



New York Water Environment Association, Inc.

The Water Quality Management Professionals

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Climate Change & PFAS

Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 8:30 am-2:30 pm

The Delta Hotel, Utica, NY

4 PDHs, 2 RTCs

8:30 am - Welcome, Khristopher Dodson, NYWEA Executive Director Designee

8:40 am - Sauquoit Creek Channel and Floodplain Restoration Program, Whitestown Supervisor, Shaun Kaleta

9:00 am - Planning for Climate Vulnerability and the Future of Regional Resilience, Jayme Breschard, Barton and Loguidice

This session will present a regional planning framework for understanding and addressing climate vulnerability for water resources. A coordinated regional planning approach is important for defining vulnerability problems and achieving long-term resilience. The session will include case studies to showcase how regional resilience can be accomplished. The presentation will conclude with a discussion about the future of regional resilience. Opportunities for strategic partnerships among public, private, educational and not-for-profit organizations will be discussed.

9:30 am - NYS Extreme Heat Planning Effort, Leo Matteo Bachinger, NYSDEC

This presentation will review current and future projected impacts of extreme heat; name inequities in vulnerabilities to extreme heat and identify their drivers; review New York State's efforts to address extreme heat inequities and impacts through on-going whole-of-government efforts; and describe opportunities for collaborating and participating in the on-going planning and implementation efforts.

10:00 am - Networking Break

10:15 am - Great Lakes Action Agenda, Emily Fell, NYSDEC

We will review New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda updates with collaborative, ecosystem-based actions needed through 2030 to restore, protect, conserve and enhance New York's Great Lakes with a focus on cross-cutting priorities for climate change adaptation and mitigation and strategies to achieve community resiliency and ecosystem integrity goals. The presentation will include project examples and highlight funding that can advance actions.

11:15 am - Piloting an Ecosystem-Based Planning Approach, Emily Fell, NYSDEC

In accordance with the Great Lakes Action Agenda, NYSDEC's Great Lakes Program is developing a new pilot effort to create ecosystem-based management plans to help protect and restore the long-term health of individual watersheds within New York's Great Lake sub-basins. These Integrated Watershed Action Plans are currently being developed for the Cattaraugus, Sterling and Wolcott Creek watersheds.

11:45 pm-12:45 pm - Networking Lunch:
Oneida County Executive, Anthony J. Picente Jr.

12:45 pm - Is Our Lack of Climate Action Ethical? Jodi Smits Anderson, EYP
How do we understand the line between doing work for clients, and doing the right work for clients? As providers of service, we must balance our professional, ethical obligations with winning work. It is certainly time to discuss what work we should refuse outright, and what we can do in all of our work to ethically provide for our clients and our shared future.

1:15 pm - An Introduction to PFAS in Wastewater and Biosolids
Vijesh Karatt-Vellatt, PE, LEED AP; Rachel Watson, PE Stantec Consulting Inc.
Per- and PolyFluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS) and associated precursors (aka "forever chemicals") are contaminants that have been found to exist in drinking and wastewater applications, including biosolids. Recently, PFAS have gained increasing scrutiny due to their potential effects on ecosystems and human health. There are currently minimal active regulations affecting the treatment of PFAS in wastewater/biosolids; however, future regulations are likely to evolve. During this presentation, we will share information on PFAS sources, current regulatory trends, major considerations in liquid and solid wastewater treatment processes with respect to PFAS occurrence levels, fate and transport, removal/destruction technologies, and on-going case studies.

1:45 pm - NYSDEC Perspectives on PFOS/PFOA
Dereth Glance, Acting Region 7 Director, NYSDEC; Ed Hampston, Division of Water, NYSDEC
NYSDEC will update the status of several emerging contaminants focusing on PFOS/PFOA and wastewater programs including MCL and HAL information; New York State Actions restricting emerging contaminants in products to emphasize the need for source control and reduction; provide information on EPA guidelines and proposed actions for emerging contaminants in wastewater; and provide updates on DEC program actions including Division of Materials Management for biosolids and landfill leachate, and Division of Water proposed guidance values and implementation program to address emerging contaminants in SPDES direct dischargers.

2:30 pm - Wrap-up