



BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

M O U N T V E R N O N , N E W Y O R K

MAYOR SHAWYN PATTERSON HOWARD

COMMISSIONER CARLTON C. SPRUILL

SUPERINTENDENT JOHN F. ARENA

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June 24, 2025

VIA EMAIL:

Honorable Members of the City Council
(Through the Office of the Mayor)
City Hall – 1 Roosevelt Square
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

RE: REQUESTING FOR LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING ATTENDANCE TO THE
ONE WATER SUMMIT

Dear Honorable Council Members:

This letter serves as a formal request for the enactment of legislation authorizing two (2) employees of the Board of Water Supply to attend the 2025 One Water Summit in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from July 8 to July 11, 2025.

The One Water Summit is a nationally recognized event that convenes water sector leaders from across the country for three days of solution-oriented sessions, collaborative workshops, and hands-on learning experiences. The Summit aligns directly with our mission and ongoing initiatives, including the Lead Service Line Replacement Program, backflow prevention compliance, infrastructure modernization, and community engagement.

Attendees will benefit from thought provoking panels on national policy, innovation, and water equity; participate in learning labs and site visits highlighting best practices in integrated water management; and engage in peer exchange with leaders from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Notably, Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard is scheduled to be one of the featured speakers at this year's event.

The registration fee is \$950 per attendee. Total expenses (including registration fee(s)) for hotel accommodations, travel and incidentals are not to exceed \$5,000 for both attendees. These costs will be charged to budget code 001-581-581001, Staff Development & Trainings.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlton Spruill
Commissioner



MOUNT VERNON
THE QUALITY OF WATER MATTERS



Agenda

July 8 – 11, 2025 | Pittsburgh, PA

Join hundreds of top water leaders in Pittsburgh, PA, for One Water Summit 2025! One Water Summit is the premier national conference focused on sustainable, integrated, and inclusive approaches to managing water. One Water Summit is a one-of-a-kind event that connects, inspires, and aligns those working to secure our nation's water future.

One Water Summit includes three days of solutions-focused conversations on how the nation can better value and manage water to foster economic prosperity, community well-being, and environmental sustainability. Thought-provoking sessions, panels, workshops, Learning Labs, and Site Visits create opportunities for dialogue, networking, and exchange between peers and leaders from diverse perspectives from across the country.

AGENDA GUIDE:

-  Learning Labs
-  Concurrent Sessions
-  Plenaries
-  Receptions / Events
-  Site Visits

Tuesday, July 8th

One Water Delegations Day

Details coming soon!

06:00pm - 08:00pm

re Networking Reception

Wednesday, July 9th

08:30am - 11:30am

sv On-Site Water Reuse and Building Sustainability: The David L Lawrence Convention Center

This tour will feature an overview of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center (DLCC) on-site water reuse and treatment facilities while delving into the innovative water conservation strategies championed by the DLCC, a model of sustainability in the heart of the city. Learn how this venue is committed to reducing water consumption through advanced techniques and eco-friendly practices. Join us for this unique experience that not only highlights the beauty of Pittsburgh's waterways but also celebrates the importance of sustainability and responsible resource management. Don't miss the opportunity to see how Pittsburgh is setting a shining example for environmental stewardship!

08:30am - 11:30am

**SD Community-Centered Watershed Restoration:
Frick Park, Nine Mile Run, Fern Hollow, and Wightman Park**

Explore the Nine Mile Run Watershed with UpstreamPgh, focusing on a people-first approach to restoration in Frick Park, a 600-acre urban forest in Pittsburgh. The tour will highlight the Nine Mile Run Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the upcoming Fern Hollow Valley restoration following a recent bridge collapse. Afterward, you'll visit Wightman Park to learn about stormwater improvements made in partnership with Pittsburgh Water and the City of Pittsburgh. This green stormwater project aims to create a safer, cleaner, and more accessible park while managing stormwater effectively. Features include a wetland rain garden, retention tanks, and "green streets" to direct stormwater runoff. The project manages 1.5 inches of runoff from 12.2 acres of impervious surfaces, costing a total of \$7.5 million. Join UpstreamPgh and Pittsburgh Water for this engaging tour about the transformative power of community-driven environmental restoration!

08:30am - 11:30am

**SD Pittsburgh's Living Buildings:
Phipps Conservatory and Frick Environmental Center**

Enjoy a tour of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and its groundbreaking Center for Sustainable Landscapes (CSL) facility. The CSL at Phipps Conservatory generates all of its own energy, treats all storm and sanitary water captured on-site, and is the first and only building to meet seven of the highest green certifications. As Phipps' education, research, and administration facility, the CSL is an integral part of the Phipps visitor experience as a "living museum," focusing attention on the important intersection between the built and natural environments and demonstrating that human and environmental health are inextricably connected. Attendees will enjoy a 90-minute tour focusing on the sustainable aspects of this state-of-the-art green building and two adjacent green facilities, the Nature Lab at Phipps and the Exhibit Staging Center (ESC). Together, united by a rainwater capture lagoon and constructed wetlands, these three buildings form Phipps' Living Campus, a real-world sustainability model that you can experience first-hand to gain new insights on green buildings, renewable energy, biophilic design principles, and more. After, you will be taken to the Frick Environmental Center to learn more about green building, sustainability, and Pittsburgh history! As a LEED Platinum and Living Building Certified building, the Frick Environmental Center is one of the greenest public buildings in the world. This one-hour tour of the building and surrounding landscape will use the Living Building Challenge framework to talk about what is possible with green buildings and how the quality of our buildings can have a positive impact on our health and future.

08:30am - 11:30am

SD Green Infrastructure of Pittsburgh: McKinley Park

In 2016, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and American Planning Association (APA) awarded the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy a \$435,000 Great Urban Parks Campaign grant for this improvement project. While centered around green infrastructure, the project incorporated key community priorities for upper McKinley Park, also known as Chicken Hill. These amenities include restored historical sandstone stairs, a new pavilion and gathering space with a built-in slide, a universally accessible trail throughout the area, overlooks made from reclaimed stone, rain gardens, and benches made from the trees that needed to be cut down on site.

08:30am - 11:30am

SD One Water Laboratory: The Xylem Innovation Hub

Join us for a guided tour of the Xylem Sustainability and Innovation Hub to witness transformative technology in action! First, visit the Laboratory, where you will see demonstrations of bench-scale testing techniques frequently used as a guide when scaling up treatability studies to pilot-scale equipment. Next, explore the Hubs Pilot-Scale Equipment, designed to evaluate new technologies and conduct tailored wastewater treatability studies. Finally, discover the Pilot-Scale Anaerobic Digestion Plant, which utilizes advanced water treatment methods like microfiltration and reverse osmosis to valorize commodities out of waste ethanol stillage. By July, this innovative process will include an onsite greenhouse with rotating algal beds to enhance mineral uptake for agriculture!

08:30am - 11:30am

***SD* Urban Agriculture and Youth Engagement:
Hilltop Urban Farm**

Join us as we explore community farming, land remediation, and youth engagement during a tour of Hilltop Urban Farm (HUF). Previously the site of a former housing development in Pittsburgh's Hilltop community, HUF is now a vibrant green space situated on 23 acres within the Ohio River watershed, focusing on soil health, watershed management, and community building. During this tour, you'll see the programs included in HUF's multi-pronged initiative, including the Community Farm, which has donated over 20,000 pounds of culturally relevant crops to local food pantries, and the Farmer Incubators program that empowers emerging farmers with access to land, tools, and education. You'll also see young learners engaged in hands-on educational experiences through the Youth Farm program, working in 21 raised vegetable beds and a fruit tree orchard. Don't miss the opportunity to experience the intersection of agriculture, community, and environmental stewardship at Hilltop Urban Farm, including the 200-tree orchard, forecasted to divert an estimated 50,000–60,000 gallons of stormwater annually!

08:30am - 11:30am

***SD* Growing Beyond Economic Development in South Pittsburgh**

Join us for an insightful tour hosted by Watersheds of South Pittsburgh and ACCD as we explore the long-term impacts of flooding along urban streams, focusing on the Saw Mill Run Valley in southern Allegheny County. This area is home to the Saw Mill Run stream, which faces frequent flooding, erosion, and pollution due to stormwater runoff, yet remains a hidden natural beauty attracting diverse wildlife. The tour will delve into the history of this valley over the past century, highlighting the concerted efforts by Watersheds of South Pittsburgh and their partners to raise awareness and address funding challenges. Our stops will include Wabash Park to discuss outdated flood mitigation techniques, the stunning Seldom Seen Greenway, Bausman Street & Rt 51, and Ansonia Place, a former neighborhood set for revitalization through a major green space project following a FEMA buyout. Join us as we uncover the potential for renewal within the Saw Mill Run Valley!

08:30am - 11:30am

***SD* Colors of the River:
Art, Storytelling, and Ecology in Pittsburgh**

Join Three Rivers Waterkeeper for an immersive art-based ecology program, Colors of the River! Colors of the River seeks to educate and connect people to Pittsburgh's waterways through hands-on ecology education and nature-focused art. Participants will engage with the natural environment in creative and meaningful ways, inviting you to explore and record site-specific information using materials found in nature and fostering a unique understanding of the ecosystems that surround us. Together, you'll build community connections and generate new knowledge about Pittsburgh's waterways, celebrating the beauty and significance of these vital natural resources. Get ready to discover the colors, textures, and stories of the river and join us in this exciting journey of exploration and creativity!

08:30am - 11:30am

***SD* Transformation and Preservation:
Strengthening Water Infrastructure in a Shared Space**

Pittsburgh Water invites you to explore the construction of the new Highland Reservoir Pump Station! Part of the utility's Water Reliability Plan, the new pump station is strategically located within Pittsburgh's quintessential Highland Park. The construction of this 56 million-gallon-per-day pump station will enhance water distribution and improve service reliability for nearly two-thirds of Pittsburgh Water's drinking water customers. For more than a century, Highland Park has shared its footprint with critical components of Pittsburgh's water distribution system. As Pittsburgh Water modernizes its infrastructure for the next century, maintaining the balance between the built and natural environment is essential. The tour provides a unique look at the intricacies of the construction project and discusses how Pittsburgh Water and the Highland Park community balanced the construction of a modern pump station while preserving the idyllic setting of the park.

08:30am - 11:30am

ST **Water Treatment and Reliability:
Safeguarding Every Drop for Customers Now and in the Future**

Discover the heart of Pittsburgh's water infrastructure! Don't miss this exclusive tour of Pittsburgh Water's 100 million-gallon-per-day water treatment plant. Located along the Allegheny River, you'll witness firsthand the essential process that transforms raw water into a vital resource, meet the experts responsible for protecting water quality, and understand the challenges and solutions that keep water flowing. The tour also includes an overview of Pittsburgh Water's ABC Project. Crucial to the completion of the utility's Water Reliability Plan, the ABC Project will renew pumping capacity and improve treatment reliability, resulting in safer, more reliable water service for current and future generations of customers. This tour is a unique opportunity to understand how Pittsburgh Water is transforming Pittsburgh's water system while delivering on its commitment to provide safe, clean water for the half-million people it serves each day.

12:00pm - 01:30pm

pl **From Conflict to Collaboration Across Three Watersheds**

Water is central to the Pittsburgh identity. The "City of Bridges" sits at the confluence of three rivers (the Allegheny, the Monongahela, and the Ohio). It is also a city facing a history of resource extraction, legacy pollution, aging infrastructure, and more. Yet this is a region making great progress through partnerships and collaboration. This plenary will examine how these collaborative efforts are shaping the One Water future of our host city.

02:00pm - 05:30pm

U **Storytelling with Purpose: From Personal Journeys to
Movement Building**

Are you ready to tap into your personal journey with water and learn how to create powerful stories that inspire change? In this Learning Lab, we'll explore how your unique connection to water can fuel meaningful advocacy and bridge divides that resonate across diverse audiences. Through interactive exercises and guidance from creative practitioners, including Tony Award Winning Artist and advocate Britton Smith, you'll uncover the deeper meaning behind your own experiences and learn how to shape them into compelling narratives. With support from our artist team, you'll discover the key ingredients for authentic storytelling, experiment with a range of creative methods, and explore best practices for amplifying community stories in ways that reach and move the right audiences. This workshop is an opportunity to reimagine how we responsibly share the water stories of the communities we serve. Come ready to challenge yourself, embrace vulnerability, and leave with the tools to transform the way you approach storytelling!

02:00pm - 05:30pm

U **Collaborative Climate Planning**

Water is at the heart of many climate challenges facing communities—from intensifying storms and prolonged droughts to sea level rise and declining water quality. Addressing these threats demands urgent, bold action that protects communities and reduces climate pollution. The water sector is uniquely positioned to lead this charge, with opportunities to simultaneously reduce emissions and strengthen community resilience through One Water approaches. Despite the water sector's potential to drive systemic change, its role in climate planning is often overlooked, leading to missed opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and the amplification of climate benefits. Changing this starts with rethinking not just how we engage, but who we engage with. This session explores how to strengthen the role of water in cross-sector collaborations for climate action. Participants will learn best practices for building authentic relationships and partnerships and identifying the components of equitable community engagement in climate action planning. We'll see how trust-based collaboration across diverse perspectives helps us see more clearly, uncover better solutions, and build lasting partnerships rooted in listening and understanding.

02:00pm - 05:30pm

LL Building and Funding Equitable Water Workforce Development

Despite being a stable industry offering family-sustaining jobs, the water sector is facing a workforce quantity and quality crisis. With one-third of the water workforce eligible for retirement within 10 years, this challenge is only expected to grow. Moreover, the current water workforce composition reveals persistent disparities by race and gender. This Learning Lab will consider how efforts to build a stronger water workforce can also contribute to closing wealth gaps, advancing racial and gender equity, and achieving broader community goals. Participants will hear examples of how water utilities are building and funding workforce programs in partnership with community-based organizations and begin to apply these strategies to their own workforce development plans, goals, and challenges. We will also examine the role that cross-sector partnerships can play in navigating barriers to water sector employment for communities currently underrepresented in the water workforce—and see how these partnerships can improve outcomes and expand possibilities for addressing water workforce challenges more generally.

02:00pm - 03:30pm

CS Creative Water Partnerships for Impact

Water challenges are complex—and solving them requires collaboration that's just as dynamic. This session explores how creative partnerships across sectors are delivering meaningful impact in communities and ecosystems. From global technology trends to hyper-local branding efforts and innovative corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategies, panelists will share real-world examples of how they've worked across traditional boundaries to spark action, build trust, and generate shared value. Join leaders from the private sector, utilities, and NGOs as they unpack what makes these partnerships successful—and what lessons others can carry forward.

02:00pm - 03:30pm

CS Scaling Nature-Based Solutions from Neighborhoods to Regions

As climate impacts intensify—from urban flooding to heatwaves, water shortages, and biodiversity loss—communities are urgently seeking solutions that build resilience while advancing equity, public health, and economic development. Nature-based solutions—such as restored wetlands, green infrastructure, and reforested corridors—are rising to the forefront as essential, adaptable strategies. But for nature-based solutions to move from scattered success stories to transformative infrastructure, they must be implemented at multiple scales—and anchored in cross-sector partnerships, community leadership, and policy alignment. This session explores how nature-based solutions are being put into action at every level—from neighborhood-scale grassroots projects and parks and city-wide systems to watershed collaborations and regional policy frameworks. It will highlight how different scales of implementation can work in concert, how local context shapes design, and what's needed to bridge gaps between innovation and impact.

04:00pm - 05:30pm

CS After IIJA: The Future of Funding Strategies for Water Infrastructure

The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) is drawing to a close, ending a landmark period of federal investment in water infrastructure. In the absence of one large federal funding source for water infrastructure, we need to develop an array of funding strategies to ensure investment in our water infrastructure—and our communities—continues. This session will explore federal, state, and local opportunities to fund water infrastructure projects after IIJA. We will consider how utilities might apply a portfolio approach to infrastructure funding, whereby federal, state, and local stakeholders are all involved. Join a group of federal, state, and philanthropic funders, researchers, and local government representatives as we discuss potential paths forward for water infrastructure funding.

04:00pm - 05:30pm

CS Advancing Towards Affordable and Reliable Water Systems

Access to clean water and reliable wastewater services benefits the whole community. As water costs continue to rise, it's crucial to ensure that everyone can afford these essential services. How can we make this happen? How can water utilities secure the funds they need to maintain and operate water systems while also making sure residents don't lose access to water services due to financial hardship? This session will focus on why water bills must be considered in tandem with the costs of other essential needs, explore the factors that drive up water costs, and highlight key policy and practice levers for local leaders to consider when addressing unaffordable water bills with their communities.

06:00pm - 08:00pm

re **Networking Reception**

Thursday, July 10th

08:00am - 09:30am

pl Re-imagining Water Governance and Funding

The current funding and governance models employed by the water sector in the country are fundamentally unsustainable. But what options are there for the future? And how do we get there? This plenary will feature a fireside chat with some of the top thinkers in the water sector discussing their ideas for a brighter water future and the pathway to that future.

10:00am - 11:30am

CS The Power of Partnerships: An Exploration of Regionalization, Consolidation, and Other Innovative Water Collaborations

The United States today has over 50,000 public water systems in year-round operation. The Alliance has been and continues to be focused on how to address this fragmented water landscape and the many resulting challenges. But we also believe that with every challenge comes an opportunity—and we see enormous potential in water partnerships to strengthen America's water sector and achieve a One Water future. This panel will explore exciting developments in regionalization, consolidation, and other water collaborations and offer ideas for unleashing the power of win-win water partnerships.

10:00am - 11:30am

CS Centering Community Needs by Asking the Right Questions

Authentic community engagement is essential to building trust and understanding how the nuances of local expertise can shape water infrastructure, access, or advocacy efforts. This includes challenging the assumptions of even the most seasoned water professionals and learning how to ask the right questions to truly understand community needs and priorities. In this session, participants will learn about innovative, collaborative, and community-driven methods for understanding the needs of their communities to make more informed decisions specific to their local context. After a short panel discussion to set the stage, experts will lead an interactive workshop, featuring a role-playing exercise designed to examine the myriad of factors that go into aligning community priorities with water projects, campaigns, research, and more.

10:00am - 11:30am

CS Transitioning to an AI Economy: Data Centers, Challenges, and Opportunities

Data centers in the United States are expanding rapidly, driven by accelerating digitization and the rise of artificial intelligence (AI). This growth presents urgent challenges—and new opportunities—for sustainable water management. This session will explore the evolving landscape of water stewardship in the data center sector, highlighting innovative technologies, policy responses, and collaborative approaches grounded in the One Water framework. Join industry leaders, utility experts, and sustainability advocates to discuss solutions that advance water efficiency, climate resilience, conservation, and equity in the era of digital transformation.

10:00am - 11:30am

CS **Becoming a One Water Champion**

What does it take to truly champion the One Water approach? This dynamic session explores the diverse and practical paths water professionals are taking to turn One Water principles into action. From conservation and reuse to land use planning, nutrient management, climate technology, and industry partnerships, participants will gain insights into real-world entry points that align with their work. Discover how each pathway connects to the broader One Water vision and leave equipped with strategies to embed One Water thinking into your own projects, programs, and planning efforts.

10:00am - 11:30am

CS **Water's Role in Achieving Regional-Scale Goals**

As local communities, states, and regions navigate complex planning processes across economic development, land use, resilience, and water, opportunities emerge for stronger coordination and integration. The interconnectedness of water with these other sectors presents opportunities to break down silos in order to achieve long-term, holistic, and sustainable goals. Speakers will discuss how a One Water approach can foster collaboration and align strategies for more effective, sustainable solutions. It will also highlight the essential role of cross-sector collaboration in achieving integrated planning.

12:00pm - 01:30pm

pl **United for Water: How Water Can Bring Us Together**

Partnerships and collaboration are essential ingredients to our One Water future. Water can be a great uniter. It touches all aspects of our lives, our health, our jobs, and our environment. Now more than ever, in this moment of division and change, water represents one of the greatest opportunities to build bridges back to each other. This plenary will focus on stories from key partnerships and lessons on bridging the gap between urban and rural.

02:00pm - 05:30pm

ll **One Water for Smaller Systems**

Nearly 90 percent of public water utilities in the United States serve fewer than 10,000 people, with more than half of these serving fewer than 500 people. Small, public water systems face a number of challenges in providing water and wastewater services due to a lack of resources, aging infrastructure, and other capacity limitations. Residents served by these systems are often not part of the process of developing and implementing solutions to water challenges, despite their deep knowledge of their community's needs and values. This Learning Lab will showcase realistic and replicable strategies and approaches to engaging community members in planning and implementation processes—building authentic relationships along the way. Participants will experience a community engagement event firsthand as they learn about the barriers that small, rural communities face in implementing One Water, how community members can be involved in processes that seem highly technical or technocratic, and how to apply community engagement strategies demonstrated by this Learning Lab to your own community and context. Participants will gain a deeper appreciation of how and why authentically engaging with smaller communities can improve lives, protect public health and the environment, promote economic development, and work toward regional resilience.

02:00pm - 05:30pm

ll **Water Equity Now: Lessons, Tools, and Action Steps**

The new federal context makes it more important than ever to ground ourselves in the foundational pillars of water equity: safe, reliable, and affordable water services for all, the opportunity to participate in the economic, social, and environmental benefits of water systems, and the ability for all communities to be resilient. This Learning Lab will provide a foundational overview of those pillars and their significance in the context of persistent racial disparities in water sanitation and access in the US. We will hear from water equity champions from across the country as they share stories, insights, and lessons learned and explore effective approaches to developing an equitable internal culture and building authentic community partnerships. Participants will engage in dynamic discussions and gain practical tools and strategies for advancing water equity in their respective communities. This is an opportunity to be inspired, reflect on personal and collective motivations, and connect with a network of leaders dedicated to advancing water equity now more than ever. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped with resources to help them chart their own paths forward.

02:00pm - 05:30pm

U One Water Council Strategy Meeting

This is a closed session for US Water Alliance One Water Council members only.

Through the One Water Council, the US Water Alliance aims to build, strengthen, and activate a network of innovative leaders driving One Water across the country. The One Water Council fosters peer exchange and knowledge building among US Water Alliance members, provides advice and serves as a sounding board on Alliance programming and strategic direction, and produces practical One Water tools and products that are informed by the expertise and innovation of Council members. Through bi-monthly meetings, the Council offers a valuable opportunity to talk candidly with leaders outside the usual sphere of influence and work together to solve today's most difficult water issues. During this annual Council planning and strategy session, we will dive into big trends shaping One Water and guide key work and priorities for the Council and the Alliance over the next year.

02:00pm - 03:30pm

CS Building Public Awareness and Driving State-Level Action

Prioritizing and securing necessary water funding and investments requires broad public and political support. This discussion will explore the critical role of statewide public awareness campaigns and cross-sector coalition building in fostering support for water investments and sustainable policy. By bringing together diverse interests, including government agencies, utilities, environmental organizations, and community groups, state-level action can build a unified approach to advocating for long-term water solutions.

02:00pm - 03:30pm

CS Fireside Conversations on Water Careers

The future of the water workforce is about more than pipelines—it's about people, purpose, and partnership. This communal session brings together students, early-career professionals, mentors, and institutional leaders to explore how the development of the workforce involves various experiences and positions. Structured as a series of five intimate, 15-minute fireside chats, participants will rotate through small-group conversations that spotlight real-world experiences—from mentorship and HBCU-to-career opportunities, to community-university partnerships, philanthropic investments, and youth engagement. Each pairing offers a view of how individuals and institutions are collaborating to prepare the future leaders of the water sector and make water workforce opportunities more visible, accessible, and resilient.

02:00pm - 03:30pm

CS From SCOTUS to States and Tribes: Water and Environmental Law at a Crossroads

It is an eventful and uncertain time for water and environmental law in America. This panel will bring together leading legal and practitioner experts to explore the fast-evolving legal landscape, including recent Supreme Court rulings, constitutional questions, and shifting interpretations of federal and state environmental protections. With implications for everything from the Clean Water Act enforcement to Colorado River Basin management, this session will unpack what these changes mean for practitioners, policymakers, and communities alike.

04:00pm - 05:30pm

CS New Approaches to Unlocking Climate Solutions Across Water and Working Lands

Water systems that sustain communities, agriculture, and ecosystems are deeply interconnected and increasingly shaped by the pressures of a changing climate. Addressing these challenges requires agricultural producers, utilities, and land managers to move beyond traditional roles and adopt a shared, climate-centered approach to land and water management. Although the need to strengthen these connections to develop more integrated strategies is well established, progress is often constrained by the absence of consistent regulatory and financial drivers. This session will explore what fresh ideas, rooted in trust-based relationships, local priorities, and cross-sector collaboration, can unlock watershed-scale strategies that address both climate adaptation and mitigation. Speakers will highlight emerging approaches to protect water resources, reduce emissions, and sustain the viability of working lands.

04:00pm - 05:30pm

CS Water at the Heart of Disaster: Reimagining Preparedness and Response

From wildfires in Maui to hurricanes in Tampa and flooding in Asheville, water is a defining force in nearly every major climate disaster. According to Rebuild by Design's 2025 report, 99.5 percent of congressional districts have experienced at least one federally declared major disaster since 2011—many of them driven by extreme weather and water-related crises. This panel brings together frontline community leaders, leading advocates, and climate resilience experts to discuss the urgent need for a new approach to water security, disaster preparedness, and equitable response and recovery. Panelists will share lessons learned from the frontlines and explore innovative solutions for centering community-driven resilience strategies through state, local, and federal partnerships. Join us for a critical conversation on how we can move beyond reactive disaster response toward a proactive, equitable, and water-resilient future.

04:00pm - 05:30pm

CS Overcoming Noise: Narrative Change and How Water Communicators Can Connect

We live in a complex, fragmented, and noisy media environment. Breaking through to truly connect, inform, and persuade is a challenge that so many of us are currently grappling with in the water sector. This session will bring together leading communicators to share their thinking on the latest trends, effective tactics, and future opportunities to ensure that we continue to grow public support and political will for water investment.

06:00pm - 08:30pm

re US Water Prize Awards Ceremony and Reception

The Water Prize honors trailblazing leaders driving sustainable and equitable water solutions across the nation. This powerful celebration is elevated by a dynamic performance from the Britton and the Sting, whose show *MAMA* weaves music, movement, and message into a captivating tribute to water's essential role in our lives. Together, we'll celebrate the power of bold ideas and the power of art in shaping a more just and resilient water future.

Friday, July 11th

10:00am - 11:30am

CS More than Just Pipes: Water Infrastructure as a Tool for Community Investment in Pittsburgh

Improving water quality requires system-wide improvements. The benefits of these large-scale system upgrades can go beyond the traditional purview of utilities. This session will use the development and implementation of Pittsburgh Water's Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) program and Water Reliability Plan as case studies to demonstrate how utilities can work with community partners to reimagine infrastructure improvements as opportunities to invest in their communities and leverage them to produce co-benefits. Hear the story of how a coalition in Pittsburgh, including Pittsburgh Water staff, labor unions, CBOs, and others used water investments to improve public health and equity, build community trust, and develop a local workforce.

10:00am - 11:30am

CS **America's Water Access Gap: Fighting the Expansion**

In 2018, the Alliance and DigDeep released a seminal report revealing that 2.2 million in the US lacked running water and/or sanitation at home. Since then, the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector (WASH) sector has been steadily growing a movement to secure safe and reliable water access for all. By collaborating with the One Water movement, WASH advocates have broadened their coalition—bringing in new voices, expertise, and momentum. This session will explore how the WASH sector is tackling persistent and emerging gaps in water access. We'll look at progress made, lessons learned, and how strategies are evolving to ensure that every household in America has access to affordable water and sanitation.

10:00am - 11:30am

CS **Navigating Tough Conversations: Effective Communication in Complex or Divisive Contexts**

Effective communication strategies are often easy to employ when the topic is clear, simple, or enjoyable. But what happens when the stakes are higher, the topic is divisive, or the conversation is fraught with complexity or discomfort? In these situations, effective communication becomes more challenging and important. This session will bring together a diverse group of practitioners to explore strategies for navigating these difficult conversations. Participants will gain practical tools to manage emotionally charged discussions, foster understanding across divides, and create spaces where productive dialogue can thrive—even in the most challenging scenarios.

10:00am - 11:30am

CS **Meeting the Future Through One Water Planning and Development**

One Water is a transformative way of viewing, valuing, and managing water. The One Water approach manages all water—whether from the tap, a stream, a storm, an aquifer, or a sewer—in a collaborative, integrated, inclusive, and holistic manner. Bringing One Water to life, however, can be a daunting undertaking. Fortunately, One Water leaders from across the country have forged roadmaps to success. Hear directly from these leaders as they showcase how their cities implemented One Water planning—where they started, the challenges they faced, and the partnerships that made it possible. This session will provide tangible insights to help you map out your own One Water journey. Whether you're just beginning or looking to refine your approach, this session will help you identify first steps, essential collaborators, and opportunities to connect with peers at One Water Summit who can serve as partners or sounding boards.

10:00am - 11:30am

CS **Water Pathways for Building Trust**

Water can be a pathway for building trust within communities and trust in our institutions. Water utilities play a critical role in establishing and maintaining trust in the water they provide. That trust can also create opportunities for water utilities to support broader community needs and elevate the voices of community members. In this session, participants will first hear directly from water utilities and other organizations about their experiences working to build trust with community members around water.

12:00pm - 01:30pm

pl **Bridging the Gap: One Water Delegation Commitments to Action**

Let's take the next step together by assembling key learnings from Summit and turning them into action in our own communities. During our closing plenary, we will focus on how to best work with our colleagues, neighbors, and diverse partners to craft America's water future. Our day will close both with celebration and new beginnings as our One Water delegations share past accomplishments and make inspiring commitments to action for the year to come. Come to learn, collaborate, and support each other!