

APWA Public Works Essentials

A Class of the Northwest Public Works Institute

March 4 – 7, 2025 | Hood River, Oregon

Roster of Instructors

***Toby Rickman, P.E., PTOE, PWLF, former Deputy Director,
Pierce County Public Works***

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Toby Rickman graduated from Washington State University in 1983 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. That same year Toby went to work for the Washington State Department of Transportation, working in various positions across the state. In 1989, Toby received a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Washington. During his 21 years with WSDOT, Toby worked in many areas from planning and programming to design and construction, and maintenance and operations. He was the State Traffic Engineer for 6 years before leaving WSDOT, joining Pierce County in 2005.

Toby just retired from being the Deputy Director of Pierce County Planning and Public Works, the first APWA Accredited County Public Works Department in Washington. Pierce County Planning and Public Works, the second largest county in the state, is a department of over 800 employees. The department is responsible for roads, a regional sewer system, a large surface water management utility, a ferry system, two airports, a regional solid waste system, and community planning and permitting.

Toby was on the Board and was the 2014 President of the Washington State Chapter of the American Public Works Association. He also chaired APWA's national Asset Management Taskforce and was the first chair of the new APWA Asset Management technical committee. Toby has been recognized by APWA as a National Top 10 Public Works Leader in 2022.

***Delora Kerber, P.E., Public Works Director
Wilsonville Public Works***

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Delora Kerber has been involved in Public Works on the private side as a consultant and on the public side for state and local government for over four decades. In 2021, she was awarded the honor of being a national Top Ten Public Works Leader of the year.

Delora is the Public Works Director and Emergency Manager for the City of Wilsonville. She provides overall management and strategic planning for the preservation and performance of the City's infrastructure and properties. Wilsonville's Public Works Department services include operations and maintenance of water treatment and distribution, wastewater collections and treatment, stormwater, roads and facilities and the industrial pretreatment program. Delora is responsible for the City's Emergency Management program including plan development, employee training, supplies and emergency exercises.

Delora was the 2016 Oregon State Chapter President of the American Public Works Association (APWA) and is serving as a board member for the Oregon APWA Scholarship Foundation. She is a graduate of Oregon State University School of Civil Engineering and a Beaver believer!

John Lewis, P.E., Senior Program Manager
3J Consulting

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John Lewis has over 35 years of experience with 25 years as a program manager for a wide variety of public works projects. Currently John is working as a Senior Program Manager for 3J Consulting, Inc. in their Beaverton Oregon Office.

John graduated in 1989 from the Oregon Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. After more than thirty years, in 2024 John “retired” from public service after working for the City of Oregon City for 20 years and served as the Director of Public Works since 2012. Before Oregon City, John worked for 10 years as a project/program manager for the City of Lake Oswego. He has demonstrated success in public administration, governance, engineering, construction management, public finances, community engagement, a wide range of strategic initiatives, policy development, project management, and human capital management.

John has been on the Board of Directors of the Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) serving as Immediate Past President in 2023, President, Treasurer, Director, and served two years on the APWA Scholastic Foundation Board of Directors. He is currently serving on the Oregon City Business Alliance Board of Directors and active with the Oregon City Optimist Club.

When not working or volunteering, John and his wife Bunny, enjoy family, the great outdoors, and often can be found together appreciating Oregon City’s plentiful eating establishments.