2025 Unleashing the Power of Technology and AI to Meet Today's Clean Water Challenges Virtual Workshop

September 10 – 11 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET | Virtual Event

Current as of August 29

Wednesday, September 10

1:00 – 1:05   **Welcoming & Opening Remarks**
Mickey Conway, *NACWA President*
Chief Executive Officer
Metro Water Recovery | Denver, CO

1:05 – 1:20   **Keynote Address: Innovating for the Future: HRSD's Technology Path to Affordable and Resilient Clean Water**
The keynote will highlight why innovation is central to HRSD's mission, particularly as a driver in addressing complex affordability challenges and maintaining low rates for customers. Jay Bernas will share examples of creative approaches beyond technology, followed by Dr. Charles Bott's in-depth exploration of HRSD's technology and AI deployments.

Keynote Speakers
Jay Bernas, General Manager
Hampton Roads Sanitation District | Virginia Beach, VA

Charles Bott, Chief Technology Officer
Hampton Roads Sanitation District | Virginia Beach, VA

1:20 – 1:50   **Building Federal Momentum & Funding: Navigating the Regulatory Landscape**
Explore current federal initiatives, funding programs, and policy directions driving digital and AI transformation in the water sector. Learn how utilities can position themselves to benefit from available resources.

Moderator
Nathan Gardner-Andrews, Chief Advocacy Officer
NACWA | Washington, DC

Speakers
Michele Nellenbach, Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy
Steptoe LLP | Washington, DC

Josh Mahan, Senior Director, Government and Industry Relations
Xylem, Inc. | Washington, DC

1:50 – 1:55   **Break**

1:55 – 2:35   **Turning Data into Decisions: Preparing for AI Acceleration**
Discuss approaches to upskilling, reskilling, and retaining talent for a tech-driven future. How can teams achieve more with less, cut time on rote tasks and improve their overall

resilience? Hear about successful training programs, partnerships, and competency-based resources that can help build a future-ready workforce.

Moderator
> **Amy Corriveau,** President
> Trinnex | Manchester, NH

Speaker
> **Liam Cavanaugh**, Chief Operating Officer
> Metro Water Recovery | Denver, CO

> **Luis Montestruque**, Principal
> HydroDigital| South Bend, IN

> **Ting Lu,** *Co-Chair, Climate & Resiliency Committee*
> Interim Director
> City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services | Portland, OR

2:35 – 3:15   **Clean Water Utilities Driving Innovation Investments: Meeting the Tech and AI Boom**
As data centers and AI-driven industries experience unprecedented growth, clean water utilities are increasingly at the forefront of supporting this surge in demand. This session will explore how water services are a critical enabler of technology sector expansion, from supplying high-quality water to advanced cooling operations to managing increased wastewater flows from rapidly growing data infrastructure. The discussion will focus on challenges for utilities as they respond to the tech sector's evolving needs, how new investments are shaping local infrastructure planning, and the innovative partnerships being forged between utilities, technology companies, and communities to ensure reliable, sustainable water services in this new era of digital transformation.

Moderator
> **Kristen Atha,** *NACWA Board Member*
> Director of Public Utilities
> City of Columbus | Columbus, OH

Speakers
> **Kendra Sveum**, Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance
> Loudoun Water | Ashburn, VA

> **Alex Bond,** Executive Director of Legal & Clean Energy Policy
> Edison Electric Institute | Washington, DC

> **Greta Zornes,** Water Reuse Global Practice Leader
> CDM Smith | Boston, MA

3:15 – 3:20   **Break**

3:20 – 4:00   **Bridging the Talent Gap: Workforce Empowerment for the Digital Utility**
Learn how organizations are upskilling, reskilling and retaining top talent to meet the demands of a fast-changing tech-driven future. Discover ways teams can do more with less, cut time on repetitive tasks and strengthen their overall resilience while hearing real-world examples of training programs, partnerships and competency-based solutions that help build a future-ready workforce.

Moderator
> **Pieter Van Ry,** *NACWA Board Member*
> Director
> South Platte Renew| Englewood, CO

Speakers
> **Prabhu Chandrasekeran,** Intelligent Water National Practice Leader
> Arcadis | Hanover, MD
>
> **Katie Hall**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer
> Claira.ai | Grand Rapids, MI

4:00   **Day 1 Wrap-Up**
> **Matthew McKenna,** Director of Government Affairs
> NACWA | Washington, DC

Thursday, September 11

1:00 – 1:05   **Opening Remarks**
> **Travis Wagner,** Vice President, Digital Consulting
> Trinnex | Raleigh, NC

1:05 – 1:45   **Securing the Future: Cybersecurity in the Age of Digital Water**
As digital technologies become central to utility operations, cybersecurity is critical. This session will explore best practices for protecting systems, building resilience, and navigating evolving federal cybersecurity requirements.

Moderator
> **Bradford Hoglund,** Chief Information Officer
> Boston Water & Sewer Commission | Boston, MA

Speakers
> **Jim Livermore**, Director, Information Security
> CDM Smith | Boston, MA
>
> **Paula Crowell,** Chief Information Officer
> Los Angeles County Sanitation District | Whittier, CA

1:45 – 1:50   **Break**

1:50 – 2:40   **The Power of a Digital Master Plan: Innovation in Action**
Hear real-world case studies from utilities implementing digital transformation strategies. Learn how AI and digital tools are driving measurable gains in efficiency, resilience, and cost savings.

Moderator
> **Travis Wagner,** Vice President, Digital Consulting
> Trinnex | Raleigh, NC

Speakers
> **Jason Sciandra,** Assistant Director of Public Utilities
> City of Fort Myers | Fort Myers, FL
>
> **Reese Johnson,** Deputy Director and Chief Engineer
> Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati | Cincinnati, OH

2:40 – 2:45   **Break**

2:45 – 3:00   **Keynote Address**
> **Tim Wall,** Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
> CDM Smith | Boston, MA

3:00 – 3:10   **A Message from NACWA**
AI and digital technologies are no longer optional — they are essential tools for how our clean water utilities will thrive in the future. By embracing innovation, NACWA and its members can deliver smarter, more resilient, and more affordable services to communities nationwide, ensuring that clean water utilities remain at the forefront of protecting public health and the environment in a rapidly changing world.

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

3:10 – 4:00   **Planning for the Future: From IT/OT Convergence to AI-Driven Climate Resilience**
How can water utilities transform digital vision into practical action? Explore integrated strategies for IT (data and computer systems) and OT (physical machines and processes) convergence, governance frameworks, and responsible AI adoption to ensure solutions are ethical, transparent, and community-focused. Featuring real-world case studies and practical steps for implementation, this session will also dive into how AI and advanced technologies can help predict and respond to climate change impacts, optimize resources, and build resilience against extreme weather.

> *Moderator*
> **Nitin Goel,** Operations Optimization Division Manager
> Central Contra Costa Sanitary District | Martinez, CA

> *Speakers*
> **Peter Martin,** Digital Solutions Consultant
> Trinnex | Roseville, CA

> **Mahesh Lunani,** Founder and Chief Executive Officer
> Aquasight | Troy, MI

> **Sanjiv Sinha,** Chief Executive Officer
> CIS Solutions | Ann Arbor, MI

4:00   **Closing Remarks**
> **Matthew McKenna,** Director of Government Affairs
> NACWA | Washington, DC