

PWB Webinar Program: Exploring a Promising Water Pricing Model for Equity and Financial Resilience!

January 26th, 2023

Webcast Summary:

Like all common goods, affordable water and sanitation access benefits entire communities, not just individual customers. Yet in most places, revenue to provide these services comes from rates based on how much water a given customer uses rather than what customers can afford or how various costs are accrued throughout the system. The COVID-19 pandemic further revealed how this approach can expose both individuals and communities to public health and economic risks. It also showed how utilities can be vulnerable to financial resilience challenges when customer debt becomes greater than what indebted customers can realistically pay back.

In 2020, the US Water Alliance and Stantec set out to further integrate affordability into the water utility financial business model. Using real-world data, we developed a cost-based model with our partners. This model represents an opportunity to enhance equity by reducing water bills for most low-income households while preserving revenue and improving financial resilience for water utilities. It does so by shifting some utility costs from usage-based rates to a charge based on property characteristics correlated with increased infrastructure and service costs. Read more about this model in a new report from the US Water Alliance and Stantec, *A Promising Water Pricing Model for Equity and Financial Resilience*, available at <https://uswateralliance.org/>.

Presenter Biography Information

Andy Burnham, Vice President, Water Management, Stantec

Andrew Burnham is the Vice President and Global Practice Leader of Financial Services at Stantec. He has more than 18 years of experience in conducting and overseeing cost of service allocations, long-term financial planning analyses, affordability studies and the development of alternative rate structures for a variety of utility systems, including water, wastewater, reclaimed water and stormwater. Andy is recognized as an industry expert, and has provided testimony in utility rate-related regulatory proceedings in multiple states and territories. He has personally conducted and/or managed over 600 water resources utility rate and financial planning studies, and has supported utilities in the issuance of over \$1 billion of financing for capital improvement funding in the past 5 years.

Emily Simonson, Director of Strategic Initiatives, US Water Alliance

Emily Simonson is the Director of Strategic Initiatives at the US Water Alliance, a national nonprofit organization building a sustainable water future for all. She is responsible for building, incubating, and leading initiatives that help advance multi-benefit, equitable policies and practices at the intersection of water, infrastructure,

community, and social justice. Harnessing the power of diverse networks, Emily guides strategic engagement opportunities with and for the One Water Council, Water Equity Network, water and wastewater infrastructure technical assistance teams, policymakers, and others. Emily became passionate about equitable access to safe, reliable water and sanitation while working in Ghana for Global Brigades, a community development nonprofit. Emily also spent two years at the EPA as an ORISE Fellow with the Urban Waters Program, an environmental justice focused initiative to increase the government's ability to provide an integrated approach when working with communities to restore their waterways. After an internship with the United Nations in Switzerland, Emily graduated from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University with master's degrees in public administration and international relations. Off the clock, Emily serves on the Board of Directors for Youth Outlook, a northern-Illinois based nonprofit dedicated to serving LGBTQ+ young people. She will use any excuse to get outside with her dog and friends.

PWB Webinar Program: U.S. EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar: Pathogens

February 28th, 2023



EPA's Office of Research and Development and Office of Water
Invite you to attend a free webinar
Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series



Pathogens

A certificate of attendance will be offered for this webinar

February 28, 2023 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm ET

Optional Q&A session
From 3:00 to 3:30 pm ET

1. Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts (MDBP) Rules Revision Update

This presentation will provide an overview of the regulatory process, summary of public engagements, topics under consideration, and the timeline with next steps regarding the potential regulatory revisions of eight National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) included in five MDBP rules following the third Six-Year Review.

Presented by **Kenneth Rotert**



Ken is a physical scientist with the EPA's Office of Water, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, where he has worked on the development and review of drinking water regulations since 1998. Ken has bachelor's degrees in biology and chemistry and a master's degree in environmental engineering.

2. Challenges and Perspectives of Studying Water Storage Tank Ecosystems in Distribution Systems

Water storage tanks are vulnerable to contamination, and excess water retention time may cause depletion of disinfectant residual which creates an environment favorable for microbial contamination. This presentation evaluates the use of a field-based sampling and a pilot-scale experimental approach to understand the ecosystem of water storage tanks. An integrative approach was utilized to characterize the storage tank ecosystem and microbiome.

Presented by **Vicente Gomez-Alvarez**



Vicente Gomez-Alvarez is a microbiologist with EPA's Office of Research and Development, Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response. He has 20 years of experience in planning and executing diverse and intensive research projects to study the microbiome in built and natural environments. Vicente has a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and an M.S. in biology and a B.S. in industrial microbiology from the University of Puerto Rico.

Registration: us02web.zoom.us/join/9025kiRmaf0dJx5U0ZA

Who should attend?

State primacy agencies, Tribes, community planners, technical assistance providers, academia, and water systems interested in issues facing community water systems and solutions to help solve them.

Looking for more webinars?

This webinar is part of EPA's Monthly Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series. A drinking water focused webinar will typically be held every month. epa.gov/water-research/small-drinking-water-systems-webinar-series



PWB Webinar: U.S. EPA Webinar: Ensuring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Water Workforce

March 21st, 2023

Webcast Summary:

More than ever, today's water sector must focus on recruiting and retaining a truly diverse set of talented individuals and ensuring equity in the workspace they will inhabit. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are not just words on paper—they are an essential part of any organization in the 21st century. This webinar will focus on efforts by one of the nation's leading utilities in Louisville, Kentucky to embrace these attributes followed by a presentation on an innovative program by the Water Environment Federation (WEF) to increase the number of talented individuals from minority institutions that seek and embrace a career in water.

Presenter Biography Information

Sharise Horne; Chief of Equity & Community Partnerships, Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD)

Sharise Horne is the Procurement Manager for Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District, responsible for managing MSD's procurement process, ensuring compliance with all procurement regulations, as well as directing, managing, and supervising staff to ensure procurement regulations and policies are adhered to. She has worked in the Procurement Department since 2008 in various departments and roles within the agency during her 20-year tenure. Sharise is currently one of approximately 10,000 nationally Certified Professional Public Buyers. In 2008, she was named an Adult Black Achiever for the YMCA Black Achievers program. In 2017 she was recognized as a Who's Who Louisville recipient. In addition, in 2018 Sharise was acknowledged as a YMCA African American Achiever. Sharise received a Bachelor of Science in Management with a specialization in Human Resources from Indiana Wesleyan University with a cum laude distinction. She also earned an associate's degree with a Management concentration.

Julianne Jones, Senior Manager, Education and Training, InFLOW, Water Environment Federation (WEF)

Julianne is an experienced Project Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the higher education industry. Skilled in working with different cultures, a diverse team, and a constantly changing environment. Strong program and project management professional with a Master of Arts (M.A.) focused in International Business from Frankfurt School of Finance & Management.