

December 30, 2024

OESAC CEU Committee  
PO Box 577  
Canby, OR 97013-0577

Dear members of the CEU Committee:

Please consider this request for your approval of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Fall 2024 Webcasts for 1.3 CEU's.

DATE AWWA Fall 2024 Webcasts		CEU's: 1.3
9/12/24	Key Trends for Public Procurement	0.1
10/1/24	Net Zero 2035: The Challenge Starts Now	0.1
10/2/24	Closing the US Water and Sanitation Infrastructure Gap	0.1
10/17/24	Improve Network Operations	0.1
10/23/24	From 2024 to 2050: Community Engagement & Empowerment (Water2050)	0.1
10/30/24	Compensation Survey Insights and Action Steps	0.1
11/5/24	Tackle PFAS in Minutes	0.1
11/6/24	Alphabet Soup: Communicating on LCRR, PFAS, CCR, and More!	0.1
11/12/24	Source Water Protection	0.1
11/13/24	Final Lead and Copper Rule Improvements: What Could This Mean for Water Systems?	0.1
11/14/24	Get Started Now: LSLR and LCRI Funding Blueprint	0.1
11/19/24	Pipe Material Matters: Navigating the Latest	0.1
12/10/24	Navigating PFAS Testing	0.1

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, or to file a [complaint of discrimination](#), contact **503-823-4000 (311), Relay: 711, or 503-823-7770**.

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Turjumaad iyo Fasiraad | Письмовий і усний переклад | Traducere și interpretariat | Chiaku me Awewen Kapas

Translation and Interpretation: **503-823-4000 (311), Relay: 711, or 503-823-7770** | [portland.gov/water/access](#)

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooke E. Gardner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brooke" being more prominent.

Brooke Gardner

Portland Water Bureau

[brooke.e.gardner@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:brooke.e.gardner@portlandoregon.gov)

Enclosures:

1. Letter of request to review
2. AWWA Webcast Summaries and Speaker Bios

## **AWWA Webinar: Key Trends for Public Procurement September 12, 2024**

### Overview:

Euna Solutions has released its annual State of Public Procurement (SOPP) report, revealing significant data and insights in procurement. Join Euna Solutions to discuss and review key trends in procurement.

### Learning objectives:

- Adjust to economic changes, workforce shifts, and the rising cost of business operations.
- Use technology for better collaboration in and outside the agency for strategic purchasing
- Meet communities' strategic goals such as vendor diversity and sustainability
- Use AI and other emerging tools to achieve efficient, compliant procurement

### Panel Biography Information:

#### **Mitch Dixon, Manager Solutions Engineering – Procurement, Euna Solutions**

Mitchell is the Manager, Solutions Engineering – Procurement at Euna Solutions. Mitch has spent the last 9 years working hand in hand with procurement teams across the Continent to help streamline procurement operations while ensuring compliance to governmental regulations. He has worked with a wide array of Water Districts to ensure procurement efficiency, compliance, and collaboration.

#### **Steve Tran, Sales Director, Euna Solutions**

Steve is an economics major from the University of Washington and has spent the last 2 decades helping governments and businesses connect and do commerce, in 2009 was a part of the company that created recovery.org and was a co-founder of DemandStar.com which helped governments connect with a broader and more diverse supplier community for their procurements.

#### **Emily Burdett Kadowaki, AWWA Moderator**

## **AWWA Webinar: Net Zero 2035: The Challenge Starts Now October 1, 2024**

### Overview:

Climate change puts the water industry at risk and makes water supply less predictable directly impacting the water industry's ability to meet its primary mission to provide water safely, securely and on demand to its customers. Treating and delivering water requires an enormous amount of carbon-based energy. Therefore, the water industry is a major contributor of carbon and part of our climate problem. That the water industry is decentralized, risk averse and thinks of net zero as a long-term and abstract goal, hinders that adoption of solution to achieve. As climate change accelerates at a rapid

pace, there is an urgent need to direct resources to take action, and attention to decarbonization. We do not have the luxury of time.

This second webinar will focus on identifying and prioritizing the barriers and challenges we will need to achieve industry decarbonization by 2050. Most importantly, how do we create a sense of urgency to achieve net zero or climate neutrality long before 2050. Hence, Net Zero 2035.

#### Learning Objectives:

- What similar challenges have other utilities faced in reducing their carbon footprint?
- How were these challenges or barriers overcome? What did it take? What were the outcomes?
- How do utilities engage the industry to create a realistic and actionable road map to affect change by leveraging opportunities and to overcome challenges?

#### Panel Biography Information

##### **Moderated by: Cristina Ahmadpour, President and Managing Director (Americas), Isle Utilities**

Cristina is a consultancy executive specializing in emerging technologies and innovative best practices in the water sector. While most of her career has been working with utilities and technologists, Cristina has managed projects from inception to delivery that required collaboration with contractors, engineering consultants, treatment plant operators, manufacturer sales representatives, electric utility representatives, industry associations, etc. Cristina is the President of Isle Inc. and serves as Managing Director of Isle's Americas business. She leads a team that supports the most progressive water utilities in their interest to identify, evaluate, and engage the best-available solutions that drive value to their services and business operations. Facilitating an assessment of needs, and identifying solutions that respond to top priorities has been an integral part of how she works with water utility leaders today.

##### **Clifford Chan, General Manager, East Bay Municipal Utility District**

Clifford has been General Manager since June 2020 but is no stranger to the innovation world with 26 at EBMUD serving in various roles from operations, maintenance, and construction management. As GM, Clifford oversees the delivery of high-quality drinking water to 1.4 million residents and businesses in 20 cities and 15 unincorporated communities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, as well as wastewater treatment for 740,000 customers. Clifford oversees approximately 2,000 employees with a biennial budget of \$2.7 billion.

##### **Gregg Semler, Founder & CEO, InPipe Energy**

Gregg is a veteran entrepreneur with extensive experience in the clean energy and water sectors. Since 2000, he's led efforts to commercialize new products into the energy and water markets. In 2016, Gregg founded InPipe Energy after seeing an untapped opportunity to create a new source of renewable energy from existing water pipeline infrastructure. He has significant experience bringing innovative products to the market, raising corporate and venture capital and leading teams. Gregg has a B.A. from Columbia University, and a MBA from the Tuck School of Business (Dartmouth), M.B.A.

##### **George Hawkins, Esq., Founder & CEO, Moonshot Missions (ret. GM DC Water)**

George was the CEO of DC Water for eleven years, where he showed us what innovative leadership looks like. In recent years, George launched his innovation – focused non-profit enterprise Moonshot Missions. Moonshot helps water agencies identify and adopt strategies to deliver better outcomes, with a focus on small and under-resourced communities and water

utilities. George brings a wealth of experience from attorney, professor, GM, Advisor (to orgs like Xylem and notably to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation), he is a business owner, thought leader (formerly on the White House National Infrastructure Advisory Council and contributor to so many of our industry forums)... and in all these roles he has allowed innovation to flourish through the courage to ask a lot of questions, engaging top down/bottom up, and willing to take risks trying something new.

**Jane Atkinson Gajwani, Director, Office of Energy and Resource Recovery Programs / Agency Chief Decarbonization Officer, New York City, Department of Environmental Protection**

Jane is a Professional Engineer with over 24 years of experience working in the intersection of water and energy. In her capacity, she and her group are tasked with plotting the course for the Agency to achieve both carbon and energy neutrality. Prior to joining DEP, she developed greenhouse gas and energy reduction strategies on the municipal, regional, and national levels within the water and waste sectors.

**Lindsey Stuvick, Sustainable Resources Officer, Moulton Niguel Water District**

Lindsey oversees water efficiency, water resource, energy and operational optimization projects. Lindsey's career has been dedicated to developing sustainable, data-driven efficiency solutions and customer engagement strategies that can be replicated and adapted across the industry. She has a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California, Irvine and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from California State University, Fullerton. She is CORO Lead LA and Switzer Environmental Fellow and Co-Chair of the Digital Twin Working Group for the Smart Water Network.

## **AWWA Webinar: Closing the US Water and Sanitation Infrastructure Gap October 2, 2024**

### Overview:

There are over two million Americans who live without running water and basic plumbing. This session features a review of the domestic Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector and how Community Engineering Corps volunteers help bridge the infrastructure access gap in the US.

### Learning Objectives:

- Recall and explain key facts about the domestic WASH sector in the US. Summarize the water and sanitation access gap within the United States.
- Demonstrate the process of applying for a Community Engineering Corps project within your own community.
- Utilize the necessary steps to volunteer effectively as a Community Engineering Corps team member in supporting another community's water and wastewater needs.
- Describe the scope and objectives of the Community Engineering Corps program, demonstrating and understanding of its depth and breadth.
- Evaluate and devise strategies to recruit additional communities and technical professionals to participate in the Community Engineering Corps program.

### Panel Biography Information

#### **Molly Sullivan, Program Manager – Community Engineering, American Water Works Association**

Molly is the Community Engineering Program Manager at the American Water Works Association where she manages AWWA's participation in the Community Engineering Corps Program, a partnership program that provides pro-bono civil engineering consulting services to underserved communities. Molly also serves as a Program Engineer in the Community Engineering Corps Program where she develops projects and manages projects from conception through delivery. Prior to joining AWWA, Molly consulted as a Professional Engineer in the Water Resources sector. Outside of work, Molly volunteers as the Responsible Engineer in Charge of an Engineers Without Borders clean water project with a community in the remote mountains of northern Nicaragua.

#### **Heather Mullen, Program Engineering – Community Engineering, American Water Works Association**

Heather is a dedicated, passionate water/wastewater engineering professional. She graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder in December 2021 where she received a BS in their Engineering+ program. Within the program, Heather focused on Environmental Engineering and an emphasis in Environmental Policy. Heather's background is in private consulting where she focused on collection systems flow monitoring, GIS mapping, and construction services.

### **AWWA Webinar: Improve Network Operations October 17, 2024**

#### Overview:

Hear how utilities large & small — Anglian Water, Greenville IN, and Douglas County KS — are digitalizing network operations for faster decision-making. In this webinar, you'll hear from utilities that are leveraging advanced Digital Twin technology, providing their operators with an interactive, real-time view of their network. The easy-to-use water management software is quick to get started and requires no modeling support.

At Greenville, they're reducing non-revenue water and improving network management. They swiftly identified and resolved a major leak, reducing water loss by around 10%, which led to a significant improvement in their water network's efficiency. Representatives from these utilities will be with you live to share their journeys and answer your questions. In addition, you'll be able to see a demo of Qatium, the software supporting these utilities on their digital transformation journeys. If you're responsible for water network operations, register for this webinar and learn how US utilities are benefitting from user-friendly digital water management tech.

#### Learning Objectives:

- Learn how your peers are using the latest technology to optimize network decision-making.
- Understand how utilities of any size can benefit from easy-to-use, quick-build technology.

- See how utilities get knowledge from their engineers' heads to the whole organization.

#### Panel Biography Information

##### **Darren Coleman, System Performance Manager, Anglian Water**

Darren is System Performance Manager at Anglian Water, in the East of England. Anglian Water serves over 6 million people, and operates over 23,000 miles of pipes to provide clean water to its customers. Darren is working at the cornerstone of Anglian Water smart water initiatives, including Digital Twins and operational technologies pushing for the boundaries of efficiencies for all at Anglian Water.

##### **Luke Butler, Director of Innovation, Qatium**

Luke has over 12 years of experience within the water industry, primarily focused on water modeling. He has worked across the globe, both directly for a water utility in Australia and as a consultant in the UK and Canada. Luke has created multiple innovative software solutions, many free and open source, to allow water utilities and consultants to automate the building, calibration, and use of clean water models.

##### **Stephen Webb, Superintendent, Greenville Water Utility**

Stephen is the Superintendent of Greenville, Indiana's water utility, serving 5000 people, 50 miles of pipes, and three water sources. Stephen plans, organizes, and manages water distribution operations and maintenance strategies to safeguard public health, align with leadership's goals, and provide high-quality, cost-effective services to the Greenville community.

##### **Tim Silvers, Operator, Douglas County Rural Water District #4**

Tim is an Operator at Douglas County Rural Water District #4, serving 3000 people, 175 miles of pipes and three interconnections to neighboring utilities. Tim leads water distribution operations and maintenance efforts, prioritizing public health, adhering to leadership's vision, and delivering efficient, high-quality services to the Douglas County community.

#### **AWWA Webinar: From 2024 to 2050: Community Engagement & Empowerment (Water2050) October 23, 2024**

##### Overview:

Join members from the Equity, Access, and Community Engagement Strategic Implementation Team for a lively roundtable. Together, they will reflect on the progress made on our journey to Water 2050, while looking forward to 2025 and outlining the next phase of action.

##### Learning Objectives:

- Expand knowledge of AWWA's ongoing commitment to a more sustainable water future by leading Water 2050.
- Articulate the value of Equity, Access, and Community Engagement in planning for the future, for their utility and the overall water industry.
- Better understand the role Water 2050 plays in the AWWA's strategic plan.

#### Panel Biography Information

**Donnell Duncan, Associate Vice President, Arcadis**

Donnell, PE, SE is a structural engineer, project manager and business development professional in the water/wastewater industry. At the AWWA, he is the chair of the Diversity and Member Inclusion Committee on which he has served multiple terms. He earned a bachelor's degree in applied physics from Morehouse College as well as bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering (structures) from Georgia Tech. He is a licensed Professional Engineer or Structural Engineer in 30 U.S. states including California. He also earned "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace" and "Ethical and Inclusive Leadership" Certificates from the University of South Florida Muma College of Business. Working out of the Atlanta office of Arcadis, he leads the South Region of the Resilience (Water) Business Area Structural Engineering Group.

**Cheryl Porter, Chief Operating Officer, Great Lakes Water Authority**

Cheryl is the COO of Water and Field Services at Great Lakes Water Authority in Detroit, Michigan. Her career in the water sector began in 1996 as a chemist for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and elevated to COO by 2014. Since joining AWWA in 2005, Cheryl has been an active volunteer with AWWA and the Michigan Section of AWWA on various committees and has assumed leadership roles such as the MI-AWWA Board Trustee, AWWA Director-at-Large and AWWA Vice President Board roles. In January 2023, Cheryl was elected by the AWWA Board of Directors to the role of AWWA Incoming President-Elect. Her presidential term runs from June 2024 to June 2025. Cheryl holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Michigan, a Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and an MBA with a concentration in Human Resources from Madonna University.

**Denise Schmidt, Director, Funding Navigator, Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC)**

Denise is Director of EPIC's Funding Navigator, a program to ensure many more water utilities that serve overburdened communities receive state and federal funds for water infrastructure. Denise has over 30 years of experience working with utilities, local, state, and federal agencies, technical assistance providers, and nonprofit organizations. Most recently, Denise was the Administrator of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's Division of Water Utility Regulation and Analysis. Her work on outreach to financially troubled utilities, lead service line replacement, conservation and efficiency, utility staff and stakeholder training, workforce diversity, and other programs helped ensure that the state's public water utilities have the capacity to provide safe, reliable, affordable, equitable, and environmentally responsible service. Denise has served in various professional and volunteer roles, including staff member and decision maker at the local and regional level, private consultant, instructor at Michigan State University's Institute of Public Utilities, and leadership positions in state and national water industry organizations. She has a master's degree from Harvard Kennedy School and a bachelor's degree from Purdue University.

**Kelley Dearing Smith, Vice President, Communications & Marketing, Louisville Water Company**

Kelley Dearing Smith's brand focuses on visionary leadership and storytelling. Kelley is Louisville Water Company's Vice President of Communications and Marketing and Past Chair of AWWA's Public Affairs Council. In her 25-year career at Louisville Water, Kelley has developed strategic partnerships and communication efforts that build Louisville Water's brand and highlight the value of water. In a volunteer role with AWWA, Kelley has helped create communication tools and worked with dozens of Sections and individual members. Kelley is a member of Louisville Water's Executive Leadership Team and directs all communications and content marketing, brand development, education and outreach, public affairs, and economic development. Kelley



has authored a book highlighting Louisville Water's history and oversaw the development of the "WaterWorks Museum" at the company's 1860 original pumping station. Kelley frequently speaks to utilities and businesses on best practices for branding and communication. She holds a Bachelors of Arts in Broadcast Journalism from Eastern Kentucky University and prior to Louisville Water, Kelley worked in television news.

## **AWWA Webinar: Compensation Survey Insights and Action Steps**

### **October 30, 2024**

#### Overview:

Learn the latest insights from the industry-leading AWWA Water and Wastewater Utility Compensation Survey. Based on data from 580 participating organizations, AWWA's survey partner, Newport Group, will guide attendees on maintaining competitive compensation in 2024.

The annual AWWA Water and Wastewater Utility Compensation Survey continues to provide the most extensive study of salaries, salary ranges, and compensation practices in the water and wastewater utility industry. With the most recent initiative, 580 organizations participated, supplying data for around 30,000 employees. Newport Group administered the survey and will share key trends, insights and action steps for your 2024 planning. Summary data will be provided for the three population categories of water utilities along with additional total rewards information for roles within the executive team.

#### Learning Objectives:

- Compare the amounts paid for common and unique roles within the water utility sector.
- Hear about how others are approaching succession planning and knowledge transfer as retirements occur.
- Understand the current compensation trends and amounts.
- Evaluate what others are doing to maintain or control costs in their organization.

#### Panel Biography Information

##### **Kevin Paulsen, Principal, Newport**

Kevin is a Principal with Newport's Compensation Consulting group. His specialty areas include wage and incentive plan design, Board compensation, survey initiatives, organizational planning, performance management design, and human resources compliance.

##### **Hannah Wohlman, Associate Consultant, Newport**

Hannah is an Associate Consultant with Newport's Compensation Consulting group. She came to Newport in 2021, starting out as an intern and became an associate consultant in 2022. Since then, she has been able to develop her skills and knowledge working with a variety of industries including manufacturing, non-profit, healthcare, and more. Her background in both information systems and human resource management has been vital in being able to analyze and provide comprehensive compensation reports.

## **AWWA Webinar: Tackle PFAS in Minutes**

**November 5, 2024**

### Overview:

Join us for an insightful webinar on "Tackle PFAS in Minutes," where we delve into the innovative capabilities of the Transcend Design Generator (TDG) and its transformative impact on PFAS removal projects. This webinar is tailored for utilities, engineering consultants, and industry professionals focused on water treatment, environmental compliance, and public health safety.

### Learning Objectives:

- **Advanced Design Capabilities:** Discover how the TDG simplifies the design of PFAS removal facilities, offering tools to size GAC & IX systems, select optimal locations, and estimate operational and capital expenditures.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Understand how the TDG's outputs align with the EPA's strategic roadmap for PFAS removal, helping utilities meet regulatory requirements efficiently.
- **Comprehensive Outputs:** Gain insights into the various outputs provided by TDG, including civil drawings, 3D BIM models, OPEX tables, equipment lists, process flow diagrams, and technical description reports and how they can be used to streamline PFAS treatment capital planning efforts.

### Panel Bio Information:

#### **Angelita Maria Fasnacht Ph.D., Founder, Safe Water Compliance**

President Angelita Fasnacht-Cuellar has over 17 years of experience in Environmental & Civil Engineering, Grant Management and Engineering Management, specializing in Water and Community Health. She obtained a Masters in Public Health degree from Emory University's International Public Health program. Her professional & academic experience includes managing and supporting projects for Safe Water Network, AguaAyuda, International Rural Water Association, Catholic Relief Services, PanAmerican Health Organization, and WaterAid through Kosovo-Addis consulting group. She lectures at the University of Pennsylvania Schools of Engineering, Nursing, and at Drexel University school of Public Health. She has represented Millennium Water Alliance (twelvepartners' alliance, including UNICEF), and served as an adviser to private and federal grantees on program design and M&E formulation. She negotiated and managed grants and contracts with several donors in the USA and Colombia, including UNICEF, USAID, Conrad Hilton Foundation and the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation. She has also worked for CARE's Senior Advisor for WASH, and participated on his behalf on El Salvador's national water agenda planning meeting. In Colombia, she managed development projects for a local NGO in Huila.

#### **Adam Tank, Co-Founder and Chief Customer Officer, Transcend Software**

Adam has over 15 years of experience in water with a focus on business development, software, and engineering. As the Chief Customer Officer he has responsibility for ensuring our customers are obtaining an outsized ROI through the use of our tools and also leads marketing efforts related to the Transcend Design Generator.

Most recently he served as the North America Smarts Cities Director for Suez. He previously led, and sold, a robotics spin-out of the General Electric corporation which focused on cutting-edge potable water pipe rehabilitation techniques. Prior to that he served as GE Water's Digital Water Leader, managing venture investments and creating software solutions for water distribution challenges.

Earlier in his career, Adam served as an engineer in the CPG industry, where he both lived and worked in Brazil, and also led sanitation programs for General Mills' largest yogurt plant in North America. Adam received his undergraduate degree from Kansas State University and his M.B.A. from the University of Arizona.

**Nik Mehta, Applications Engineering Manager - North America, NX Filtration**

Nik Mehta, based in Los Angeles, CA, US, is currently an Applications Engineering Manager - North America at NX Filtration. Nik Mehta brings experience from previous roles at MANN+HUMMEL Water & Fluid Solutions, MICRODYN-NADIR and TriSep Corporation, The Specialty Membrane Company. Nik Mehta holds a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Chemical Engineering from University of California, Los Angeles. With a robust skill set that includes Chemical Engineering, Matlab, Leadership, Visual Basic, Microsoft Word and more.

**AWWA Webinar: Alphabet Soup – Communicating on LCRR, PFAS, CCR, and More!  
November 6, 2024**

Overview:

Water sector communications experts from AWWA's Public Affairs Council will share the best practices on effectively communicating about recent regulations from EPA including LCRR and LCRI, CCR, PFAS, and how to apply risk communications principles to strengthen public trust.

Learning objectives:

- Understand the major regulatory changes affecting water utilities, including LCRR, PFAS, and CCR.
- Develop communication strategies that address public concerns about water safety and quality.
- Strengthen Public Trust by recognizing the importance of transparency when communicating about water safety.
- Examine real-world examples of successful communication efforts in the water utility sector.
- Apply crisis communication techniques to manage public relations in water utility operations.

Panel Biography Information:

**Andrea Hay, Director, Green Bay Water Utility**

Andrea is serving her second term on the AWWA Public Affairs Council, where she chairs the Content Committee. She works as the Director of Communications at Green Bay Water in Wisconsin and enjoys teaching college journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Previously, Andrea held roles as a TV news anchor and reported for the New York Post and CNN. She earned a master's degree in journalism from New York University, where she studied the New York City Water Board for her final investigative project.

**Monica Hoyt, Client Service Manager, Carollo Engineers**

With over three decades of experience in the scientific field, Monica has seamlessly transitioned into science communications, aiming to bridge the gap between water professionals and the public. Her deep industry knowledge, combined with her ability to communicate complex concepts effectively, allows her to engage with a broad spectrum of individuals – from young students to policymakers.

**Chelsea Kulp, Sr. Manager of Government & External Affairs, New Jersey American Water**

Chelsea has over a decade of expertise in customer communications, issues management, media relations, social media, and community outreach within both private and non-profit sectors. In her current role as Sr. Manager of Government and External Affairs at New Jersey American Water, Kulp is responsible for developing and executing external affairs strategies, overseeing digital and social media initiatives, and cultivating strategic partnerships with environmental and community entities across New Jersey in alignment with company objectives. Dedicated to her industry, Kulp serves as a Trustee for the American Water Works Association New Jersey Section, having previously chaired the Water For People Committee since 2015. She is an active and committed member of the Section. She is also an active member of the AWWA Communications and Customer Relations Standards Committee and the Public Affairs Council.

**Gina Ayala, Director of Public Affairs, Orange County Water District**

Gina is the Director of Public Affairs for the Orange County Water District. She oversees legislative affairs, communications, community outreach, and education programs for the District, and is also responsible for media and outreach related to the District's world-renowned Groundwater Replenishment System. Gina has worked for the District since 2008 as a Communications Specialist, Sr. Communications Specialist, and Principal Communications Specialist. Prior to joining OCWD, she worked at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California (USC). There, she served as the assistant director of admissions and went on to serve as the associate director of student services. Gina holds a Bachelor of Science in public administration and a Master of Arts in communication management from USC. She also earned a certificate in public relations from the University of California, Los Angeles. She is a member of the Public Relations Society of America, Orange County Chapter, and the California Association of Public Information Officials. In 2024, Gina was appointed to serve a three-year term on the American Water Works Association's Public Affairs Council (PAC).

**Michelle Clements, Public Relations and Communications Director, Portland Water District**

Michelle Clements has nearly 30 years of experience in the communications and public relations field. As the Communications and Public Relations Director at the Portland Water District (Maine), she has developed a comprehensive, award-winning, and measurable communications program that has helped garner the utility the highest customer satisfaction levels of any local utility. Clements is Accredited in Public Relations (APR) through the Public Relations Society of

America and is active in the Maine Public Relations Council. She was presented with the Edward L. Bernays Achievement Award, the highest individual honor bestowed by the Maine Public Relations Council in 2020. Clements is a member of AWWA's Public Affairs Council and the Editor of the New England Water Works Association's technical publication, the Journal.

## **AWWA Webinar: Source Water Protection**

**November 12, 2024**

### Overview:

For the first time in over 20 years, respondents from the 2024 State of the Water Industry Report identified watershed and source water protection as the top concern for the water sector. But why has this issue gained importance, and what caused this shift? How are organizations nationwide responding to this change? More importantly, how can you integrate this shift into your own organizations, if you haven't already?

In this webinar, attendees will hear from a diverse selection of speakers with governmental, university, and non-profit-based perspectives on the programs, initiatives, and collaborative efforts that have helped prioritize source water protection throughout varying organizations. Attendees will also discover available resources through AWWA and their local sections that can assist in propelling their source water protection efforts forward.

### Panel Biography Information:

#### **Christine Spitzley, AICP, Principal/Vice President, OHM Advisors/AWWA**

A Spartan with a B.S. in Urban and Regional Planning, Christine has spent her career building her expertise in water, infrastructure, transportation, economic development, housing, and environmental projects. A Principal at OHM Advisors, she serves as a liaison between the Water, Environment, Engineering and Planning groups. She connects these teams, identifying unique project synergies and opportunities. Christine is an AWWA Vice President and the Director of the Michigan Section AWWA. Christine's superpowers are networking and collaboration. She likens her thought process to a Spirograph. It all crosses in the middle eventually. Her professional passion is to create and implement strategies for communities and utilities that are sustainable and economical. She believes the Great Lakes are magic and success comes from building strong relationships and viewing projects through the lens of the long-term impact.

#### **Michelle Stockness, PE, Executive Director, Freshwater**

Michelle is a professional civil engineer and the Executive Director at Freshwater, a non-profit based in Minnesota that works on water education, research and policy. Prior to joining Freshwater, Michelle was an AWWA Vice President and an engineering consultant. Michelle's areas of expertise include water supply, drinking water, water treatment, water reuse, and working across sectors including, public, private, community and educational institutions.

#### **Kira Jacobs, Source Water Protection Coordinator, EPA**

Kira is the Source Water Protection Coordinator for EPA Region 1 in Boston, MA. She works with the six New England states, water suppliers, and communities to help protect their sources of

drinking water. Her expertise has given her the opportunity to work on national policy issues related to protecting water supplies nationwide. Kira received a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University and a B.A. in English from Bucknell University. Outside of work, she serves on multiple boards and is President of the Duke Nicholas School of the Environment's Alumni Council.

**Harmony Gmazel, AICP, Extension Educator – Land Use, Planning, Zoning, Resiliency and Engagement, Michigan State University**

Harmony is a Government and Community Vitality Educator providing community development expertise to local governments within MSU Extension Districts 12, 8, and 9. With a graduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning from MSU and 18 years of experience, Ms. Gmazel brings quality MSUE programming such as 'Citizen Planner' and more to all levels of government in Michigan. Her focus areas include placemaking, planning and zoning, crime prevention through environmental design, downtown development, hazard mitigation, green infrastructure, social equity and much more. She is a partner with MSU's Urban Collaborators program, an instructor for the National Charrette Institute at MSU, and a regular guest speaker at MSU's School of Planning, Design and Construction. Most recently, Ms. Gmazel led a six-part statewide webinar series on 'Resiliency Planning' in partnership with the Comprehensive Economic Recovery Initiative at MSU. Ms. Gmazel also serves tribal governments across Michigan in a land management and leadership capacity.

**AWWA Webinar: Final Lead and Copper Rule Improvements: What Could This Mean for Water Systems?**

**November 13, 2024**

Overview:

AWWA's Annual Regulatory Update Webinar:

On Oct. 8, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the final Lead and Copper Rule Improvements. The rule was published Oct. 30 in the Federal Register. The final rule will require all community and nontransient noncommunity water systems to expand on recently completed inventories, conduct studies to validate whether non-lead service lines are indeed non-lead, complete lead service line replacement by a certain date, and necessitate revisiting and potentially changing corrosion control practice. The webinar will introduce the requirements from the point of view of a practitioner attempting to comply with the proposed rule. Issues that practitioners will need to consider include changes in compliance metrics and associated performance as well as the implications of the rule construction on planning and implantation of water system treatment, distribution systems, and public outreach activities.

As a result of this webinar, the attendees will be able to:

- Enable water utility managers to assess how the final rule requirements will likely affect them.
- Equip water utility staff to plan to engage the EPA, states, and their own utilities to move forward to comply.

Presenter bio information:

**Steve Via, Director of Federal Relations, AWWA**

Steve is Director of Federal Relations for the American Water Works Association (AWWA) working in AWWA's Washington, D.C., office. Mr. Via's primary responsibilities are two-fold. First, working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies on the development of policy and regulations that affect the water sector, and communicating the basis and substance of federal policy and regulations to the water sector. Mr. Via has 31 years' professional experience in environmental regulatory compliance assistance related to federal state drinking water, wastewater, and solid/hazardous waste regulations. His work experience includes supporting communities engaged in planning, financing, and managing infrastructure improvements.

**Jeff Swertfeger, Superintendent, Greater Cincinnati Water Works**

Jeff is the Superintendent of the Water Quality and Treatment Division at the Greater Cincinnati Water Works. Jeff has been engaged in water quality and drinking water treatment for more than 30 years. He is George Warren Fuller Awardee. Currently a member of the AWWA Water Utility Council and Chair of its Regulatory Committee, he is also an active participant in the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative, the Water Research Foundation, and AWWA's Water Quality Division.

**David Cornwell, President, Cornwell Engineering Group**

Dr. David A. Cornwell is President of Cornwell Engineering Group. After a successful career as a Professor at Michigan State University. Dr. Cornwell has managed or served as Project Officer on water treatment studies, designs and construction projects throughout the U.S. and the world. Evaluations of water supplies, appropriate treatment technologies, filtration methods, various filtration media, and disinfection techniques have been included in these projects. He has over 50 publications. Dr. Cornwell has been a technical advisor to AWWA during past federal rulemakings including the IESWTR, Stage 1 DBPR, ICR, LT2ESWTR, and Stage 2 DBPR, FBRR, the effluent guidelines for water treatment plants, and LCR Minor Revisions. Education – Ph.D. Environmental Engineering, University of Florida, 1975; M.S.E. Environmental/Civil Engineering, University of Florida, 1972; B.S.I.E. Industrial and Systems Engineering, University of Florida, 1970.

**Rebecca Slabaugh, Drinking Water Practice Lead, Arcadis North America**

Ms. Slabaugh is an Associate Vice-President and Drinking Water Practice Lead with Arcadis, specializing in the evaluation, planning and preliminary design of drinking water treatment and distribution systems. Her experience includes corrosion control treatment and pipe loop studies, regulatory compliance, contamination warning systems, and drinking water treatment process selection and optimization studies. She is a member of the AWWA Lead and Copper Rule Technical Advisory Workgroup, and contributing author to multiple chapters in AWWA Manuals of Water Supply and Practice as well as AWWA's standard for lead service line replacement and flushing. Education – MS Environmental Engineering Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University 2007, BS Civil Engineering Purdue University 2005.

## **AWWA Webinar: Get Started Now: LSLR and LCRI Funding Blueprint**

**November 14, 2024**

### Overview:

Are you waiting to replace most of your lead lines until the LCRI requires it? It may be advantageous to start sooner! Lead service line replacement funding is limited, and with uncertain visibility into future LCRI funding opportunities, it's crucial to take advantage sooner than later. Join us for "Get Started Now: LSLR & LCRI Funding Blueprint", sponsored and presented by Brita, featuring CDM Smith.

This session, featuring regulation and financial expertise from industry professionals, as well as water experts from CDM Smith, is designed for water industry professionals, water utility managers and municipal leaders. Throughout the webinar, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of LCRI funding sources for lead service line replacements, why timing is crucial for securing these funds, and how to create a plan to apply and use them effectively.

### Learning Objectives:

- Learn about the different funding options available to apply to LCRI requirements, including grants, loans, and subsidies.
- Understand why timing is crucial for securing funding and resources for LCRI requirements and LSLRs, and how to align your strategies with funding deadlines.
- Create a clear plan for applying, securing, and using BIL funds effectively for your projects.

### Panel Bio Information:

#### **Sandra L. Kutzing, Senior Vice President, Lead and Copper Strategy Leader, CDM Smith**

Sandy Kutzing, based in Edison, NJ, US, is currently a Lead and Copper Strategy Leader at CDM Smith. Sandy brings experience from previous roles at CDM Smith, Greeley and Hansen and University of Washington. Sandy holds a MSCE in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington and a BSCE in Civil Engineering from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

#### **Elin Warn Betanzo, President and Founder, Safe Water Engineering**

Elin Warn Betanzo is president and founder of Safe Water Engineering LLC, a Detroit-based consulting firm working to improve access to safe drinking water through engineering and policy consulting.

Elin is a Professional Engineer registered in Michigan, Maryland and Virginia, and a certified water system operator in Michigan. She has nearly 25 years of experience working on drinking water science, engineering, and policy issues. She worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water writing and implementing national drinking water regulations, for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission where she led water system master planning and hydraulic modeling, and for the Northeast-Midwest Institute leading their Safe Drinking Water Research and Policy Program.

In August of 2015, Elin played a critical role in uncovering the Flint Water Crisis by convincing Dr. Mona Hanna, a Flint pediatrician, to conduct a study that discovered elevated lead levels in



children living in Flint, Michigan. In addition, she contributed to the U.S. EPA's response to the Washington DC lead crisis in 2004 and supported the Benton Harbor community through technical analysis through their lead crisis starting in 2021. Elin continues to work on lead and drinking water policy at federal, state, and local levels. Projects include designing the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department lead service line replacement program, improving public education about lead in drinking water with the University of Michigan, and analyzing the status of water affordability across the state of Michigan. Elin's technical analysis helped trigger a state and federal response to the Benton Harbor lead crisis that resulted in one of the most comprehensive lead service line replacement programs documented to date. Her data analysis and technical expertise were a driving force behind the new Michigan Filter First requirements for safer school drinking water.

**Kira Smith, Environmental Engineer, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Kira is an environmental engineer in EPA's Office of Water, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water managing implementation of the lead and copper rule. She has over 20 years of experience in the drinking water industry and previously worked for EPA on the 2007 lead & copper rule short-term revisions. In addition to EPA, she has worked for very small to very large utilities, and as an engineering consultant for various projects in and around Tampa, Florida.

**AWWA Webinar: Pipe Material Matters: Navigating the Latest**

**November 19, 2024**

Overview:

Join some of the top professionals in the drinking water industry as they walk you through the important considerations that engineers and project managers should make when selecting pipe materials for their water systems. They will address recent issues associated with specific pipe materials, evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of various options, and provide valuable insights to inform your decision-making process.

Learning Objectives:

- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of common materials used in drinking water systems, such as PVC, HDPE, ductile iron, and steel.
- Explore issues related to sustainability, resilience, strength, and product lifecycle of various piping materials.
- Understand how material characteristics relate to other important health and safety considerations.

Panel Bio Information:

**Todd Harms, Retired Fire Chief, Sacramento (CA) Metropolitan Fire District**

Todd Harms is the retired chief of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department. Harms began his fire service career in 1981 as a Firefighter Paramedic in Peotone, Illinois, and in 1987, became a member of the Phoenix Fire Department. He has progressed through the ranks as a firefighter,

paramedic, engineer, captain, battalion chief, assistant chief, deputy chief and shift commander. Harms has 35 years of public safety service, of which nine were spent serving as an Executive Staff member for the Phoenix Fire Department. During his tenure, he has had oversight of the Training Academy, Command Training Center Special Operations, Operations, Personnel, Emergency Medical Services, Technical Services, dispatch and the Regional 9-1-1 services. He has been an Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) team member, with deployments to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Harms holds a bachelor's degree in fire service management and is a past adjunct instructor at Phoenix College in the Fire Science Program.

**Wayne Jernberg, P.E., Water System Manager, City of Grand Rapids**

Wayne is the Water System Manager at City of Grand Rapids and has been in this role since 2020. He also worked previously as a Structural Engineer at Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc. and as both a Hydraulic Engineer and Assistant Water System Manager at the City of Grand Rapids water system. Wayne has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University.

**Gary Wozniak, P.E., Water Distribution Engineer, Lansing Board of Water & Light**

Gary Wozniak is a Water Distribution Engineer at Lansing Board of Water & Light based in Lansing, Michigan. Previously, Gary was a Vice Chair of Education and Training Council at Michigan Water Environment Association.

**AWWA Webinar: Navigating PFAS Testing: *Balancing Internal Capabilities and Contract Testing Solutions***

**December 10, 2024**

Overview:

As public water systems (PWS) across the U.S. face increasing pressure to meet new PFAS testing regulations, the decision between developing in-house testing capabilities or outsourcing to a contract testing organization (CTO) is critical. In this webinar, expert panelists Jeffrey Smith, from a leading contract lab, and Allen Martin, representing the utilities sector, will provide their unique perspectives on how public utilities can navigate this decision-making process.

Key topics will include:

- The considerations for PWS when deciding to invest in internal PFAS testing labs versus outsourcing.
- Insights from the contract lab side on what to look for when choosing a CTO.
- Collaboration strategies between PWS and CTOs to ensure timely and accurate PFAS testing.
- Real-world examples from utilities and contract labs on managing compliance and response to PFAS results.

This discussion aims to equip water utility managers, lab professionals, and public health stakeholders with practical knowledge on how to approach PFAS testing—internally or externally—and what to do

once the results are in. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from leading experts and gain insights into the future of PFAS testing for public water systems.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Understand the decision-making process for PFAS testing.
- Identify Key considerations when outsourcing to a CTO / Explore internal testing challenges for public water systems.
- Learn collaboration strategies between public utilities and CTOs / Gain practical guidance on managing PFAS test results.

**Panel Bio Information:**

**Jeffrey Smith, Operations Manager, Complete Environmental Testing, Inc.**

Jeffrey Smith works as a Director, Operations at Complete Environmental Testing, which is a Business Services company with an estimated 20 employees; and founded in 1993. They are part of the Operations team within the Operations Department and their management level is Director. Jeffrey graduated from Quinnipiac University and is currently based in Stratford, United States.

**Allen D. Martin, Lead Chemist, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality**

Allen is a Public Health Scientist and started a PFAS testing program from the ground up for the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality where he has worked for nearly 6 years. Prior to this role, Allen has various chemist roles for 12 years. Allen has a MBA and a BS in Biochemistry both from University of North Carolina Wilmington.