



Le Meridien Madison, 1177 15th Street NW Washington, DC 20005

AGENDA

***Note: Schedule is subject to change.**

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025

**Note: all presentations will be in the Dolly Madison Ballroom unless otherwise specified.*

10:00am—11:00am **NWC BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING** (Room: TBD)

11:00am—12:00pm **NWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING** (Room: TBD)

12:30pm—5:00pm **REGISTRATION** (Room: Dolly Madison Ballroom Foyer)

12:30pm—1:00pm **NETWORKING WELCOME COFFEE**

1:00pm—1:15pm **WELCOME REMARKS**

- Mr. Andrew Sinclair, NWC Chair (Port of Virginia)
- Ms. Julie Ufner, President and CEO, NWC

1:15pm—2:15pm **NAVIGATING A NEW ADMINISTRATION AND THE 119TH CONGRESS:
POLITICAL INSIGHTS AND STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS**

A new administration and the 119th Congress bring shifting priorities and fresh dynamics to the legislative process. This session will explore how political changes may impact water resources policy, infrastructure funding, and federal agency operations. Learn what to expect from key committees, potential regulatory shifts, and how NWC members can strategically position themselves to influence policy in this evolving landscape.



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- 2:15pm—3:15pm **PRIORITIES AND PREDICTIONS FOR WATER RESOURCE
INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY, FUNDING, AND PERMITTING REFORM**
- 3:15pm—3:30pm Break
- 3:30pm—5:00pm **BUILDING BRIDGES: STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS AND ADVANCING
PROJECTS WITH USACE AND ON CAPITOL HILL**

Great partnerships don't just happen—they're built. David Wethington, Chief of USACE's Future Directions Branch and a seasoned Capitol Hill insider, takes you behind the scenes to uncover the secrets of creating valuable, lasting relationships with the USACE Civil Works program. While WRDA is a cornerstone of the conversation, this session dives deeper into how non-federal sponsors, stakeholders, and Congress can work together to turn ambitious plans into actionable projects. Discover the power of the "triangle approach," where collaboration between Congress, USACE, and stakeholders creates a win-win formula for success. Whether you're aiming to influence WRDA 2026 or simply want to build stronger connections, Dave's insights will equip you with the tools to engage effectively and make an impact.

- Mr. David Wethington, Chief of Future Directions Branch, USACE

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

- 7:00am—5pm **REGISTRATION** (Room: Dolly Madison Ballroom Foyer)
- 7:30am—8:30am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- 8:30am—10:00am **UNPACKING FEDERAL WATER POLICY: PERSPECTIVES FROM USACE
LEADERS**



Big changes are on the horizon for water resources policy, and USACE leaders are here to help you navigate them. With a new administration, fresh agency-specific guidelines for Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines (PR&G), and the passage of WRDA 2024, the future of federal water policy is taking shape. In this dynamic session, USACE leaders will pull back the curtain on how these updates will be implemented, what regulatory shifts are on the horizon, and what it all means for civil works portfolios like navigation, flood risk management, water supply, and more. Get an insider's view of the challenges and opportunities ahead.

- Mr. Edward Belk, Director of Civil Works, USACE (invited)
- Mr. Stephen Hill, Director of Operations and Regulatory Programs (Civil Works), USACE (invited)
- Mr. Eric L. Bush, Chief of Planning and Policy (Civil Works), USACE (invited)
- Mr. Theodore Brown, Chief of Programs Integration (Civil Works), USACE (invited)

10:00am—10:30am NETWORKING BREAK

10:30am—11:30am **NAVIGATING ENVIRONMENTAL AND LEGAL SHIFTS: IMPACTS OF KEY JUDICIAL CASES ON WATER RESOURCE INFRASTRUCTURE**

*The legal landscape is shifting, and the ripple effects could reshape the water resources field. Landmark cases like *Marin Audubon Society v. FAA (NEPA)* and *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo (Chevron deference)* are setting new precedents, while a new administration and Congress may further redefine the rules of the game. This session brings together top environmental and legal experts to explore the practical implications of these developments. What do these decisions mean for water resources infrastructure? How might regulatory priorities shift? And how can you stay ahead of the curve? Don't miss this deep dive into the evolving*



intersection of law, policy, and infrastructure, and what it means for the future of your projects.

11:30am—noon

THE FUTURE OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: CHANGES ON THE HORIZON

With a new administration and Congress in place, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) could be poised for significant changes that may reshape its impact on water resources infrastructure. This session will delve into the potential shifts in ESA policy, regulatory priorities, and enforcement under the evolving political landscape.

12:00pm—1:30pm

LUNCH PRESENTATION: UPDATE FROM THE ASACW OFFICE

- Ms. Stacey Brown, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Management and Budget), Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, U.S. Army (invited)
- Ms. Robyn Colosimo, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Project Planning and Review), U.S. Army

1:30pm—2:00pm

NETWORKING BREAK

2:00pm—3:00pm

STEERING THE FUTURE OF NAVIGATION: INSIGHTS AND OPEN FORUM WITH THE NWC NAVIGATION CAUCUS

Join the NWC Navigation Caucus for an engaging session featuring a keynote speaker on the latest trends and challenges in navigation. This session will include a focused discussion on emerging issues such as funding, cost-sharing, and the role of technology in modernizing navigation infrastructure. Attendees will have the opportunity to contribute their perspectives, share concerns, and collaborate on strategies to address the evolving needs of the navigation sector.



3:00pm—4:00pm

CHARTING THE COURSE: CAPITOL HILL'S FOCUS ON WATERWAYS AND PENDING LEGISLATION

*NOTE: THIS SESSION IS CLOSED TO THE PRESS

- Ms. Libby Callaway, Professional Staff (Majority), Environment and Public Works Committee, U.S. Senate (invited)
- TBD (Minority), Environment and Public Works Committee, U.S. Senate (invited)
- Mr. Ryan Hambleton, Staff Director (Majority), Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, U.S. House of Representatives (invited)
- Mr. Ryan Seiger, Staff Director/Senior Counsel (Minority), Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, U.S. House of Representatives (invited)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

8:30am--noon

REGISTRATION

9:00am—10:15am

CHARTING THE COURSE FOR FLOODING: INSIGHTS AND DISCUSSION WITH THE NWC FLOOD CAUCUS

Dive into the pressing issues shaping the future of flood management in this dynamic session hosted by the NWC Flood Caucus. Featuring a thought-provoking keynote speaker, we'll explore critical topics like securing funding for flood control projects, rethinking communication strategies, and pioneering innovative resilience approaches. Engage in a lively open forum where attendees can share firsthand experiences, debate solutions, and forge collaborations to meet the evolving demands of flood-prone communities and infrastructure.



10:15am—10:30am **NETWORKING BREAK**

10:30am—12:00pm **SECURING THE FLOW: EXPLORING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
WITH THE NWC WATER SUPPLY CAUCUS**

With WRDA 2024 elevating water supply as a critical focus, this session hosted by the NWC Water Supply Caucus explores the challenges and opportunities ahead. Featuring a keynote speaker, we'll delve into topics such as funding for infrastructure, navigating new regulatory frameworks, and leveraging partnerships to address water supply demands. Attendees will engage in a dynamic discussion to share insights, explore innovative solutions, and chart a course for reliable and sustainable water supply in the face of growing pressures.

12:30pm—2:00pm **BOARD OF DIRECTORS LUNCH MEETING (Constitution A)**

3:00pm—5:00pm **TBD**