



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, STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS AND COST OF DOING
BUSINESS IN DC**

The new administration and the 119th Congress are reshaping the political and regulatory landscape, with shifting priorities and external pressures defining what's achievable both now and in the long term. This session will explore the key pain points for FY2025 and FY2026 appropriations, what might be coming down the pike, and how the newly created Department of Government Efficiency could influence funding, policy, and project timelines. Speakers will also tackle the balance between self-advocacy and engaging professional expertise, while offering a candid look at the real costs—both tangible and intangible—of staying engaged in Washington or choosing not to.



MODERATOR/SPEAKER: **Mr. Geoff Bowman**, Vice President, Van Scoyoc Associates

- **Mr. Charles Brittingham**, Senior Vice President, Cassidy and Associates
- **Ms. Julie Minerva**, Partner, Carpi & Clay
- **Mr. James A. Sartucci**, Government Affairs Counselor, K&L Gates

2:15pm—3:15pm

BREAKING DOWN SILOS: LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PERSPECTIVES FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

This session will explore legislative and regulatory priorities for 2025 and beyond, bringing together diverse stakeholders from industries that intersect with water and waterways. Topics may include domestic oil production and its impact on operational costs and infrastructure; EPA regulations on stormwater, PFAS, wastewater, and emissions; challenges and opportunities for construction and agricultural producers relying on waterways to move goods to market; and more. By connecting perspectives from local governments, manufacturers, and agriculture, this session aims to foster cross-industry dialogue, identify shared challenges, and explore opportunities for collaboration across sectors.

- **Mr. Jordan Howard**, Counsel, Federal Construction and Regulatory Affairs, Associated General Contractors of America
- **Ms. Judy Sheahan**, Assistant Executive Director for the Environment, U.S. Conference of Mayors
- **Mr. Mike Steenhoek**, Executive Director, Soy Transportation Coalition
- **Ms. Mary Youpel**, Policy Advisor, American Petroleum Institute

3:15pm—3:30pm

NETWORKING

3:30pm—4:30pm

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

4:30pm—5:00pm

APPROPRIATIONS IN FLUX: KEY DYNAMICS FOR FY2025 & FY2026*

*With Congress still navigating FY2025 funding and the FY2026 budget process beginning, this session will take a high-level look at the behind-the-scenes dynamics shaping federal appropriations. Modeled after our EPW and T&I insider baseball discussions, it will explore committee negotiations, political pressures, and key issues to watch as funding decisions unfold. **We have confirmations from Capitol Hill appropriations staff, though their availability depends on the status of the March 14 continuing resolution (CR) negotiation deadline.**

**NOTE: THIS SESSION IS CLOSED TO THE PRESS*

- **Ms. Kathleen "Katie" Williams**, Professional Staff Member (Majority), Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate
- **Ms. Laura Powell**, Professional Staff Member (Minority), Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate



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- **Mr. Richie O’Connell**, Professional Staff Member (Majority), Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives
 - **Mr. Scott McKee**, Clerk (Minority), Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives (invited)

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

7:00am—5pm **REGISTRATION** (Room: Dolly Madison Ballroom Foyer)

7:30am—8:30am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:45am—9:15am **INLAND WATERWAYS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Mr. Tracy Zea**, President and CEO, Waterways Council Inc.

9:15am—10:30am **NAVIGATING ENVIRONMENTAL AND LEGAL SHIFTS: WHAT’S NEXT FOR WATER/WATERWAYS RESOURCE INFRASTRUCTURE?**

The legal and regulatory landscape for water and waterways infrastructure is rapidly evolving, with new court rulings, shifting federal policies, and agency priorities reshaping project permitting, funding, and compliance. This session brings together top legal and policy experts to examine key developments, including Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) actions on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), stormwater regulations, and the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule; the 2025 Executive Order (EO) freezing grant and loan funding; and the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA 2024)’s elevation of water supply in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works program. With litigation shaping regulations and vice versa, what legal and policy shifts should stakeholders anticipate? Join us for a practical discussion on the intersections of litigation, regulation, and



infrastructure policy, and how these changes could impact long-term planning and investment in water resource projects.

- **Ms. Susan Bodine Esq.**, Partner, E&W Law
- **Mr. Lowry Crook**, Partner, Best Best & Krieger
- **Ms. Rachael Lipinski**, Counsel, Van Ness Feldman

10:30am—11:00am NETWORKING BREAK

11:00am—11:45am **THE FUTURE OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: CHANGES ON THE HORIZON**

With a new administration and Congress in place, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) may undergo significant changes that could redefine its influence on water resources infrastructure. This session will explore potential shifts in ESA policy, regulatory priorities, and enforcement under the evolving political and administrative landscape. Attendees will gain insights into how these changes may impact projects, compliance strategies, and the broader water resources sector.

- **Mr. Jordan Smith**, Executive Director, National Endangered Species Act Coalition, Van Ness Feldman
- **Ms. Annick Miller**, Subcommittee Staff Director (Majority), Natural Resources Committee, U.S. House of Representatives

11:45am—1:15pm **LUNCH PRESENTATION: UPDATE FROM THE ASACW OFFICE**

- **Ms. Robyn Colosimo**, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), U.S. Army; Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Project Planning and Review), U.S. Army

1:15pm—1:30pm NETWORKING



1:30pm—2:30pm

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
- **Mr. Eric L. Bush**, Chief of Planning and Policy (Civil Works), USACE
- **Mr. Theodore “TAB” Brown**, Chief of Programs Integration (Civil Works), USACE

2:30pm—3:00pm

PRIORITIES OF A NEW WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR: WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT AND BEYOND

- **The Honorable Mike Collins** (R-Ga.), Chair, Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, U.S. House of Representatives

3:00pm—3:15pm

NETWORKING BREAK

3:15pm—4:15pm

STEERING THE FUTURE OF 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.



MODERATORS/NWC NAVIGATION CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS: **Mr. Cam Spencer**, Director of Government Relations, Port Houston; **Ms. Phyllis Saathoff**, Executive Director, Port Freeport

- **Ms. Tiffany Burroughs**, Chief of Navigation, USACE
- **Mr. Cary Davis**, Executive Director, American Association of Port Authorities
- *Invited: U.S. Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation – Participation pending DOT agency guidance on speaking at events.*

4:15pm—5:00pm

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
- **Ms. Mayely Boyce**, Senior Policy Advisor—Water Infrastructure (Minority), Environment and Public Works Committee, U.S. Senate
- **Mr. Ryan Hambleton**, Staff Director (Majority), Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, U.S. House of Representatives
- **Mr. Ryan Seiger**, Staff Director/Senior Counsel (Minority), Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, U.S. House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

8:30am--noon

REGISTRATION

9:00am—10:15am

EVOLVING FEDERAL PRIORITIES AND FUTURE ADVOCACY IN FLOOD CONTROL POLICY



This session will explore the evolving landscape of federal flood policy and advocacy.

MODERATORS/NWC FLOOD CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS: **Mr. Scott Elmer**, Chief Partnerships and Programs Officer, Harris County Flood Control District; **Ms. Karin Jacoby**, Senior Counsel, Husch Blackwell

- **Mr. Aaron M. Snyder**, Director, Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program, USACE
- **Ms. Sunny Simpkins**, Executive Director, National Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies
- **Mr. Jon Pawlow Esq.**, NWC consultant

10:15am—10:30am NETWORKING BREAK

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

With WRDA 2024 highlighting water supply as a critical focus, this session will examine both the policy landscape and the importance of federal partnerships in addressing water needs, including what may happen next.

MODERATORS/WATER SUPPLY CAUCUS CO-CHAIRS: **Mr. Vincent Gin**, Deputy Operating Officer – Water Supply Division, Valley Water; **Mr. Tom Ray**, Water Resources Program Manager, Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc.

- **Mr. David Palumbo**, Acting Commissioner/Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior
- **Ms. Meredith Ladart**, Technical Director, WMRS PCX, Southwestern Division, USACE
- **Ms. Katherine Zitsch**, Advisor, Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center; President, National Water Supply Alliance



National
Waterways
Conference

2025 Legislative Summit
Washington, DC
March 10-12, 2025

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

Lunch will start right after the last session, followed by the BoD meeting.

A HUGE THANKS TO OUR LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT!

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