

**EPA 2021 Water Security Summit**

**November 16-18, 2021**

Virtual Event

**Program Information**

- **Contact Information:**

Latisha Mapp  
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- **13.5 Contact Hours Total**

Date	Time	Contact Hours
11/16/2021	11am – 4:00pm ET	4.5
11/17/2021	11am – 4:00pm ET	4.5
11/18/2021	11am – 4:00pm ET	4.5

- **Training Outline**

- **Mission/Objectives:**

EPA’s Water Laboratory Alliance will host a 3-day virtual summit November 16-18, 2021. The Summit will include an overview of the Water Laboratory Alliance/Environmental Response laboratory Network and EPA Water Security Resources, an abbreviated tabletop exercise designed to showcase resources and build connections among participants, keynote speakers, and an array of customizable track sessions available to a wide variety of stakeholders.

Participants will:

- Participate in educational programming geared to the unique demands of wastewater and drinking water utilities
    - Take part in state of the art discussions on challenges driven by climate change and cybersecurity threats
    - Become familiar with valuable EPA WLA resources including the Water Contamination Information Tool (WCIT) and the Compendium of Environmental Testing Laboratories (CETL)
    - Learn about environmental justice in the Water Sector
    - Participate in a collaborative tabletop exercise which includes a scenario-based water contamination event where you can update your utility’s Emergency Response Plan
    - Prepare for Water Sector-related emergencies
  - Method of training: Virtual Zoom event with live question and answer sessions, polling questions, and an interactive tabletop exercise.
  - Zoom attendance reporting will be used to monitor attendance and participation. Upon successful completion, participants will receive a certificate (duration of attendance will be confirmed prior to sending certificates). Certificate of attendance is in development. Please see example certificate in Appendix 4.
  - Records of attendance will be downloaded from Zoom and used to prepare attendance rosters. See example attendance roster in Appendix 5. Duration of attendance will be checked prior to issuing certificates of completion.

- Instructors/Speakers include subject matter experts who discuss the challenges presented by climate change, technology, and cybersecurity; present on environmental justice, tribal utilities, and EPA WLA emergency response planning; and lead a tabletop exercise on water sector emergency response planning. See Appendix 2 for detailed presenter biographies and qualifications.
- See Appendix 1, WLA Security Summit Agenda, Appendix 2, Speaker Bios, and Appendix 3, WLA Security Summit Flyer, for additional information

## **Appendix 1, WLA Security Summit Agenda**

## DRAFT Agenda

### WLA SECURITY SUMMIT: State-of-the-art discussions of the challenges presented by climate change, technology, and cybersecurity; November 16, 2021

Time	Event	Support Staff/ Speakers
11:00am - 11:25am EST	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks: Day 1</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> The purpose of this Summit is to provide utilities in the water and wastewater sectors, emergency managers, and laboratory personnel an overview of the emergency response tools and resources provided by the EPA Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) and to facilitate training on best practices for using these tools and resources. The tools and resources are valuable assets to help plan for water contamination events that require analytical support.</p>	Sherry Witt, General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT); David Travers, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Security Division (WSD) – keynote address speaker
11:25am - 11:55pm EST	<p><b>EPA Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN) and Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) Overview</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Overview of, and training on, ERLN and WLA laboratory network history, purpose and available EPA resources that are critical for Water Sector utilities and laboratories.</p>	<b>Latisha Mapp</b> , Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Security Division; <b>Christina Langlois-Miller</b> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Emergency Management
11:55 - 1:05pm EST	<p><b>Climate Change &amp; Water Sector Resilience</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> In this session, we will introduce attendees to the impacts of climate change in the Water Sector. Our speakers will provide an overview of the most up-to-date climate science, the contamination threats that stem from climate variability, and share best practices for building resilient water resource management practices in the face of climate change. The session will highlight climate adaptation tools specifically designed to increase successful mitigation and adaptation to climate change challenges to providing continuous access to safe drinking water to customers, and utility professionals will share insights and experiences that can be adopted by attendees.</p>	Renee McPherson, South Central Climate Adaption Services Center; Beth Middleton, U.S. Geological Survey National Wetlands Research Center; Curt Baranowski, EPA WSD; Eric Hatcher, Cape Fear Public Utility Authority
1:05pm - 1:20pm EST	<b>BREAK</b>	
1:20pm - 2:30pm EST	<p><b>Cybersecurity</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Cybersecurity threats are on the rise in the utilities sector. This session provides an overview of specific forms of cybersecurity threats that may impact a utility's ability to provide services to customers. Our speakers will share best practices that help to prevent cybersecurity attacks and to lessen the potential damages of successful attacks. Attendees will learn about resources offered by the EPA, insurance tools, and other technologies that can be adopted to make utilities resilient in the face of cyberattacks.</p>	Chuck Louisell, True Elements; Brandon Carter, EPA WSD; Ted Henifin, Hampton Roads Sanitation District; Additional guest speakers TBA
2:30pm - 2:45p EST	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:45p - 3:55pm EST	<p><b>Technology Innovation</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> A variety of technological advances are paving the way to a more resilient and sustainable utilities sector. In this session, our subject matter experts will review innovative technology tools, such as sensors, remote monitoring, smart meters, and state-of-the-art laboratory tools. An introduction to the highly anticipated update to EPA's Selected Analytical Methods (SAM) database of contaminant testing methods</p>	Katya Karankevich, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC); Will Sarni, The Water Foundry; Erin Silvestri, EPA Center for Environmental

	will be of interest to utilities, laboratories, and emergency response professionals.	Solutions and Emergency Response (CESER); Additional guest speakers TBA
3:55pm - 4:00pm EST	<b>Day 1 Closing Remarks</b>	Sherry Witt, GDIT

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**WLA SECURITY SUMMIT: Presentations on environmental justice, tribal utilities, and EPA WLA emergency response planning, November 17, 2021**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Support Staff/Speakers</b>
11:00am - 11:30am EST	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks: Day 2</b> <b>Objective:</b> Day 2 will begin with a review of training highlights from Day 1 followed by a brief introduction to the day’s session which focus on training topics such as Environmental Justice, Water Resilience in Indian Country, and Emergency Response Planning in the Water Sector.	Sherry Witt, General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT)
11:30am - 12:45pm EST	<b>Resilience, Environmental Justice, and the Water sector</b> <b>Objective:</b> The Biden Administration has launched the Justice40 initiative, which requires that all federal agencies incorporate environmental justice into their programmatic operations. This session will provide an update by a member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Board and an overview of the importance of environmental justice initiatives in the Water Sector. Our speakers will share updated tools that will help attendees identify the neighborhoods in their service communities who are most vulnerable to crises and recommend strategies for utilities, emergency managers, and laboratories to increase the resilience of their most vulnerable customers.	Kyle Whyte, University of Michigan and Member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council; Beth Caniglia, GDIT and The Solutions Journal; Matthew Lee, EPA Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment; Additional guest speakers TBA
12:45pm - 1:00pm EST	<b>BREAK</b>	
1:00pm - 2:15pm EST	<b>Water Resilience in Indian Country</b> <b>Objective:</b> The training in this session highlights tools, technological updates, and examples of emergency response planning relevant to tribal utilities. Innovative tribal utility partnerships that address the challenges of small and geographically isolated utilities will be featured. Our speakers will focus on Water Laboratory Alliance tools available to help develop tribal utilities and laboratories, enhance tribal sovereignty.	Francine Moreno, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC); Chris Cox, ANTHC; Yildiz Chambers-Velarde, GDIT; Additional guest speakers TBA
2:15pm- 2:30pm EST	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:30pm - 3:45pm EST	<b>EPA Emergency Response Planning and the Water Sector</b> <b>Objective:</b> This session will spotlight how utilities, laboratories, and emergency response professionals can take advantage of the training opportunities offered by the WLA. Our speakers will share how to host a Full-Scale Exercise for utilities, laboratories, or emergency managers. The session will also highlight practical application and best practices that have been adopted by utilities and laboratories who have participated in	Eric Hatcher, Cape Fear Public Utility Authority; Chris Retarides, Virginia Division of Consolidated

	WLA training sessions.	Laboratory Services; Misty Pope, GDIT; Veronica Aponte-Morales, EPA WSD; Additional guest speakers TBA
3:45pm - 4:00pm EST	<b>Day 2 Closing Remarks</b>	Sherry Witt, GDIT

## DRAFT Agenda

### WLA SECURITY SUMMIT: EPA WLA Tabletop Exercise: Water Sector Emergency Response Planning; November 18, 2021

Time	Event	Support Staff/Speakers
11:00am - 11:30am EST	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks: Day 3</b> <b>Objective:</b> Day 2 will begin with a review of training highlights from Day 2 followed by a review of the objectives and agenda for the Day 3 WLA tabletop exercise.	Beth Caniglia, GDIT and <i>The Solutions Journal</i>
11:30am - 12:45pm EST	<b>Tabletop Exercise (TTX):</b> Introduction & Scenario Phase I (Utility Identification of Laboratories and Methods) <b>Objective:</b> Learn about EPA Water security products during a hands-on tabletop exercise, network with potential response partners, technical leadership staff from utilities, state, municipal governments, emergency managers, state and local laboratories, EPA and other federal agencies. During this phase of the TTX, trainees will walk through a portion of the scenario that focuses on identification of laboratories and methods in response to a fictitious water contamination scenario.	Veronica Aponte-Morales, EPA WSD; Beth Caniglia, GDIT and <i>The Solutions Journal</i> ; Misty Pope, GDIT; Yildiz Chambers-Velarde, GDIT
12:45pm - 1:00pm EST	<b>BREAK</b>	
1:00pm - 2:15pm EST	<b>Tabletop Exercise Continued (TTX):</b> Scenario Phase II (Utility Communication with Laboratories and Other Response Partners) <b>Objective:</b> During this phase of the TTX, trainees will walk through a portion of the scenario that focuses on utility communications with laboratories and Response Partners.	Veronica Aponte-Morales, EPA; Beth Caniglia, GDIT and <i>The Solutions Journal</i> ; Misty Pope, GDIT; Yildiz Chambers-Velarde, GDIT
2:15pm - 2:30pm EST	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:30pm - 3:45pm EST	<b>Tabletop Exercise Continued (TTX):</b> Scenario Phase III (Coordination of Shipping, Analyses and Data Reporting) <b>Objective:</b> During this phase of the TTX, trainees will walk through a portion of the scenario that focuses on coordination of sample collection, shipping, analyses, and data reporting.	Veronica Aponte-Morales, EPA; Beth Caniglia, GDIT and <i>The Solutions Journal</i> ; Misty Pope, GDIT; Yildiz Chambers-Velarde, GDIT
3:45pm - 4:00pm EST	<b>Day 3 Closing Remarks</b>	Beth Caniglia, GDIT and <i>The Solutions Journal</i>

## **Appendix 2, Speaker Bios**



## DRAFT Speaker Bios

### WATER SECURITY SUMMIT: State-of-the-art discussions of the challenges presented by climate change, technology, and cybersecurity; November 16, 2021

**Name:** Sherry Witt, General Dynamics Information Technology

**Background:**

Mrs. Witt is a senior facilitator and project manager at General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) with more than 20 years of professional experience in environmental technical analysis and emergency preparedness and response. She has extensive experience working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). She has designed, facilitated and evaluated numerous workshops, webinars, seminars, planning meetings, workgroup meetings, stakeholder outreach meetings, exercises and strategic planning meetings for federal, state, local, and tribal governments, academia, private sector and non-government entities. She has also developed numerous emergency preparedness response plans for federal, state and local governments. She facilitated the tabletop exercise and moderated the plenary session for the 2019 EPA Water Alliance Laboratory Security Summit. Ms. Witt has degrees in Civil Engineering and Engineering and Public Policy.

#### Keynote Address

**Name:** David Travers, EPA Water Security Division

**Background:**

David Travers serves as Director of the U.S. EPA's Water Security Division which has the mission of enhancing the security and resilience of the Nation's drinking water and wastewater systems against all hazards—from natural disasters to malevolent acts—through tools, training, and technical assistance. An in-demand speaker, Dr. Travers has participated in discussion panels on topics ranging from risk assessment compliance under America's Water Infrastructure Act and Driving Digital Security across the Water Sector. Dr. Travers has been with the EPA for over 20 years. Dr. Travers has a Ph.D. in environmental engineering/sciences and a Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan, and a BA in history from the University of Chicago.

#### Day 1 ERLN/WLA Overview

**Name:** Latisha Mapp, EPA Water Security Division/Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA)

**Background:**

Mrs. Mapp is presently employed with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Water Security Division, where she serves as the Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) Program Team Lead. The alliance represents a nationwide coordinated network of laboratories capable of responding to drinking water contamination events. Under her leadership the alliance has expanded to include ~140 laboratories and has trained thousands of Water Sector stakeholders through tabletop and full-scale exercises, webinars on WLA resources, and WLA Security Summits. Latisha earned a M.S. and B.S. degree in Biology/Microbiology from Virginia State University. She also earned an MBA from Marymount University and completed post-graduate studies in Environmental Science and Public Policy at George Mason University.

**Name:** Christina Langlois-Miller, EPA Office of Emergency Management/Environmental Response Laboratory Network

**Background:**

Ms. Langlois-Miller is a chemist located in Washington, DC, in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Emergency Management. She manages Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN), which is part of the Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN). Prior to her work with the ERLN, Christina was a chemist in EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, where she managed the SW-846 Methods Program. Christina holds a B.S. in Chemistry from the College of William and Mary and a M.S. in Soil Chemistry from the University of Maryland.

**Day 1 Climate Change & Water Sector Resilience**

**Name:** Renee McPherson, South Central Climate Science Adaptation Center

**Background:**

Dr. Renee McPherson is the University Director of the South Central Climate Science Adaptation Center (CASC) and an Associate Professor of Geography and Environmental Sustainability at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. McPherson's background includes two B.S. degrees in Meteorology and Mathematics, as well as both a MS and Ph.D. in Meteorology. Prior to overseeing consortium-related activities at the South Central CASC, she was the State Climatologist of Oklahoma and Acting Director of the Oklahoma Climatological Survey.

**Name:** Beth A. Middleton, U.S. Geological Survey National Wetlands Research Center

**Background:**

Dr. Middleton is a Research Ecologist with the National Wetlands Research Center, United States Geological Survey (USGS), Lafayette, Louisiana. She works on the effects of climate change on wetland function and biodiversity. Her work in the U.S. is in sedge meadows and bald cypress swamps in Wisconsin and the Mississippi River Alluvial Valley, respectively. Dr. Middleton has a Ph.D. in biology from University of Minnesota. Her research takes her to various places around the world including India, Turkey, Belize, and Costa Rica.

**Name:** Curt Baranowski, EPA Water Security Division/Climate

**Background:**

Curt Baranowski leads the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Creating Resilient Water Utilities (CREAT) initiative, which provides resources for drinking water and wastewater utilities to address climate change by promoting a clear understanding of climate science and adaptation options. Before working on climate-related water issues, Mr. Baranowski managed Agency programs that provided technical assistance and training to small community wastewater utilities. Mr. Baranowski has been with the U.S. EPA's Office of Water since 1998. Prior to joining EPA, Curt worked in the water and air programs of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

**Name:** Eric T. Hatcher, Cape Fear Public Utility Authority

**Background:**

Mr. Hatcher is a Manager for Security & Emergency at Cape Fear Public Utility Authority based in Wilmington, North Carolina. Mr. Hatcher works in the industry of Water & Water Treatment, Energy, Utilities & Waste Treatment. He has a background in first response, training, and planning. As an emergency manager at a water utility, he acts as a facilitator for teams, using National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliant utility and capturing actions. He finds gaps in all-hazards planning, response, mitigation, recovery and calls on experts to put actionable plans together.

**Day 1 Cybersecurity**

**Name:** Chuck Louisell, True Elements

**Background:**

Dr. Louisell is Co-Founder and Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer at True Elements. He served as strategic programs manager for Cisco Systems in DoD cloud, artificial intelligence, advanced networking, and cybersecurity. Dr. Louisell has over thirty years of experience in big data, information fusion, predictive analytics, and computational engines to support adaptive & complex artificial intelligence applications. He served 22 years in the Air Force as a fighter pilot taking leadership roles in digitization of the battlespace beginning with information fusion in fighter aircraft. Post-military, he earned his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering at VA Tech where he developed artificial intelligence solutions for use in implementation of Intelligent Transportation Systems

**Name:** Brandon Carter, Environmental Protection Agency, Water Security Division

**Background:**

Mr. Carter is the Cybersecurity lead for EPA's Water Security Division. He was a Lead Environmental Specialist at World Bank Group based in Washington, D.C., District of Columbia. He has also worked with International Bank. He has presented at several summits where he provided an update on the activities of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) Federal Facilities Working Group.

**Name:** Ted Henifin, Hampton Roads Sanitation District

**Background:**

Ted Henifin joined Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) in 2006, as General Manager. Under his leadership HRSD has broadened its focus to add sustainable water management to HRSD's innovation portfolio with the SWIFT initiative. He previously served as Director of Public Works for the City of Hampton. Mr. Henifin holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia. His career has spanned more than 35 years with a focus on public works and utilities in federal, regional and local government in Hampton Roads. He is a registered professional engineer and has been active with professional associations throughout his career. He currently serves on the board of directors for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), the Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (VAMWA) and Virginia Forever; is the vice chair of the US Water Alliance's One Water Council and serves on the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.EPA) Environmental Financial Advisory Board.

## **Day 1 Technology Innovation**

**Name:** Will Sarni, The Water Foundry

**Background:**

Will Sarni is an internationally recognized thought leader on water strategy and innovation. He has authored numerous books and articles and presented on the value of water, innovations in digital water technology, the circular economy and the energy-water-food nexus.

He has been a water strategy advisor to private and public-sector enterprises and non-governmental organization (NGO) for his entire career. He has worked with multinational companies across a range of industry sectors in evaluating the technical viability and market potential of innovative water technologies, and market entry strategies. He was a 2016 X-PRIZE Bold Visioner for the Safe Drinking Water Team and is on the: Scientific Program Committee for Stockholm World Water Week; Executive Council of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS); Editorial Board of the Journal of Water Security; and a Technical Advisor for the Climate Bonds Initiative: Nature-Based Solutions for Climate and Water Resilience.

**Name:** Katya Karankevich, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

**Background:**

Katya Karankevich is a Project Manager of rural energy with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) based in Anchorage, Alaska. She creates sustainability action plans to reduce resource and capital expense, eliminate single use plastics and develop technological change initiatives with fast return on investments. She focuses on directing and developing sustainable initiatives to lower operational costs, market to a new audience, decreasing carbon footprint, and resource use. She is known for decision making ability and has lead cross-functional teams in the design, development, launch of leading-edge solutions to increase competitive advantage and employee engagement by leveraging green initiatives and marketing positive results.

**Name:** Erin Silvestri, EPA Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response (CESAR)

**Background:**

Erin Silvestri is a biologist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Center for Environmental Solutions & Emergency Response (CESAR) in Cincinnati, Ohio. She has been with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for 8 years and supports EPA's Environmental Sampling and Analytical Methods (ESAM) Program. ESAM is a comprehensive program to facilitate a coordinated response following an intentional or accidental homeland security-related contamination incident. She has a MPH in Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology from the University of Michigan, School of Public Health.

## WATER SECURITY SUMMIT: Presentations on environmental justice, tribal utilities, and EPA WLA emergency response planning, November 17, 2021

### Day 2 Resilience, Environmental Justice and the Water Sector

**Name:** Kyle Whyte, University of Michigan, Member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council

**Background:**

Kyle Whyte is a George Willis Pack Professor of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan, teaching in the environmental justice specialization. His research addresses environmental justice, focusing on moral and political issues concerning climate policy and Indigenous peoples, the ethics of cooperative relationships between Indigenous peoples and science organizations, and problems of Indigenous justice in public and academic discussions of food sovereignty, environmental justice, and the anthropocene. He is an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Kyle currently serves on the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and the Management Committee of the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition. He has served as an author for the U.S. Global Change Research Program, including on the National Climate Assessment, and for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II. He is a former member of the Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science in the U.S. Department of Interior and of two environmental justice work groups convened by past state governors of Michigan.

**Name:** Beth Caniglia, General Dynamics Information Technology and *The Solutions Journal*

**Background:**

Dr. Beth Caniglia serves as Scientist Senior Advisor on two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) contracts at General Dynamics Information Technology. She is also Editor-in-Chief of *The Solutions Journal*. Dr. Caniglia's research and publications are focused on the intersection of social movements, organizations and policymaking, especially related to the environmental movement, while her more recent work has turned toward resilience and environmental justice in urban communities. For over a decade, she collected extensive data on the multi-stakeholder dialogues at the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, where she also served as a consultant to the Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) Steering Committee.

Dr. Caniglia is past-Chair of the Environment & Technology Section of the American Sociological Association. She currently heads the oral history project to document the evolution of environmental sociology since the first Earth Day. She serves on the editorial boards of *Mobilization* and *The Journal of World-Systems Research*. She has received numerous awards. In 2009, she was chosen as a Global Climate Leader by the State of the World Forum in recognition of her commitment to link academic scholarship to global carbon cycle transformation. In 2016, she was recognized by the International Women's Leadership Association as among Top Women Executives, Professionals & Entrepreneurs. Her book (with Thomas J. Burns) *Environmental Sociology: The Ecology of Late Modernity* was honored with the Gerold L. Young Outstanding Book Award from the Society for Human Ecology. She has been honored by America's Who's Who in Academia and most recently, she was nominated for the Denver Sustainability Summit Visionary Award.

**Name:** Matthew Lee, EPA Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment

**Background:**

Matthew Lee is an Environmental Protection Specialist at U.S. EPA's Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment for EPA Region III. He works on EJ (Environmental Justice) Screen, an environmental justice mapping and screening tool that provides a nationally consistent dataset and approach for combining environmental and demographic indicators. Matthew holds a Master of Environmental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Day 2 Water Resilience in Indian Country**

**Name:** Francine Moreno, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

**Background:**

Francine Moreno has been with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) for 16 years and is extremely passionate about building relationships with, learning about and traveling to communities throughout Alaska. In her current role, she is the Manager of Utility Operations overseeing the Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC) and Tribal Utility Support (TUS) programs, supporting communities statewide with the operations and maintenance of water/wastewater systems.

**Name:** Chris Cox, Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC)

**Background:**

Chris Cox is the Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC) Senior Program Manager for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC). In his role, he collaborates with ARUC's twenty-six member communities and their assigned regional managers on managing water/sewer. He has been with ARUC for over eight years.

**Name:** Yildiz Chambers-Velarde, General Dynamics Information Technology

**Background:**

Ms. Chambers-Velarde is a senior microbiologist and project manager at General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) with more than 30 years of professional experience in environmental microbiology, including 13 years of analytical bench experience. In support of EPA, she has designed method development, optimization, and validation studies for all of EPA's 1600 series microbiology methods used for compliance monitoring. In support of the Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA), she developed and conducted all of EPA's WLA Regional Response Full-scale Exercises and Analytical Preparedness Full-scale Exercise (AP-FSE) Toolkit exercises. In addition, she has supported efforts to develop microbiological methods for multiple agents for use during incident response. Ms. Chambers-Velarde has a BS in microbiology and a MSPH in environmental health.

**Day 2 EPA Emergency Response Planning for the Water Sector**

**Name:** Misty Pope, General Dynamics Information Technology

**Background:**

Dr. Pope has provided complex program development support to EPA's Office of Water for over 20 years, with a focus on EPA's Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) program since 2005. The WLA is EPA Office of Water's response to the need for National Laboratory Infrastructure Planning, Protection, and Preparedness. Dr. Pope has led numerous efforts including executing WLA Security Summits, developing

and conducting emergency response full-scale and tabletop exercises, webcasts, and analytical method studies which have trained hundreds of Water Sector professionals. Dr. Pope has a Ph.D. in biology.

**Name:** Veronica Aponte-Morales, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Water Security Division

**Background:**

Dr. Aponte-Morales serves as a Chemist with EPA and as the Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT) program manager. She is an environmental researcher with more than five years of experience in designing, implementing, operating and maintaining innovative physical, biological processes for treatment of high ammonium strength wastewater treatment for clients in the agricultural industry. She has presented at national and international conferences, authored fundamental research, technical publications at peer reviewed journals, mentored and taught novice junior level researchers. She has a Ph.D. in Engineering science, environmental engineering from University of Florida.

**Name:** Eric T. Hatcher, Cape Fear Public Utility Authority

**Background:**

Mr. Hatcher is a Manager for Security & Emergency at Cape Fear Public Utility Authority based in Wilmington, North Carolina. Mr. Hatcher works in the industry of Water & Water Treatment, Energy, Utilities & Waste Treatment. He has a background in first response, training, and planning. As an emergency manager at a water utility, he acts as a facilitator for teams, using National Incident Management System (NIMS) Compliant utility and capturing actions. He finds gaps in all-hazards planning, response, mitigation, recovery and calls on experts to put actionable plans together.

**Name:** Christopher Retarides, Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services

**Background:**

Dr. Retarides is an analytical chemistry expert and project leader with more than 22 years of project leadership experience, including managing teams and budgets of up to \$4 million with the Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS). As Group Manager, Dr. Retarides has played a key role in program development and launch, and process optimization, at industrial giant Alcoa and the Commonwealth of Virginia. He is an expert in chromatography, mass spectrometry and analytical chemistry across industrial, public health and security domains. He has a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Wesleyan University and a BS in Chemistry from Fairfield University.

## **WATER SECURITY SUMMIT: EPA WLA Tabletop Exercise: Water Sector Emergency Response Planning, November 18, 2021**

**Name:** Beth Caniglia, General Dynamics Information Technology and *The Solutions Journal*

**Background:**

Dr. Beth Caniglia serves as Scientist Senior Advisor on two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) contracts at General Dynamics Information Technology. She is also Editor-in-Chief of *The Solutions Journal*. Dr. Caniglia's research and publications are focused on the intersection of social movements, organizations and policymaking, especially related to the environmental movement, while her more recent work has turned toward resilience and environmental justice in urban communities. For over a decade, she collected extensive data on the multi-stakeholder dialogues at the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, where she also served as a consultant to the Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) Steering Committee.

**Name:** Veronica Aponte-Morales, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Water Security Division

**Background:**

Dr. Aponte-Morales serves as a Chemist with EPA and as the Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT) program manager. She is an environmental researcher with more than five years of experience in designing, implementing, operating and maintaining innovative physical, biological processes for treatment of high ammonium strength wastewater treatment for clients in the agricultural industry. She has presented at national and international conferences, authored fundamental research, technical publications at peer reviewed journals, mentored and taught novice junior level researchers. She has a Ph.D. in Engineering science, environmental engineering from University of Florida.

**Name:** Misty Pope, General Dynamics Information Technology

**Background:**

Dr. Pope has provided complex program development support to EPA's Office of Water for over 20 years, with a focus on EPA's Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) program since 2005. The WLA is EPA Office of Water's response to the need for National Laboratory Infrastructure Planning, Protection, and Preparedness. Dr. Pope has led numerous efforts including executing WLA Security Summits, developing and conducting emergency response full-scale and tabletop exercises, webcasts, and analytical method studies which have trained hundreds of Water Sector professionals. Dr. Pope has a Ph.D. in biology.

**Name:** Yildiz Chambers-Velarde, General Dynamics Information Technology

**Background:**

Ms. Chambers-Velarde is a senior microbiologist and project manager at General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) with more than 30 years of professional experience in environmental microbiology, including 13 years of analytical bench experience. In support of EPA, she has designed method development, optimization, and validation studies for all of EPA's 1600 series microbiology methods used for compliance monitoring. In support of the Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA), she developed and conducted all of EPA's WLA Regional Response Full-scale Exercises and Analytical Preparedness Full-scale Exercise (AP-FSE) Toolkit exercises. In addition, she has supported efforts to develop microbiological methods for multiple agents for use during incident response. Ms. Chambers-Velarde has a BS in microbiology and a MSPH in environmental health.



## **Appendix 3, WLA Security Summit Flyer**

# JUST ANNOUNCED: 2021 WLA Virtual Security Summit



**Water Sector-related emergencies demand attention and advance preparation,** especially during a global public health crisis. To help you prepare for these emergencies, this year's U.S. EPA Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) Security Summit will take place **VIRTUALLY** on **November 16-18, 2021.**

**CEUs ARE AVAILABLE**  
up to 13.5 hours, dependent upon  
state requirements & participation

**CEUs**

The virtual Security Summit will feature:

- Educational programming **geared to the unique demands** of wastewater and drinking water utilities
- State of the art discussions on challenges driven by **climate change and cybersecurity threats**
- **Opportunities to become familiar with valuable WLA resources** such as the Water Contamination Information Tool (WCIT), the Compendium of Environmental Testing Laboratories (CETL), and others
- Engaging presentations on **environmental justice** in the Water Sector
- **A collaborative tabletop exercise** which includes a scenario-based water contamination event where you can update your utility's Emergency Response Plan

**CLICK  
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If you have any questions about the WLA Security Summit, please email us at [WLA@epa.gov](mailto:WLA@epa.gov)

## **Appendix 4, Example Certificate of Completion**



*Water Laboratory Alliance Workshop: Water Sector Emergency Response Planning;  
June 08, 22, 23, 2021*

# Certificate of Participation

Presented to

**John Doe**

In recognition for attending the workshop that consisted of eight (8)  
professional learning hours.

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**Latisha P. Mapp**

Acting Chief, Threats Analysis,  
Prevention and Preparedness Branch  
U.S. EPA



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**Donald LaFara**

Program Manager, Laboratory  
Certification Program  
Nevada Division of Environmental  
Protection

## **Appendix 5, Sample Attendance Roster**

