



New York Water Environment Association, Inc.

The Water Quality Management Professionals

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New York Water Environment Association Recognizes Gary Lapera with Charles Agar Memorial Award

Syracuse, NY – The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) recognized Gary Lapera of Jacobs Engineering with the Charles Agar Memorial Award at the awards ceremony during NYWEA’s 95th Annual Meeting. The award is given annually for an outstanding paper concerning wastewater management and general water quality programs and activities. Lapera is being awarded for his paper, presented at NYWEA’s 2022 Spring Technical Conference, titled “The Transformational Role of Water Infrastructure in the Built Environment.”

The focus of Lapera’s presentation was that water infrastructure is not simply a mono-functional provision of designated services, it is a life-sustaining resource that affects the planet’s survival. Given the critical importance of its place in a larger ecosystem, Lapera challenged attendees to consider water’s ability to be a catalyst for socio-economic welfare, urbanization and sustainability.

“A world without oil is possible – a world without water is not,” said Lapera.

Lapera serves as Global Solutions Director of Architecture for Jacobs Engineering, leading large, cross-discipline teams for complex building and infrastructure projects. He leads seven design-centered architecture markets: aviation, healthcare, science and research, higher education, federal, interiors, and transit facilities. A major focus of his work is the development of a NextGEN Infrastructure platform which focuses on operational ingenuity, socio-economic growth, and a more strategic allocation of resources to deliver major Infrastructure projects. He is currently the project manager for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection’s Rikers Island Feasibility Study. He has also collaborated on strategic planning for the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (ALCOSAN) and Wilmington, Delaware Water Authorities.

Lapera received his Master of Architecture Degree from Harvard University and Bachelor of Architecture Degree from Cornell University. In 2014, he was elevated to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

About NYWEA: Founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a nonprofit educational organization, NYWEA has 2,500 members statewide and hosts several technical conferences each year for environmental engineers, scientists, water resource recovery operators, public officials and others who work in water and wastewater quality management. In addition, NYWEA sponsors a scholarship program, publishes *Clear Waters* – a quarterly educational magazine, administers wastewater operator training and certification, and supports humanitarian clean water projects. Headquartered in Syracuse, NYWEA has seven regional chapters, 15 college student chapters and is a Member Association of the international Water Environment Federation. For more information, please visit www.nywea.org.



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