



Water Utility Resilience Forum

December 13 – 15, 2021 | Miami, FL

As of December 14, 2021

Monday, December 13

MORNING

7:00 - 12:15 Registration

*Regency Ballroom
Foyer*

7:30 – 8:45 **Networking Breakfast**

Jasmine

9:00 – 12:15 Plenary Session I

Regency Ballroom

Opening Remarks

Diane VanDe Hei, Chief Executive Officer
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

Adam Krantz, Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

9:15 – 10:30

Community-Based Resilience in South Florida

Key stakeholders from South Florida will highlight the collaborations and partnerships among utilities, government agencies, and communities that make developing and implementing climate resilience plans possible.

Facilitator

Hardeep Anand, Director, One Water Strategy
Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department

Panelists

Kilan Ashad-Bishop, Inaugural Low-Income Community Advocate
City of Miami Climate Resilience Committee

Megan Houston, Director of Resilience
Palm Beach County

Roy Coley, Director
Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department

Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resilience Officer, Deputy Department
Director
Broward County

10:30 - 11:00

Networking Break

11:00 – 12:15

Strengthening Communities Through Emergency Preparedness

Utility managers and local leaders will explore how emergency preparedness acts as an essential component of community resilience. Speakers will describe how their agencies identify potential risks and how they collaborate with organizations from across the community to prepare for future emergencies.

Facilitator

Calvin Farr, Jr., General Manager/Chief Executive Officer
Prince William County Service Authority, VA

Panelists

Jonna Papaefthimiou, Chief Resilience Officer and Interim Director
Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, OR

Ghassan Korban, Executive Director
New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board

Matt Ries, Director, Sustainability and Watershed Management
DC Water

AFTERNOON

12:15 - 1:15

Jasmine

Networking Lunch

1:00 - 3:00

*Regency Ballroom
Foyer*

Registration

1:15 – 4:30

Regency Ballroom

Plenary Session II and Breakouts

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Resilience Spotlight

Shellie Chard, Trustee, Water Environment Federation
Past-President, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
Director, Water Quality Division, Oklahoma Department of
Environmental Quality

1:20 – 2:05

Resilience Spotlight

What I Learned When I Stopped Worrying and Embraced Future Uncertainty

Water utilities are the backbone of functional cities. Yet they face many largely undisclosed and potentially unmanaged risks. Based on understandings gathered from researching and assisting utilities planning for this uncertain future, Casey Brown will share insights and aspirations for utility managers learned from his work facilitating utilities' capacity to manage risks and embrace innovation.

Casey Brown, Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental
Engineering
University of Massachusetts Amherst

2:15 - 3:15
Orchid A, B, C, D

Concurrent Sessions - Choose between the following two options.

Option 1: Breakout Discussions

Resilience requires community-based partnerships and collaboration – how is your utility approaching resilience? What do the questions and issues raised today mean for the future resilience of your agency? Insights from the breakouts will be shared and discussed during the plenary session.

Brickell Ballroom

Option 2: Adapting to New Climate and Water Supply Realities

One Water solutions, including reuse and rainwater harvesting, along with traditional conservation and efficiency efforts, are being employed up and down the West Coast and regionally across the US to ensure water supplies meet today's needs. But are current efforts enough to ensure a resilient water supply in the face of a changing climate and other drivers? Utility leaders and other stakeholders will discuss current success stories and where more work may be needed.

Facilitator

Brian Jordan, Vice President
Tetra Tech

Panelists

Heather Repenning, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Todd Swingle, Executive Director
Toho Water Authority

Gilbert Trejo, *President, WateReuse Association*
Chief Technical Officer, El Paso Water

3:15 – 3:45

Networking Break

3:45 – 3:55

Breakout Session Report-Out

3:55 – 4:25

Regency Ballroom

Reframing Resilience: Equity as a Core Principle

How can utility resilience plans be transformed to acknowledge equity as a core principle – both in doing the work and as a key outcome for realizing resilience and sustainability? Our featured speaker will reflect on the themes from the day and focus resilience through an equity lens.

Featured Speaker

Kristin “Baja” Baja, Climate Resilience Officer
Urban Sustainability Directors Network

4:25 - 4:30

Closing Remarks

John Sullivan, *WaterISAC Chairman*
Chief Engineer
Boston Water & Sewer Commission

EVENING

5:00 - 6:00 Reception
Riverwalk Terrace

Tuesday, December 14

MORNING

7:30 - 11:45 Registration
*Regency Ballroom
Foyer*

7:45 – 8:45 Networking Breakfast
Jasmine

9:00 - 11:45 Plenary Session III
Regency Ballroom
Opening Remarks
Peter Grevatt, Chief Executive Officer
The Water Research Foundation

9:05 – 10:30 **Cyber Resilience: Exercising Leadership**
Panelists will share best practices for protecting business enterprise systems and industrial control systems from malicious actors, with a particular view toward what utility managers should be considering. Roundtable discussions will provide participants with an opportunity to exchange lessons learned with their peers.

Facilitators

Sharon Peters, President & Chief Executive Officer
EMA, Inc.

Nick Claudio, Senior Engineer
EMA, Inc.

Panelists

Andrew Hildick-Smith, Advisor
WaterISAC

Matthew Gabrick, IT Director
Boston Water & Sewer Commission

Ehinomen Nwani, Waterworks Engineer
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Steve de Mik, Director of Operations
Hampton Roads Sanitation District

10:30 - 11:00

Networking Break

11:00 - 11:45

Presiding

Angela Licata, AMWA President

Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability

New York City Department of Environmental Protection

Case Study and Discussion

Resilience in a Regulated and Political World

Regulations and political change are factors for every utility to varying degrees, and utility managers must strike a careful balance as they adapt to evolving conditions. Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority's CEO Will Pickering will discuss how PWSA has stayed resilient through years of regulatory and governance challenges in response to water quality and customer service concerns. In addition, he will discuss how PWSA is responding to several legal and regulatory challenges and is emerging as a Utility of the Future. Participants will then engage in a discussion on the implications for the water sector.

William Pickering, Chief Executive Officer

Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority

11:45 - 12:45

Jasmine

Networking Lunch

AFTERNOON

12:30 - 3:00

Regency Ballroom

Foyer

Registration

12:45 - 4:20

Regency Ballroom

Plenary Session IV

12:45 - 2:15

Financial Resilience: Making the Dollars Work

A strong balance sheet is a key foundational element for utility resilience. Financial experts will explore financial risk management, investors' perspectives on resilience, bonds and insurance, affordability and sources of funding.

Facilitator

Peiffer Brandt, Chief Executive Officer

Raftelis

Panelists

Mary Tiger, Strategic Initiatives Manager

Orange Water and Sewer Authority, NC

Gregory Characklis, Director, Center on Financial Risk in Environmental Systems

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Audra Dickinson, Director, US Public Finance
Fitch Ratings

2:15 - 2:45 Networking Break

2:45 - 4:15 *Panel Discussion*

Resilience Up Close

Pace setters will provide insights on how they have addressed abrupt tests to their utilities' resilience from supply chain issues to fuel shortages and other challenges and share key lessons learned on how the threats were confronted.

Facilitator

Beate Wright, Vice President
Carollo Engineers, Inc.

Panelists

Scott Dewhirst, Superintendent
Tacoma Water

Michael Thane, Utility Director
City of Round Rock, TX

Emilio Salabarría, Emergency and Business Continuity Director
Tampa Electric Company

4:15 - 4:20 Closing Remarks
Angela Licata, *AMWA President*
Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability
New York City Department of Environmental Protection

EVENING

5:00 - 6:00 Reception
Riverwalk Terrace

Wednesday, December 15

MORNING

7:30 - 11:00 Registration
Regency Ballroom
Foyer

7:45 - 8:45 Networking Breakfast
Jasmine

9:00 - 12:00 Plenary Session V
Regency Ballroom
Opening Remarks
Tad Bohannon, Chief Executive Officer
Central Arkansas Water

9:05 - 10:30

Tactics for Managing Today's Workforce and Nurturing Water Workforce Resilience for Tomorrow

Events over the last 18 months have more prominently highlighted previously identified workforce challenges that the water sector faces both now and into the future. Panelists will share their insights and strategies on managing the post-pandemic workforce and remote work arrangements, ongoing and new struggles with hiring and retaining top talent, and diversity, equity and inclusion priorities and considerations.

Facilitator

Walt Walker, Water Equity Practice Leader
Greeley and Hansen LLC

Panelists

Candi Jones, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Philadelphia Water Department

Oluwole "OJ" McFoy, General Manager
Buffalo Sewer Authority

Holly Rosenthal, Assistant Director
Phoenix Water

10:30 - 10:45

Networking Break

10:45 - 11:45

Roundtables

Bringing It All Together

Building on the conversations from the Forum, attendees will discuss efforts at their own utilities to stay resilient over the last 18 months and look ahead to the next big challenges and their plans to make their utilities more resilient.

11:45 - 12:00

Closing Remarks

Kishia Powell, NACWA President
Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President
DC Water