climate change, revolutionize our stormwater management systems, cultivate a diverse and skilled water workforce reflecting our evolving demographics, uphold public ownership and control of our vital water utility, and prioritize public health through the preservation of water quality and affordability. A continuing cornerstone of our work is the crucial removal of lead service lines, and we are eager to share our experiences and learn from regional partners with similar goals during this Summit. These ambitious undertakings demand the sustained collaboration of a broad spectrum of individuals and organizations. The Pittsburgh Delegation embodies our region's collective resolve to address these pressing water issues head-on. We are actively working to attract diverse talent to the water sector, modernize our aging infrastructure, and guarantee that essential water services are not only equitable but also financially accessible to all Pittsburgh residents.

Progressive Utility Management Delegation

This Delegation will explore innovative ways to better manage water and wastewater utilities to build trust in the communities we serve, keep rates affordable, and support economic development—all while meeting our primary mission of sustaining life with clean water. A point of reference for this group will be the Madison, WI, Declaration, published by the Water and Health Advisory Council, which calls for a business-oriented approach to prioritizing risk and building utility management capacity, especially in service to traditionally underserved communities.

Risk-Based Decision-Making for Water Infrastructure Delegation

Many approaches have been used to manage risk and uncertainty for critical water investment decisions. Methods include sensitivity and scenario analysis, multi-criteria decision analysis, expected value, decision trees and hierarchical approaches, central moments, recourse, value-at-risk, and game theory. Though very useful, these methods suffer from shortcomings in quantifying and controlling risk in uncertain environments. Optimization approaches are developed as a black box in most cases. We are proposing to develop and apply an actionable transparent risk-based decision-making optimization framework for water utilities to plan their CIP and other resiliency and sustainability initiatives where project portfolios are selected based on the risk attitude of the decision makers and where trade-offs between benefits and returns versus additional cost can be clearly mapped.

Spring Point Partners (SPP) Delta Delegation

As the water sector faces formidable challenges ranging from local issues like pollution and aging systems to global threats like climate change and environmental injustice, cultivating a new generation of leaders is critical. Behind the infrastructure of our water and wastewater systems is the “human infrastructure”—the people that make the pipes and pumps work. To navigate these challenges, we require diverse experiences and fresh perspectives to guide water forward. Our aim is to ensure that individuals who best represent and understand the communities they serve lead our water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. The Delta partners invest in leaders who bring real-life experience and community voices to the forefront. These leaders are equipped with the tools needed to elevate their utilities to new levels through amplification, skill development, peer learning, and robust support networks.

SRF State Advocates Forum Delegation

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) Advocates Forum Delegation is a diverse community of practice for community leaders, advocates, and experts from across the country who work on SRF administration and reform. Forum members collaborate to pursue more equitable infrastructure investments that better serve the communities most impacted by failing, aging, unsafe, or inadequate water infrastructure. The Forum creates opportunities to learn, share lessons, and synergize across geographies and levels of government. Participants include state, regional, and national advocates, local leaders, and technical experts motivated to address our nation’s most pressing water infrastructure challenges for which SRF loans, grants, and subsidized funding are essential. Focus areas include drinking water safety, water affordability, lead service line replacement, and building climate-resilient systems—all while centering procedural and distributive justice. The Forum is convened by the Alliance for the Great Lakes, Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC), River Network, and PolicyLink. Our Delegation is excited to meet in person and connect.

Tap into Resilience Delegation

Decentralized, on-site, and localized water strategies that include modernized water data systems are a critical path to achieving a One Water vision in communities nationwide. From green stormwater infrastructure to water use efficiency measures, to on-site 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 a 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, 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 who are dedicated to working together toward an equitable, sustainable, and resilient water future for all Texans. Texas is home to one of the fastest-growing populations in the nation and has recently experienced both record-setting droughts and floods. These stressors have significant equity implications for our communities and create stress on both our natural and built environments. Communities in Texas are embracing One Water solutions that will help us meet our future water needs and ensure that all Texans have access to safe, clean, affordable, and sustainable water services. This Delegation combines the forces of Texas' One Water movement and Water Equity Network members to collaboratively deepen our understanding of core equity issues, learn about innovative One Water solutions, and accelerate the equitable adoption of these solutions across the state.

Tucson Regional Delegation

The Tucson Regional Delegation is excited to return to One Water Summit for its sixth year. We are looking to build on our One Water 2100 long-range, integrated water resource plan. The Delegation includes political leaders, utility staff, community members, and other partners. In Tucson, local government is at the forefront of strategically managing all available water resources, including multigenerational 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.

Urban Water Funders

The Urban Water Funders Delegation includes leading national and regional philanthropy professionals working on urban water issues. Urban Water Funders (UWF) is a working group of The Funders Network, a national membership organization that helps grant-makers across North America advance strategies to create fair, prosperous, and sustainable regions and communities. UWF explores the role of water in urban settings to the benefit of the environment, equity, and economies of communities—with a specific interest in climate resilience, natural infrastructure, green stormwater infrastructure, and One 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 Funders Network also manages the Partners for Places grant program, which includes targeted funding for green infrastructure projects and inclusive infrastructure workforce initiatives.

Vessel: America's Domestic WASH Collective Delegation

Vessel: America's Domestic WASH Collective was created to expedite water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) access and awareness in the US. Today, over two million individuals in the US lack access to safe and reliable drinking water, and many more lack basic sanitation. Our membership brings together leaders from nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and private entities to address this critical issue. By leveraging our combined expertise, we focus on pressing WASH challenges, including improved data collection, targeted policy solutions, and strategic coordination. Vessel members meet regularly and in smaller working groups to set strategies, share data, and evaluate best practices. The Vessel Delegation is excited to use One Water Summit as a space to connect with WASH colleagues, learn from one another, and collaborate on strategic solutions that meet the needs of underserved communities across the US.

Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus Delegation

The Water Equity and Climate Resilience (WECR) Caucus is a national network of organizations working with frontline communities of color and low-income communities to advance policies and community solutions at the intersection of water, climate, and justice. As of January 2025, the Caucus includes over 80 member organizations, with significant representation in the South, West, and Great Lakes regions. Approximately two-thirds of these are frontline or justice-focused organizations. Our vision is to live in a world that honors water, promotes generational climate security and water affordability, and builds frontline leadership for systems change. The Caucus is building a pathway for this vision through four main strategies: Model and advocate for federal policy priorities and solutions, advance community-driven narratives and culture change, leadership on water and climate solutions that center those most impacted in governance and decision-making structures, expand the collective power of the WECR Caucus. The WECR Caucus Delegation is seeking to build alignment and coordination around these four strategies across the water sector. The delegation also hopes to connect with other frontline water and climate leaders at One Water Summit.

Water System Regionalization Delegation

This Delegation brings together a group of grantees all advancing regional water solutions that are community-led and equity-driven. These leaders are working to advance policy that enables and incentivizes collaborative, community-rooted partnerships and regionalization, supports real-world communities, and produces and strengthens guidance for technical assistance providers, community leaders, funders, and policymakers. At One Water Summit, they'll deepen connections and shape the broader conversation on what truly equitable water system regionalization can look like.

Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA) Delegation

The Water Utility Climate Alliance is committed to advancing climate change adaptation, planning, and decision-making to ensure that water utilities and the communities they serve can thrive amid the challenges of a changing climate. Comprising twelve of the nation's largest water providers, WUCA leverages collective utility experiences to develop leading practices in climate change adaptation and mitigation that are actionable and equitable and serve as resources for water sector practitioners and utilities. The Delegation seeks to collaboratively advance water utility climate adaptation, build and strengthen partnerships, and protect our water systems for today and future generations.

WEN Frontline Communities 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. Frontline community organizations are often the mouthpiece, the advocate, and the connection to these communities, and it is essential to incorporate these voices and perspectives into the decision-making process of water management. As representatives of the Alliance's Water Equity Network, a nationwide community of practice, the WEN Frontline Communities Delegation provides a space for leaders from organizations who have strong relationships with or are representative of communities most impacted by inequities to work toward a more equitable water future. Delegates hail from cities, towns, and regions across the country 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.

WEN Unified Taskforce Delegation

The WEN Taskforce Delegation brings together representatives from the three Water Equity Network Action Taskforces: the Affordability Taskforce, the Workforce Taskforce, and the Racial Equity and Community Partnerships Taskforce. These Taskforce are structured for Water Equity Network utilities and their partners who are working together to implement programs and initiatives that advance water equity in their communities. By bringing together representatives from the three Taskforces, this Delegation will provide a rich cross-pollination of insights, best practices, and strategies for advancing equity across these three topics. The Delegation will provide a valuable space for this first cohort of Taskforce members to exchange ideas, build community, and identify pathways for sharing learnings and successful innovations with the larger WEN network and ultimately the water sector at large.

West TN H2O Delegation

The West TN H2O Delegation is a broad group consisting of water authorities, non-governmental organizations, 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 and includes the aquifer's Recharge Zone. Recent strides toward establishing a groundwater monitoring well network and a map of the surficial geology of the region have come from this Delegation. The Delegation aims to build on TN H2O—Tennessee's first-ever state water plan, released in 2018—to increase the overall resilience of our aquifers and streams to protect human health.



One Water, *One Future*



US Water
Alliance