



2019 BOOTCAMP FOR GOVERNORS' NEW WATER POLICY ADVISORS

Monday, December 2, 2019 -- Graduate Hotel, 126 West Street, Annapolis, MD

AGENDA

The Center for Best Practices is hosting a half-day Bootcamp for Governors' New Water Policy Advisors the day before the NGA Annual Water Policy Institute (see separate agenda). The bootcamp will provide new staff (in their role 1 year or less) with the chance to gather advice from current and former water policy advisors about their role 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 and federal agencies and hear from leaders of associations active in this space.

- 4:00 to 4:15 PM **Welcome & Introduction to NGA**
NGA will provide an overview of the Water Policy Learning Network and preview upcoming projects and technical assistance resources available to states from NGA Solutions.
- Sue Gander**, Division Director, Energy, Infrastructure & Environment, NGA
Bevin Buchheister, Senior Policy Analyst, Energy, Infrastructure & Environment, NGA
- 4:15 to 5:00PM **Introductions & the Role of a Governors' Water Advisor**
New advisors will introduce themselves, discuss what brought them to their roles and describe their priorities for 2020, challenges so far, and burning questions.
- 5:00 to 5:45 PM **Working with National Associations**
Representatives from national water organizations will share insights about the policy tools available, their organization's priorities and existing partnerships.
- Wendi Wilkes, Senior Policy Analyst, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
 - Scott Berry, Director, Policy and Government Affairs, U.S. Water Alliance
- 5:45 to 6:15 PM **Break**
- 6:15 to 6:45 PM **What I Wish I Knew...**
Current and former water policy advisors will share what they wish they knew when they started, how they engaged their governor, what they would do differently a second time around and ideas on how to work with executive agencies, legislatures, the private sector and stakeholder organizations.
- Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of Environment
 - Dierdre Finn, Executive Director, Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities
- 6:45 to 7:15 PM **Working Effectively with Washington**
Representatives from federal agencies will highlight technical assistance available to the states, and share insights on getting the most out of the state-federal partnership and how to effectively engage with federal agencies and the executive branch.
- Anita Thompkins, Director, Drinking Water Protection Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - Martin Lowenfish, Branch Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
- 7:30 to 9:00 PM **Networking Dinner**
Luna Blu
New water policy advisors will be joined by state officials and speakers who are attending the Water Policy Institute on the next day to informally network.