

Utility Leaders Afternoon *Agenda*

DURING

weftec 2024
the water quality event™

DATE & LOCATION

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

1 PM – 3:30 PM

La Nouvelle Orleans Ballroom A-B

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
New Orleans, LA

HOSTED BY

Ifetayo Venner, PE, ENV SP

WEF Past President
Senior Vice President, Arcadis

Diane Taniguchi-Dennis

NACWA President
CEO, Clean Water Services

Utility Leaders Afternoon *Agenda*

Utility Leaders Hot Topics Panel 1

Positioning Clean Water Utility Leaders as Effective Communicators

As the list of challenges facing public clean water utilities continues to grow, many utility executives are finding they need to do a better job communicating the value their utility provides to their community and the role they play in protecting public health. But our sector has historically not been very good at being successful communicators, and many utility executives can struggle in how they personally communicate to both internal and external audiences. This panel will include guidance and suggestions from sector leaders on how utility executives can improve their communications with key constituencies including governing boards, customers, the media, external stakeholders, and internal employees.

MODERATOR

Kishia Powell
General Manager/CEO
WSSC Water

PANELISTS

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells
CEO
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

Kristen Atha
Director of Public Utilities
City of Columbus, OH

Utility Leaders Hot Topics Panel 2

Moving the Water Sector Toward the Circular Water Economy

Demand for water resources is outstripping sustainable supplies in many places. The pressure to invest large amounts of capital in extracting, storing, and treating ever-larger quantities of water from the environment leads to higher costs which are then passed on to customers, whether through higher rates or higher prices for goods. Additionally, the linear treatment process is energy-intensive and generates large amounts of waste. The circular water economy provides a way forward. A circular approach to water ensures that every drop of water is used to its most efficient and equitable use. Circular water implementation aims to reduce the cost of treatment by improving energy efficiency and provides new sources of revenue by converting waste into valuable resources. Finally, circular water results in a more resilient water sector, strengthening the ability to manage floods and droughts, and contributes to healthier ecosystems.

Effective regulation and coordination between the public and private sector are critical to achieving the circular water economy transition. Utilities, national associations, and water professionals are ideally positioned to coordinate stakeholders and advocate for effective policies and practices.

MODERATOR

Rick Warner, PE
WEF Fellow
Water Market Strategic Growth Leader
Jacobs

PANELISTS

Ralph Exton
Executive Director
Water Environment
Federation

Elizabeth Fazio-Hale
General Manager/CEO
Gulf Coast Authority

Patricia Sinicropi
Executive Director
WateReuse Association



Wastewater Surveillance Champions *Recognition*

MODERATOR

Jonathan Yoder

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The 2024 WEF Wastewater Surveillance Champion recognition will be presented to four utilities that, since 2020, have consistently demonstrated exceptional commitment to wastewater surveillance through the following:

- Active engagement with the National Wastewater Surveillance System Communities of Practice and Centers of Excellence, and other key components of the U.S. wastewater surveillance community.
- Proactive communication with the public and media.
- Building strong partnerships with state and local health departments.

- Sharing resources, such as through the National Association of County and City Health Officials mentorship program.
- Offering innovative solutions to sample collection and metadata documentation challenges.

Utility nominations were solicited by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) across four different utility size categories from state and local health departments coordinating wastewater surveillance programs.

Finalists were selected based on the contributions of those utilities to the relatively young field of using wastewater surveillance over the past four years.

Utility Size Category	Required Population Served for Category	Winning Utility	Treatment Facilities Operated	Total Population Served
A	< 10,000	Town of Abingdon, VA	Wolf Creek Water Reclamation Facility	7,300
B	10,000 to < 100,000	City of Longmont, CO	Longmont Wastewater Treatment Facility	75,500
C	100,000 to < 1 Million	City of Laredo Utilities Department, TX	6 water resource recovery facilities	292,930
D	≥ 1 Million	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, CA	11 water resource recovery facilities	5.5 million

Utility of the Future Today *Recognition Ceremony*

MODERATOR: **John Kmiec** | City of Tucson Water Director

For the ninth year, a partnership of water sector organizations - the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the Water Environment Federation, The Water Research Foundation, U.S. Water Alliance and the WaterReuse Association - with input from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy - proudly celebrate the exceptional performance of 45 water resource recovery facilities for innovation in community engagement, watershed stewardship, and the recovery of resources such as water, energy, and nutrients.

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Diane Taniguchi-Dennis
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

Christy C. Harowski
U.S. Water Alliance

Jon Freedman
WaterReuse Association

Ifetayo Venner
Water Environment Federation

Peter Grevatt
The Water Research Foundation

Utility of the Future Today *Utility Recognition*

**Alexandria Renew Enterprises
(AlexRenew)**
Alexandria, VA

**Broward County Water and Wastewater
Operations - North Regional Wastewater
Treatment Plant**
Pompano Beach, FL

Brunswick County Public Utilities
Bolivia, NC

Cape Fear Public Utility Authority
Wilmington, NC

Castle Rock Water
Castle Rock, CO

City of Boise
Boise, ID

**City of Cape Coral, Water
Independence of Cape Coral**
Cape Coral, FL

**City of Fayetteville, Utility Department -
Water Resource Recovery Facilities**
Fayetteville, AR

City of Fort Worth Water Utilities
Fort Worth, TX

**City of Pompano Beach
Utilities Department**
Pompano Beach, FL

City of St. Cloud Public Utilities
St. Cloud, MN

City of Tucson
Tucson, AZ

City of Vancouver
Vancouver, WA

City of Zeeland Clean Water Plant
Zeeland, MI

Clean Water Services
Hillsboro, OR

DC Water
Washington, DC

Derry Township Municipal Authority
Hershey, PA

Eastern Municipal Water District
Perris, CA

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Lake Elsinore, CA

Fairfield-Suisun Water District
Fairfield, CA

Fort Wayne City Utilities
Fort Wayne, IN

Gainesville Regional Utilities
Gainesville, FL

Global Water Resources, Inc.
Phoenix, AZ

**Holland Area Water
Reclamation Facility**
Grand Rapids, MI

**King County Wastewater
Treatment Division**
Seattle, WA

**Kishwaukee Water
Reclamation District**
DeKalb, IL

Lafayette Renew
Lafayette, IN

Lancaster Area Sewer Authority
Lancaster, PA

**Little Rock Water
Reclamation Authority**
Little Rock, AR

McAllen Public Utility
McAllen, TX

**Milwaukee Metropolitan
Sewerage District**
Milwaukee, WI

MSKP Town and Country Utilities
Babcock Ranch, FL

Napa Sanitation District (NapaSan)
Napa, CA

North Davis Sewer District
Syracuse, UT

**Oakland County Water Resources
Commissioner's Office**
Waterford, MI

**San Francisco Public
Utilities Commission**
San Francisco, CA

**The Metropolitan Water District of
Southern California**
Los Angeles, CA

Toho Water
Kissimmee, FL

Town of Cary Utilities
Cary, NC

Town of Jupiter Utilities
Jupiter, FL

Upper Trinity Regional Water District
Lewisville, TX

**Village of Carol Stream Water Reclamation
Center**
Carol Stream, IL

**West Chicago/Winfield
Wastewater Authority**
West Chicago, IL

**Western Monmouth
Utilities Authority**
Manalapan, NJ

York Sewer District
Lebanon, ME