Webinar: A Northwest Vision for 2040 Water Infrastructure

Innovative Pathways, Smarter Spending, Better Outcomes
Welcome
Radhika Fox is the Chief Executive Officer of the US Water Alliance, a national nonprofit organization advancing policies and programs that build a sustainable water future for all.

Radhika has over 20 years of experience in developing policies, programs, and issue-based advocacy campaigns. Radhika previously directed the policy and government affairs agenda for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. She also served as the Federal Policy Director at PolicyLink, where she coordinated the organization’s policy agenda on a wide range of issues, including infrastructure investment, transportation, sustainable communities, economic inclusion, and workforce development. She holds a B.A. from Columbia University and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley where she was a HUD Community Development Fellow.
US Water Alliance
Building a One Water Movement

One Water

One Future
Agenda

• Welcome – Radhika Fox, CEO US Water Alliance

• NW Vision Report Key Findings – Rhys Roth, Director Center for Sustainable Infrastructure, Evergreen State College

• Lightning Round –
  – Chuck Clarke, CEO Cascade Water Alliance
  – Liz Kelly, Vice President CH2M
  – Bobby Cochran, Executive Director Willamette Partnership
  – Judi Gladstone, Strategy & Government Affairs Director Seattle Public Utilities
  – Julie Davies O’Shea, Executive Director Farmers Conservation Alliance

• Questions & Answers
Key Findings
Rhys Roth
Director Center for Sustainable Infrastructure

Rhys is the Director, Center for Sustainable Infrastructure (CSI), and Adjunct Faculty in the Masters of Public Administration program, The Evergreen State College and the lead Author, A Northwest Vision for 2040 Water Infrastructure

Prior to founding CSI, Rhys co-founded and helped lead for over 15 years the non-profit group Climate Solutions.
Water Infrastructure: Boring? Maybe, but it’s essential!

• Our communities rely on water systems to serve vital basic needs.
  – Provide people an uninterrupted flow of clean water
  – Process local wastewater and sewage to protect public health
  – Prevent local flooding in big rainstorms
5 Big Goals for 2040:
#2 in the Series -> WATER

The Design Question:

How can Oregon and Washington develop one of the most sustainable, resilient, and affordable water infrastructure systems in the world – spanning water supply, wastewater, and stormwater-flood infrastructures?
Constructing a 2040 Northwest Vision for Water

• **Sit-down interviews** with 40 West Coast water leaders:
  – Utility execs, design innovators, engineers, non-profit leaders, tribal officials, and equity advocates

• **Supplemented** by literature review

• **Thorough review** by 20-member Executive Review Team
Great challenges facing water utilities

Important, because we need healthy utilities:

• Disruptive Efficiency
• Really Old Infrastructure
• Capacity Deficit + Retirement Wave
• New Solutions Require New Playbook
• Earthquakes and Climate Disruption
The new solutions portfolio

• Water supply, wastewater, stormwater-flood infrastructure managed much more holistically

• Networks of micro-infrastructure optimally blended with legacy central systems

• Smart sensors and cameras inside pipes and other facilities supply real-time visibility (that is GIS-mappable)

• Green infrastructure at all scales reduces burden on gray infrastructure
Some keys to success

• **Integrate** across supply, treatment, stormwater – One Water

• **Practice** ‘the new investment discipline’

• **Forge** cost-share partnerships for multi-benefit projects

**TOP 5 THINGS TO DO:** Utilities, Policymakers
Lightning Round
Chuck Clarke is CEO of Cascade Water Alliance, a municipal corporation of five cities and two water and sewer districts that provide water to almost 380,000 residents and more than 20,000 businesses. Under his leadership, Cascade embarked on an extensive, inclusive public process to determine how best to deliver water supply to its members over the next 50 years and beyond.

Before joining Cascade, Chuck served as Director of Seattle Public Utilities, which provides water to 1.4 million customers with a budget of $500 million a year and a staff of 1,500. Prior to SPU, Chuck was one of Seattle’s deputy mayors. He is the former Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency managing its operations in Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho.
Liz Kelly has been a Senior Management Consultant with CH2M for four years -- highlights of her work at CH2M include consulting with the Rancho California Water District; City of Cincinnati, Ohio; Montgomery County Environmental Services; City of Cleveland, Ohio; DC Water; Cities of Bellevue and Redmond, Washington; Seminole Tribe; and more.

Prior to joining CH2M, Liz had more than 20 years of experience as a public sector leader in water, wastewater, drainage and solid waste utilities work. She was instrumental in establishing the asset management culture at Seattle Public Utilities. Under her watch, the utility was able to improve services to customers, save hundreds of millions in capital dollars, save millions per year in operations and maintenance expenditures and ensure that decisions would be based on life cycle triple-bottom-line principles. In addition, she was the director of project management and engineering where she improved project and program delivery success while overseeing nearly 100 engineers and project managers.
Bobby Cochran
Executive Director, Willamette Partnership a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leader

Bobby Cochran is the Executive Director for the Willamette Partnership, a nonprofit coalition of business, environmental, and other leaders working to enhance the pace, scope, and effectiveness of restoration in the Northwest. It specializes in the design and operation of emerging markets for ecosystem services. Bobby has worked on market-based policies for environmental organizations, a water utility, and international efforts. He received a Ph.D./M.A. in Urban Studies/Conflict Resolution from Portland State University, and his Masters in Public Policy from the University of Southern California.
Judi Gladstone
Strategy & Government Affairs Director
Drainage & Wastewater Utility
Seattle Public Utilities

Judi Gladstone is the Strategy and Government Affairs Division Director at Seattle Public Utilities. She is responsible for shaping and managing major policy decisions for the drainage and wastewater line of business, providing oversight of the Superfund Cleanup and Outreach programs, as well as regulatory and governmental strategy.

Judi has over 30 years of experience in utility policy, planning, intergovernmental relations, negotiations and program implementation. She has had a lead position in several water system plans, which included developing significant policy direction for the utility around water supply and preparing the utility’s first water shortage response plan. She has also managed several water shortages at the utility, with the most recent one in 2015. Over the years, Judi has also been lead negotiator for water and wastewater contracts with regional entities and is known for her collaborative approach to meeting multiple party interests.
Julie Davies O’Shea
Executive Director Farmers Conservation Alliance

Julie Davies O’Shea is the Executive Director of FCA. Her experience in business and strategic planning, branding, market development, and fundraising, combined with her background in environmental, renewable energy, and irrigation projects guide her work implementing FCA’s vision to benefit both agriculture and the environment. Julie specializes in new trends in technology transfer, social entrepreneurship, using metrics for management, organizational evaluation strategies, social capital, as well as licensing and patents for nonprofits.
Questions & Answers

Rhys Roth, Director Center for Sustainable Infrastructure
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Thank You