



2019 ANNUAL WATER POLICY INSTITUTE

December 3, 2019 -- Graduate Hotel, 126 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

AGENDA

Monday, December 2, 2019

4:00 to 7:15 PM **Water Policy Bootcamp for New Advisors**
New advisors will meet with experienced water policy advisors to garner advice about their roles and learn tips for being an effective part of the governors' team. New advisors will also receive a briefing on technical assistance available to states from the NGA.

Please see separate agenda.

7:30 to 9:00 PM **Networking Dinner**
Luna Blu All participants are invited to attend this networking opportunity.

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

7:00 to 8:00 AM **Registration and Breakfast in the Ballroom Lobby**

8:00 to 8:30 AM **Welcome**
Sue Gander, Director
Energy, Infrastructure and Environment Division
National Governors Association

Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Maryland Dept. of Environment

8:30 to 9:15 AM **Introductions**
State participants introduce themselves, share one water policy issue they have worked on and one issue they hope to learn more about at this meeting.

Moderator:
Bevin Buchheister, Senior Policy Analyst
Energy, Infrastructure and Environment Division
National Governors Association

9:15 to 10:00 AM

The Water Outlook: Solutions for Current and Future Challenges

Cheryl Norton will draw from her many years of leadership with American Water across several states to provide important insight into current nationwide challenges, some of which will be exacerbated by more extreme weather conditions. Ms. Norton will also share solutions and strategies adopted by American Water that can inform and prepare state water policy makers. After the presentation, participants will engage in Q&A about their state's most pressing water issues.

Speaker:

- Cheryl Norton, President, New Jersey American Water
Senior Vice President, Eastern Division

Moderator:

- Bevin Buchheister, Senior Policy Analyst
Energy, Infrastructure and Environment Division
National Governors Association

10:00 to 10:30 AM **NETWORKING BREAK**

10:30 to 11:30 AM **The Intersection of Water and Health Policy: State Action Addressing PFAS Contamination of Drinking Water**

PFAS chemicals, used to create waterproof and non-stick products, are contaminating drinking water sources and are linked to cancer, high cholesterol and other harmful human conditions. The post-Flint public, with their heightened awareness about drinking water contaminants, is looking to states to establish protective standards to limit levels of PFAS chemicals in drinking water and, in 2019, Congress directed EPA to accelerate their multi-year process and establish a national standard in the next two years. Yet, nearly a decade before PFAS landed in the national public spotlight, Minnesota was faced with PFAS contamination in the Twin Cities Metro area and took comprehensive action without having either a federal or state drinking water standard in place. This panel will examine actions states can take now to coordinate environment and public health agencies to protect human health, remediation practices implemented by the state, risk communication to the public, how the work was funded and the benefits and challenges of adopting a drinking water standard.

Speakers:

- Jim Kelly, Section Manager, Environmental Health Division
Minnesota Department of Health
- Catherine Neuschler, Manager, Water Assessment Section, Minnesota
Pollution Control Agency

Moderator:

- Sarah Grace Longsworth, PFAS Project Manager
Environmental Council of the States

11:30 AM to 12:30 PM Advancing Water Solutions for Rural Areas

Safe drinking water and sanitary wastewater systems are vital to public health and the economic vitality of rural America. This panel will discuss the array of technical assistance and funding available for water systems through USDA's Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs (WEP) that focuses on rural communities with populations of 10,000 or less. They will discuss how governors can ensure their states get the maximum benefit from these programs.

Speakers:

- Edna Primrose, Assistant Administrator
Water and Environmental Programs
Rural Utilities Service, Rural Development Agency
United States Department of Agriculture
- Rick Duncan, Executive Director
Delaware Rural Water Association

Moderator:

- Nathan Ohle, Chief Executive Officer
Rural Community Assistance Partnership

12:30 to 1:30 PM

Working Lunch

Reinvigorating the Water Workforce to Prepare for the Silver Tsunami

Introduction:

- Sue Gander, Director
Energy, Infrastructure and Environment Division
National Governors Association

Speaker:

- Yu-Ting Guilaran, Acting Deputy Director
Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1:30 to 2:15 PM

Breakout Sessions

Room: Stevedore II

Facilitator:

Bevin Buchheister
NGA

Stormwater Spotlight: Advocacy, Politics, and Funding

This session is specifically for Delaware River Basin States- DE, NJ, PA & NY- but others are welcome to join to discuss a case study from Anne Arundel County MD, winner of the Water Environment Federation Stormwater Institute's 2019 National Municipal Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Award for program management.

Speakers:

- Chris Trumbauer, Director
Policy and Communications
Office of the County Executive, Anne Arundel County, MD
- Erik Michelson, Administrator
Watershed Protection and Restoration Program
Anne Arundel County

Room: Stevedore

Facilitator:

Timothy Schoonhoven
NGA

Regionalization through Consolidation and Co-ops

One solution to many difficult challenges like PFAS contamination, affordability, aging infrastructure, and workforce decline, facing the water sector is regionalization of water utilities through consolidation or the use of water co-ops. Learn about challenges and promise of regionalization by on-the-ground practitioners who will discuss what governors can do to support community led regionalization.

Speakers:

- Eric Emmerich, Business Development Manager
EJ Water Cooperative
- Ted Stiger, Senior Director
Government Relations and Policy
Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- Scott Berry, Director
Policy and Government Affairs
U.S. Water Alliance

Room: Surgeon

Facilitator:

Sue Gander
NGA

Getting the Lead Out: Funding Lead Service Line Removal

Lead Service Lines (LSL's) that connect water main pipes in streets to houses can deliver lead tainted drinking water that causes severe health impacts. With an estimated 6 to 10 million LSL's across the country that need to be replaced and costs estimated to be in the 16-80 billion dollar range, states are looking for strategies to help communities and water utilities fund LSL replacements. Speakers will discuss the use of State Revolving Funds and other strategies to accelerate LSL replacement.

Speakers:

- Dierdre Finn, Executive Director
Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities
- Wendi Wilkes, Senior Policy Analyst
Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

2:30 to 3:30 PM

Water-Energy Nexus

Coordinating state water and energy policies can conserve limited resources, deliver cost savings to consumers and provide energy reliability for water utilities. Many urban areas have adopted water and energy cost saving measures but states may need more assistance to expand these policies and practices into rural areas where scale and capacity challenges exacerbate the water affordability issue. This panel will examine practices, policies and financing that can achieve greater savings of energy at water treatment plants, provide energy reliably and that can impact bottom line costs to consumers.

Speakers:

- George S. Hawkins, Esq., Founder and President
Moonshot Missions
- Alice G. Dasek, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

Moderator:

- Travis Loop, Director of Communications and Outreach
Water Environment Federation
Producer and Host of Words on Water Podcast

3:30 to 4:00 PM

Next Steps

States will reflect on the valuable insight they gained at this meeting and potential water policies they will be pursuing in the next year.

4:00 PM

Adjourn