

The Power of Partnership: Sharing Resources with Neighboring Systems

Presented by: The Southwest Environmental Finance Center

CITY OF KEIZER EVENT CENTER
930 Chemawa Rd NE
Keizer OR 97303

September 25, 2025
10:00 am - 3:00 pm (PDT)
Trainer: Shannon Pepper

Training Description:

Running a small system can be challenging. Along with meeting regulatory obligations and satisfying customer expectations, you may have issues with aging infrastructure, lack of personnel, and limited financial resources. Furthermore, small systems often cost more to operate per capita than large systems because of economy of scale. This can further complicate operations.

One strategy to address these challenges is to work with other utilities or consider partnership options. In this webinar, we will discuss various regionalization models and approaches to collaboration, such as:

- Informal information sharing
- Sharing equipment or personnel
- Leveraging shared purchasing power
- Emergency planning
- How to prepare your utility for knowledge or technology transfer
- Networking

You will have the chance to brainstorm, discuss, and strategize individually and with other Oregon systems. By the end of this training, you will have a solid understanding of what partnership and regionalization can look like and how it could help your system tackle your most pressing challenges.

Timed Agenda:

10:00 - 10:20 am	20 mins-	Introductions
10:20 - 10:40 am	20 mins	Partnership: What's the Big Idea? Technical, Managerial, and Financial Drivers of Collaboration
10:40 - 11:20 am	40 mins	Exercise: Resiliency Bingo - Systems identify their capacity, or lack thereof, on a variety of technical, managerial, and financial topics. Will help them identify what types of partnerships would be beneficial. Exercise involves group discussion and systems sharing experiences.

11:20 am - 12:05 pm	45 mins	Types of System Collaborations and Examples
12:05 - 1:05 pm	60 mins	Lunch Break
1:05 - 1:35 pm	30 mins	Case Studies: Aguas del Norte (New Mexico) and City of Claremont (North Carolina)
1:35 - 1:50 pm	15 mins	Addressing Concerns, Challenges and Goals
1:50 - 2:40 pm	50 mins	Group Brainstorming, Discussion, and Networking
2:40 - 3:00 pm	20 mins	Wrap-up and questions

Presenter: Shannon Pepper, Water Utility Trainer and Specialist, SW EFC

Shannon is an environmental geographer based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. At the Southwest Environmental Finance Center, Shannon is a Research Scientist and coordinates the Tribal Drinking Water Operator Certification Program. She holds a Master of Science in Geography from the University of New Mexico and a Bachelor of Science in Resource Conservation from the University of Montana. At the SWEFC, Shannon focuses on State Revolving Funds and other state and federal funding research for small water and wastewater systems, program coordination for Tribal water operators, communication development and funding for green infrastructure projects, and outreach efforts for a variety of water, wastewater and stormwater projects.

Method of Attendance Tracking: Attendance is monitored through a Zoom attendance report and live participation through poll responses.