

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 7-9, 2025

Wenatchee Convention Center

14th Annual IACC Awards

Nominations are being sought for the fourteenth annual Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) Awards. IACC is seeking nominations for Outstanding Achievement in Public Works Projects throughout the state. The IACC Awards will be presented during the IACC Conference in Wenatchee after lunch on Wednesday, October 8th.

The purpose of the IACC Awards is to acknowledge outstanding achievement by IACC members, local governments, and individuals whose efforts best showcase the mission of the IACC to assist rural communities in improving utilities and repairing failing infrastructure. Nominees should clearly demonstrate a commitment to communities, the infrastructure that makes communities livable, creative problem solving, or demonstrate a lifetime of success in these areas.

Nominations can be made in one of the following categories:

- Community Impact
- Creative Solutions
- Environmental Stewardship
- Joe Mitschelen Lifetime Achievement Award

For details on how to nominate individuals or organizations for the IACC Awards for Outstanding Public Works Projects please visit www.infracfunding.wa.gov.

Nominations must be submitted via email to the IACC awards committee by Friday, September 5, 2025, at 5 p.m. [Nomination forms](#), instructions and other information about the awards may be obtained by visiting www.infracfunding.wa.gov or by contacting Greg Armstrong at 560-480-7428 or GregA@tib.wa.gov or Sean Mellon at 360-628-7318 or sean.mellon@ecy.wa.gov.

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Keynote Speaker



Casey Sixkiller was appointed by Governor Bob Ferguson as the 14th Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology. With more than two decades of experience in federal, Tribal, regional, and local government, Casey brings a deep commitment to environmental stewardship and practical, results-driven leadership.

As Director, he oversees a biennial budget of \$2.8 billion and a workforce of 2,200 employees dedicated to protecting Washington's air, land, and water. He is leading the agency through a pivotal era of implementing nation-leading climate policies, investing in clean energy solutions, protecting critical water resources, and addressing legacy pollution while centering that work on those communities most affected.

Before joining Ecology, Casey served as Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 10, where he led efforts to protect human health and the environment across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and 271 Tribal nations. His work focused on scaling climate solutions, modernizing

water infrastructure, and advancing environmental justice.

Previously, he was Deputy Mayor of Seattle and Chief Operating Officer of King County, where he managed major public health, transportation, and environmental initiatives. His career in public service began in Washington, D.C., working for U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott and U.S. Sen. Patty Murray. He later helped establish the Cherokee Nation's Washington office, advocating for Tribal sovereignty and federal investment.

An enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation, Casey was born and raised in Washington. He grew up in Seattle and spent time in central Washington, where his grandfather previously worked as a chemist at the Hanford Site and later for an agricultural business in Yakima. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and a proud father of three.

At his core, Casey believes in the power of collaboration and action. Whether sitting with communities facing contaminated water, working with farmers and Tribes to protect vital resources, or shaping policy to ensure a cleaner future, he is driven by the belief that we must leave the world better for the next generation.

Registration

Conference Registration:

Register at:

www.infracfunding.wa.gov/conference.html

If you do not have internet access please contact registration at (360) 753-4137.

Credit cards will be accepted for online registration only.

Early bird registrations received prior to **September 12** are \$250 per person. **After September 12 and onsite registration will be \$350.**

For registration questions, contact Registration at (360) 753-4137 or email at registration@awcnet.org.

Registration includes:

- 2 Buffet Breakfasts
- 2 Buffet Lunches
- 2 Beverage/Snack Breaks
- Conference Material
- Access to in-depth project specific technical assistance
- Evening social event at the nearby Pybus Public Market on October 7.
- Exhibitors' Reception the evening of October 8.

Refund and Cancellation Policy:

Request for refunds, minus a \$25 processing fee, must be received via email by **September 12**. **No refunds will be made after that date.**

Special Accommodations:

Individuals requiring special accommodations may request written material in alternate format, sign language, interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodations by contacting Claire Miller at (509) 505-3046 or claire.miller@commerce.wa.gov by **September 12**.

Wenatchee Hotel Information:

Conference participants are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. We were able to block a limited number of rooms at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel. Call to arrange for your stay and identify yourself as a

participant of the IACC Conference to receive the special conference rates, before **September 12**.

When: October 7-9, 2025

Where: Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel
201 N. Wenatchee Avenue

Reservations: (509) 662-1234

Mention IACC when you call.

Other hotels nearby with a similar government rate and reserved rooms:

Hilton Garden Inn (509) 662-0600

Red Lion (509) 663-0711 (group code IACC101)

LaQuinta Inn & Suites (509) 664-6565

Scholarships:

A limited number of scholarships are available to conference attendees based on need and on a first come, first served basis. The deadline to request a scholarship is **September 12**.

IACC Scholarships:

IACC scholarships are for \$250 and are limited to one per organization or community. To apply for an IACC scholarship, contact Brianna Morin at 360-753-4137 or briannam@awcnet.org. Communities that receive a scholarship from AWC are not eligible for an IACC Scholarship.

City Scholarships:

The Association of Washington Cities offers scholarships for conference registration to Washington cities and towns. Small City Scholarships are available to cities and towns under 5,000 in population. To apply for a Small City Scholarship, enter the discount code **2025ICSCS** at checkout when registering. The Small City Scholarship is limited to one per jurisdiction. Cities over 5,000 in population experiencing financial difficulty may apply for assistance under the [Washington Cities Scholarship Program](#).

Cities who are AWC RMSA members can also apply for scholarships through RMSA. For questions about these scholarship opportunities, please contact RMSA staff at RMSA@awcnet.org.

Certificate of Municipal Leadership (CML) Credits

City elected officials will earn 7 credits toward the Certificate of Municipal Leadership in the Infrastructure, Transportation, and Land Use category. For more information please visit <https://wacities.org/events-education/cml-program>.

Continuing Education Units (CEU)

IACC has requested approval to offer CEUs for many of our sessions. Once approval is received, more information will be posted on the website.

Exhibitor Booths:

Many people will attend the conference looking for technical and financial assistance for infrastructure projects. A limited number of booths are available for **\$800**.

The Booth Package includes:

- Booth size: 3' x 8'
- Booth drapery: 8' high black backwall, no side walls
- One skirted table

- Two chairs
- Electrical outlets
- Full conference registration for **one person**

For more information, or to reserve an exhibitor booth, contact Amie Smith at amie.smith@commerce.wa.gov.

Social Event

(Tuesday, October 7, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.):

Pybus Public Market: www.pybuspublicmarket.org

You are invited to join us for light refreshments and a no host bar.

Exhibitor Reception

(Wednesday, October 8, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.):

Come meet our exhibitors and learn more about their programs, products, and services. IACC will provide light refreshments and a no-host bar.

Tech Teams

Do you have an infrastructure improvement project that you know you must tackle, but aren't sure how to pay for it? Would you like to meet with funding program staff to learn about possible resources for your project? If so, we have an opportunity for you!

On Tuesday morning, October 7, we will organize "Tech Team" meetings in which you will have the opportunity to present your project to funding program staff, and learn how various programs may be able to assist you. By the end of the meeting your community will have an actionable plan of next steps to address your issue.

To request a Tech Team meeting, click on this link www.infracore.wa.gov/conference.html and select Tech Team Request Form. Tech team requests must be submitted by **September 1, 2025**. When filling out the form, please include as much project information as possible. Once you submit the form, Claire Miller will reach out to you. If you have questions, contact Claire Miller at 509-505-3046 or Claire.Miller@commerce.wa.gov.

Please note:

- The original request for a Tech Team must come from a community member.
- Tech Team meetings are organized to help communities prioritize multiple infrastructure challenges, develop a specific project idea, or plan for projects that will need multiple funding partners or that face complicated regulatory issues.
- Tech Team meetings are scheduled for Tuesday morning, October 7, before the official start of the conference. Our pool of agency staff is limited to those who are available on Tuesday morning.
- The IACC Tech Team schedule is finalized 3 weeks before the conference so that staff have adequate time to prepare.

Conference Schedule

Tuesday - October 7, 2025	
11:45 - 1:00	REGISTRATION - LUNCH - WELCOME REMARKS - KEYNOTE
1:30 - 2:30	S1 Broadband Coalitions and Efficiencies in Operations
	S2 Ecology Water Quality Financial Assistance Overview
	S3 USDA Community Facilities Funding
	S4 Protect, Save, Grow your Assets
	S5 Cybersecurity and Emergency Response Planning for the Water Sector
2:45 - 3:45	S6 Solid Waste Planning with Action in Mind
	S7 Transportation Funding Panel (LOCATED IN FOUNTAIN HALL)
	S8 DWSRF Funding and Program Updates
	S9 Wastewater Basics- What you Need to Know about Taking Care of your 
	S10 Proportional Impact Fees - What They Are and How They Work
4:00 - 5:00	S11 Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Consortium
	S12 Main Street Revitalization Panel
	S13 USDA Water and Wastewater Funding Opportunities
	S14 Connecting Housing to Infrastructure Program (CHIP)
	S15 Deer Park Aeration Lagoon Improvements Project Recap
5:30 - 7:30	Social Event at the Pybus Market
6:00 - 9:00	S16 Short Course in Local Planning
Wednesday - October 8, 2025 - Morning	
7:00 - 8:00	BREAKFAST
8:15 - 9:15	S17 Advancing Infrastructure Through Tribal/Local Partnerships
	S18 WSDOT Active Transportation Funding Programs
	S19 Applying for and Managing a DWSRF Loan
	S20 Emergency Response: Funding and Public Agency Coordination
	S21 FUN In Funding 3.0: Back to Basics
9:30 - 10:30	S22 Cultural Resource Panel
	S23 WSDOT Local Programs Funding Overview
	S24 Planning to Construction – Getting Your Wastewater Project Funded and Through Ecology Review
	S25 Community Facility Grants
	S26 Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) 101
8:15 - 10:15	FIELD TRIP: City of Wenatchee Wastewater Treatment Plant
10:45 - 11:45	S27 Tribal Infrastructure Funding Panel
	S28 How to Optimize Projects for Road Safety Funding Opportunities
	S29 DWSRF Emerging Contaminants in Small and Disadvantaged Communities Grant – Yes, Even You!
	S30 Timing Stormwater Projects to Maximize Results
	S31 CERB - Community Builders Collective

Conference Schedule

Wednesday - October 8, 2025 - Afternoon

12:00 - 1:15	LUNCH - AWARDS
1:30 - 2:30	S32 Asset Management for Tribal Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems
	S33 ADA 101
	S34 Funding to Protect Your Drinking Water Source
	S35 EPA's Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap Engineering Technical Assistance
	S36 Partners for Rural WA--Resources for Washington's Smallest Communities
2:45 - 3:45	S37 Funding Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Projects with the Indian Health Service
	S38 Confessions of Two Grantaholics: How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Application Process
	S39 Co-Funding Water and Wastewater Projects: Coordinating with Multiple Agencies
	S40 Unlocking Potential: Brownfields as Catalysts for Community Revitalization
	S41 What Do You Do When the Lights Go Out? Lessons Learned in 2 Years of Energy Resilience Work in WA
4:00 - 5:00	S42 Tribal Reception (LOCATED IN FOUNTAIN HALL)
	S43 ArcGIS Online for Small Water/Wastewater Utilities
	S44 OSS to Sewer Conversion
	S45 Brownfields 101: Turning Blighted Properties into Benefits, One Step at a Time
	S46 Drought Planning in the Mid-Columbia Basin: Protecting the Drinking Water Supply
5:00 - 6:30	Exhibitor's Reception

Thursday - October 9, 2025


7:00 - 8:00	BREAKFAST
8:15 - 9:15	S47 DWSRF Cultural and Environmental Review Overview
	S48 Conducting Board Meetings
	S49 Tips and Tricks to Procuring Professional Services
	S50 Homegrown Database for Improved Project Management
	S51 Evergreen Community Recognition Program: Does Money Grow on Trees?
9:30 - 10:30	S52 Avoiding Due Diligence Pitfalls: How to Navigate Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments (ESA)
	S53 Recovering the Cost of Development with Customer Buy In: Connection Charges
	S54 DWSRF Technical Assistance – IT'S FREE!
	S55 Clean Buildings Performance Standard- Tier 2 Compliance & Incentives
	S56 Simplifying SAM.gov
8:15 - 10:15	FIELD TRIP: City of Wenatchee Wastewater Treatment Plant
8:15 - 10:15	FIELD TRIP: City of Wenatchee Stormwater Walking Tour
10:45 - 11:45	S57 Cultural Resource Investigations, Archaeological Monitoring, and Your Project
	S58 Working with Finance and Philanthropy: Funding Opportunities with Foundations and Impact Investors
	S59 Washington Loan Tracking (WALT)
	S60 Implementing SFAP Funds and Using Environmental Justice Strategies
	S61 Behavioral Health and Early Learning Facilities Funding Opportunities

Session Descriptions

Tuesday 1:30 - 2:30 PM

S1	Broadband Coalitions and Efficiencies in Operations Ernie Rasmussen Executive Director Bigfoot Communications of the Colville Tribes Leslie Hardwick Tribal Liaison NoaNet Melissa King Broadband Manager Nez Perce Tribe Fran Goli Director of Broadband Initiatives Shoshone-Bannock Tribe	The Inland Northwest Tribal Broadband Coalition is an InterTribal and InterState effort to achieve efficiencies in operations. Not all networks can have their own Network Engineer, Billing Specialist, or FCC Compliance Officer. INTBC has a mission to “Share Resources to Strengthen Ourselves and Each Other” whether that be time resources, human resources or even financial resources. INTBC is made up of the Colville Tribes, Spokane Tribe, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Nez Perce and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and would like to share how it succeeded in its efforts.
S2	Ecology Water Quality Financial Assistance Overview Karen Izumoto Water Quality Combined Funding Planner Department of Ecology (DOE)	Ecology’s Water Quality program provides more than \$150 M in grants and loans annually to cities, counties, Tribes, ports, and special purpose districts. The Water Quality Combined funding program uses one application for 7 state and federal fund sources. Over 100 wastewater, stormwater, onsite sewage, and nonpoint projects are funded each year. Join us and learn about available funding, eligible projects, and how to apply. Connect with Ecology staff who can help navigate the requirements and advise on next steps.
S3	USDA Community Facilities Funding Cathleen Walker Loan Specialist Jason Reyna Loan Specialist USDA Rural Development (RD)	Come and get information on how a community, a nonprofit, or a Tribe can fund projects such as City Halls, Fire Stations, Medical Facilities, and Essential Equipment under USDA Community Facilities Program. Disaster Assistance Fund (DAF) will be discussed as well.
S4	Protect, Save, Grow your Assets Amie Smith (Moderator) Program Lead Department of Commerce (COM) PANEL	<p>This session will highlight ways your public entity can protect its funds from fraud, increase its balances through cost-saving measures, and grow its funds through thoughtful, secure investment practices.</p> <p>A representative from the Washington State Auditor’s office will share ways to ensure that your entity’s resources are there when you need them. Water/Wastewater Operators with Evergreen Rural Water of Washington will lay out cost-saving ideas that have been proven to help an entity obtain the needed supplies and equipment. A prior district manager will share best practices and practical steps to ensure that your entity’s funds are growing and available when you need them.</p>
S5	What Do You Do When the Lights Go Out? Lessons Learned in 2 Years of Energy Resilience Work in WA Kate Pedersen Energy Resilience Specialist Department of Commerce (COM)	What do you do when your power goes off for more than a couple of hours? The Washington Energy Resilience Technical Assistance Program has been addressing these questions across the state while working with dozens of communities to define what energy resilience means to them. You will leave this session with a new understanding of resilience, ways to develop an energy resilience goal, possible solutions to reach that goal, and examples to look to as you embark on your own energy resilient journey. What does your community do when the power goes out? Maybe it doesn’t have to.

Session Descriptions

Tuesday 2:45 - 3:45 PM		
S6	Solid Waste Planning with Action in Mind Erik Makinson President/Founder Resource Synergy LLC Lam Chan Assistant Director of Public Works & Utilities Spokane Tribe of Indians	The Spokane Tribe worked with Resource Synergy to analyze and develop an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. Through that process, they partnered on solutions with neighboring Tribes and developed a plan that will be used to move the Tribe's 5 communities into a new era of sustainability. This plan is anticipated to deliver a foundation for the next decade of waste management on the Spokane Reservation.
S7	Transportation Funding Panel Jay Drye (Moderator) Director, Local Programs Division Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) PANEL	Learn about transportation programs and resources from city, county, and state partners. Panelists from AWC, CRAB, TIB, WSAC and WSDOT will provide an opportunity in this session to hear program information, differences between the funding programs, limits and use specifics, as well as collaboration efforts to support local agencies with their transportation projects. The session will include time for questions and answers.
S8	DWSRF Funding and Program Updates Chris Pettit Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Manager Department of Health (DOH)	This presentation will provide important updates about DWSRF funding availability for planning, project construction, and consolidation, as well as updates to program guidelines and administration.
S9	Wastewater Basics- What you Need to Know about Taking Care of your  Kim Prisock Environmental Engineer Stephanie Allen Environmental Engineer Department of Ecology (DOE)	Do you wish your onboarding as an elected official, board member, public works or administrative staff included a crash course on your responsibilities for operating and managing wastewater utilities? This session will break down the who, what, where, and why's of wastewater in Washington State. Ecology staff will cover everything from regulations and asset management to more fun topics like technical assistance and funding opportunities with the goal of helping you feel more informed, equipped, and empowered to care for and support your wastewater utility.
S10	Proportional Impact Fees - What They Are and How They Work Lilith Vespier Infill Housing Manager Department of Commerce (COM) Megan Quinn Director, Municipal & District Finance Harris & Associates	Proportional impact fees are a new state requirement, under RCW 82.02.060. Additionally, other changes in state statute have modified how system development charges are collected. This presentation will present the new Residential Proportional Impact Fees and System Development Charges Guidebook issued by Commerce, including a review of the changes in state law and the pro's and con's of these changes.
Tuesday 4:00 - 5:00 PM		
S11	Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Consortium Oxcenia O'Domi Executive Director Ashley Corrao GAP Program Director Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee Consortium	This session will provide a brief overview of the Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC), including how it was formed, who serves on it, key functions and the importance of its work. The RTOC's mission is to protect and improve tribal health and environmental conditions in accordance with EPA Indian Policy, the federal trust responsibility, and applicable treaties, laws, regulations, policies, and guidance. The RTOC is composed of 11 elected Tribal Representatives and EPA Administrators service Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. Supporting this effort, the RTOC Consortium assists by carrying out the operational and administrative work of the committee.

Session Descriptions

S12	Main Street Revitalization Panel Greg Armstrong (Moderator) Project Engineer Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) PANEL	This panel is a case study of three small cities (Carnation, Cle Elum, and Tonasket) and their experience with major main street downtown revitalization projects and the lessons learned during the process.
S13	USDA Water and Wastewater Funding Opportunities Mike Lamey Loan Specialist Rick Rose Loan Specialist USDA Rural Development (RD)	USDA can fund water, wastewater, solid waste facilities and equipment. Come find out about the details of the funding program and how you can apply for funding. Disaster Assistance Fund (DAF) will be discussed as well.
S14	Connecting Housing to Infrastructure Program (CHIP) Mischa Venables CHIP Program Manager Department of Commerce (COM)	The CHIP program provides funding to connect affordable housing to water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure. Funding is available for on-site water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure, as well as for off-site infrastructure necessary to extend existing facilities to the site. CHIP also reimburses any waived or reduced system development charges. Since 2021, CHIP has awarded \$98M, supporting nearly 9,500 units of affordable housing. Applications for the next round of funding are due September by 15th. Mischa will highlight some projects from previous funding rounds, as well as review requirements and the application process.
S15	Deer Park Aeration Lagoon Improvements Project Recap Samuel Mineer Assistant Project Manager Layne Merritt Project Manager J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc.	The City of Deer Park improved their wastewater treatment plant with a 7.6 MG aeration lagoon and dual 60 HP effluent lift station to reduce potential impacts to water quality in Dragoon Creek and to serve the community for the planning period. This presentation will discuss the timeline and steps taken for implementing the improvements identified in their Wastewater Facility Plan Update document, including design, permitting, bidding, construction, funding sources, and takeaways/insights
Tuesday 6:00 - 9:00 PM		
S16	Short Course on Local Planning Jeff Aken Senior Planner Department of Commerce (COM) Simon Vickery Associate Davis Arneil Law Firm Kirsten Larsen Senior Planner City of Wenatchee	<p>The Short Course on Local Planning is an overview for planning commissioners, interested residents, those new to Washington State, and those interested in local leadership positions. The class includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An overview of the complex mix of land use planning laws that work together to support land-use decision-making in Washington state. 2. An introduction to comprehensive planning and plan implementation under the Growth Management Act. 3. A review of the roles in planning and best practices for public participation. 4. Mandatory training on the Open Public Meetings Act for local government officials, and an introduction to the Public Records Act. <p>*All courses are offered at no charge and are open to the public.</p>

Session Descriptions

Wednesday 8:15 - 9:15 AM		
S17	Advancing Infrastructure Through Tribal/Local Partnerships Mary Miller Tribal Technical Assistance Lead Department of Commerce (COM)	This session will delve into the dynamic landscape of Tribal-led community partnerships, focusing on the innovative strategies employed by Tribes to foster collaboration and advance infrastructure benefiting both Tribal and neighboring communities. Projects highlighted in this session will be presented by Tribal staff and leadership.
S18	WSDOT Active Transportation Funding Programs Chris Hawkins WSDOT Active Transportation Planner Adele Peers Education & Encouragement Planner Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) TBD	Washington State Department of Transportation has had over \$120 million per biennium available in recent years to grant to local agency and tribal government partners to make improvements for walking and bicycling in communities across Washington. Learn more about the multiple opportunities (Pedestrian/Bicyclist, Safe Routes to School and Sandy Williams Connecting Communities programs) that will be available within the next year, criteria WSDOT will be using to evaluate applications, and other new programs (e-bikes). Key program staff will be on-hand to answer questions you may have.
S19	Applying for and Managing a DWSRF Loan Jocelyne Gray Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Environmental Engineer Department of Health (DOH)	Learn how a water system applied for then managed a DWSRF Loan. Learn about the application process, the application evaluation, and how a water system managed the loan during construction.
S20	Emergency Response: Funding and Public Agency Coordination Max Wedding (Moderator) Program Manager Public Works Board (PWB) PANEL	This session will explore the different sources available for funding repairs of and getting assistance during emergency infrastructure situations caused by unforeseen circumstances or acts of nature. A panel of state funders and resource providers will discuss projects that included coordination across state and local partners and how long-term solutions to the emergencies were addressed.
S21	FUN In Funding 3.0: Back to Basics Annalisa Noble Principal Funding Strategist Tower Consulting Amelia Alberts Principal Funding Specialist Compass Strategies	Now in its third year, this session returns to the FUNdamentals of strong grant applications. As competitive pressures increase and agency budgets tighten, strong, well-prepared applications matter more than ever. We'll cover the nuances of what funders (ECY, CDBG, DWSRF, etc.) are really looking for—based on firsthand experience, interpreting guidelines, and candid conversations with agency staff. Perfect for new applicants, rural communities, and local leaders looking to strengthen their grant writing foundation—because winning grant applications put the FUN in Funding!
Wednesday 9:30 - 10:30 AM		
S22	Cultural Resource Panel Scott Kugel (Moderator) Cultural and Environmental Program Specialist Department of Health (DOH) PANEL	Whether required by permitting or funding, or done proactively, it is important for local governments to consider impacts of infrastructure projects on historic and archaeological sites, which are non-renewable. This panel discussion will consist of Tribes, consultants, and DAHP providing insights and tips on best practices for completing cultural resource reviews and engaging in Tribal consultation.

Session Descriptions

S23	WSDOT Local Programs Funding Overview Jay Drye Director, Local Programs Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	An overview of funding resources from the WSDOT Local Programs Division. WSDOT Local Programs assists cities, counties, tribes and other transportation partners with technical and financial support. General information will be provided on the structure of transportation funding programs in the state, with detail on federal programs and more.
S24	Planning to Construction – Getting Your Wastewater Project Funded and Through Ecology Review Eleanor (Ellie) Ott Senior Environmental Engineer Greg Dobb Environmental Engineer Department of Ecology (DOE)	Wastewater improvement projects can be costly, complex, and take years to see from planning to fruition. This presentation will cover the Department of Ecology involvement through all project phases and provide guidance on how to get plans and designs through Ecology review and approval efficiently. The presentation will also cover how to fund a project through Ecology funding opportunities and provide tips for writing a competitive funding application.
S25	Community Facility Grants Mara Isaacson Program Manager Chelsea Bagwell Program Manager Department of Commerce (COM)	<p>Overview of WA Department of Commerce competitive capital facilities programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building for the Arts • Building Communities Fund • Youth Recreational Facilities • Library Capital Improvement Program <p>Grant requirements, eligibility, general state requirements, and spotlight of several completed projects to get you ready for Spring 2026 applications.</p>
S26	Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) 101 Janea Stark Executive Director & Tribal Liaison Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)	CERB's mission is to fund public infrastructure to support private job creation/retention, as well as broadband connectivity. This session will include an overview of CERB's administered infrastructure funding programs.
Wednesday 10:45 - 11:45 AM		
S27	Tribal Infrastructure Funding Panel Melissa Conger (Moderator) Stormwater Project Specialist Department of Ecology (DOE) PANEL	This panel brings together state and federal agencies with funding programs that can support Tribes with infrastructure projects - from sanitation to water resources and more. Tribal planners will gain valuable insights into available funding sources and partnership opportunities.
S28	How to Optimize Projects for Road Safety Funding Opportunities Briana Weisgerber Active Transportation Programs Engineer Matthew Enders WSDOT Technical Services Manager Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Andrew Beagle NE Regional Engineer Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)	The Transportation Improvement Board and Washington State Department of Transportation have funding opportunities available for local agencies to plan and implement roadway safety projects in Washington state. This panel will discuss elements of roadway safety project design and how to submit applications for the funding programs that include competitive safety treatments. This includes speed management, intersection design, and considerations for active transportation.

Session Descriptions

S29	DWSRF Emerging Contaminants in Small and Disadvantaged Communities Grant – Yes, Even You! Sam Delmer Emerging Contaminants Program Administrator Department of Health (DOH)	DWSRF is offering financial help through the EPA's Emerging Contaminants in Small and Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) grant to public water systems that serve small or disadvantaged communities to provide funding for engineering, construction, and free technical support to eligible water systems.
S30	Timing Stormwater Projects to Maximize Results Sarah Zehner Stormwater Financial Assistance Program Planner Department of Ecology (DOE)	This session will demystify Ecology's Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (SFAP) grants for strategic infrastructure investments. We'll cover strategies for integrating SFAP funding with broader infrastructure projects and advantages of water quality capital improvement planning to apply for funding. We'll have a technical discussion on the design process and share how to leverage our funding to enhance your stormwater maintenance program.
S31	CERB - Community Builders Collective Janea Stark Executive Director & Tribal Liaison Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)	<p>Come learn about CERB's new community of practice launching this Fall.</p> <p>The Community Builders Collaborative (CBC) is a community of practice created by CERB to connect infrastructure and project development professionals across Washington State, especially those serving rural, tribal, and historically under-resourced communities.</p> <p>Designed as a 24/7, peer-powered learning environment, the CBC will make it easier for practitioners to share tools, exchange insights, and build relationships rooted in trust, connection, and a shared commitment to the people behind the projects. It's about bringing more humanity into the often complex, technical world of public infrastructure.</p> <p>By creating space for collaboration and support, the CBC aims to grow local capacity, reduce isolation, and ensure more communities have the knowledge and connections they need to move projects forward.</p>
Wednesday 1:30 - 2:30 PM		
S32	Asset Management for Tribal Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems Dessa Wells Regional Field Manager Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)	<p>A central focus of the training is Asset Management (AM)—a strategic approach to utility operations and maintenance (O&M) that helps extend the lifespan of infrastructure and promote sustainability. A key challenge for small Tribal water and wastewater systems is the failure to plan financially for the replacement of assets, which remains one of the most common pitfalls in long-term utility management.</p> <p>This session will guide participants through the asset management process and provide user-friendly spreadsheet tools that operators and utility managers can use to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate effectively with boards, councils, and customers • Demonstrate financial responsibility • Justify and support rate adjustments when necessary <p>By attending this session, operators will be better equipped to make informed decisions and advocate for the resources their systems need to thrive.</p>

Session Descriptions

S33	ADA 101 Maggie Slife LTAP ADA Engineer Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	The purpose of this seminar is to cover the basics of the Americans with Disabilities Act and how it may affect construction project planning, scoping, design, , and construction practices. This course will cover a general outline of the intent and purpose of the law, current ADA standards and best practices, and finally a “common questions and answers” session. Each section will run about 15 minutes with a 15-minute Q&A session at the end.
S34	Funding to Protect Your Drinking Water Source Chelsea Cannard Source Water Protection Program Manager Deborah Johnson Wellhead Protection Program Coordinator Department of Health (DOH)	Source water protection is but one of many water system planning requirements and is the first barrier to protecting drinking water from risks of contamination and decline in production. During this presentation, we will give an overview of source water protection and why it’s important. We will discuss how to develop working relationships between local governments and water utilities for zoning and planning. We provide information about wellhead protection areas and improving data through modeling. And finally, we will talk about the funding DOH has available for source water protection projects!
S35	EPA’s Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap Engineering Technical Assistance Ryan Gross Technical Assistance Engineer U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Janet Cherry Senior Environmental Engineer Eastern Research Group	EPA’s Closing America’s Wastewater Access Gap (CAWAG) Initiative provides no-cost, engineering technical assistance to communities with failing septic systems or without wastewater infrastructure. The TA provider produces engineering and environmental documents to support funding applications. Come hear EPA and contractor ERG talk about CAWAG case studies in Washington. This presentation is interactive, so bring ideas for wastewater projects to workshop or just come to listen.
S36	Partners for Rural WA--Resources for Washington's Smallest Communities Jody Opheim Executive Director Staci Nelson Director of Grant Services Partners for Rural Washington (PRWA)	PRWA is Washington’s Rural Development Council, committed to connecting rural and frontier communities to resources they need most. Learn more about how PRWA can support your small staff’s efforts to improve infrastructure, grow businesses, and serve residents.
Wednesday 2:45 - 3:45 PM		
S37	Funding Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Projects with the Indian Health Service Ashley Martinez Environmental Engineer Sierra Schatz Environmental Engineer Indian Health Service (HIS)	The Indian Health Service (IHS) Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction provides funding and technical support for the design and construction of water, wastewater, and solid waste projects for federally-recognized Tribes. This presentation will address IHS’s funding programs and eligibility requirements for individual homes, repair/replacement of existing community water/wastewater systems and installation of new water/wastewater infrastructure for new housing developments. This session will also provide examples of recently completed projects.
S38	Confessions of Two Grantaholics: How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Application Process Maria Serra Public Works Director City of Pasco Steve Worley Public Works Director City of Vancouver	Join two seasoned Public Works Directors as they share the good, the bad, and the occasionally ridiculous truths of chasing infrastructure funding in Washington. From decoding grant-speak to building projects that make funders say “yes,” we’ll walk you through what works (and what definitely doesn’t), with practical tips, real-world examples, and just enough humor to keep you from crying into your budget spreadsheet.

Session Descriptions

S39	Co-Funding Water and Wastewater Projects: Coordinating with Multiple Agencies Max Wedding (Moderator) Program Manager Public Works Board (PWB) PANEL	This session will present three different projects that coordinated with multiple funding agencies and local officials to successfully fund a project. The session will include a Q&A portion with representatives from the communities.
S40	Unlocking Potential: Brownfields as Catalysts for Community Revitalization Bridget Paris (Moderator) Program Manager, Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Department of Commerce (COM) PANEL	<p>Once seen as obstacles to development, brownfields are increasingly being recognized as untapped assets that can spark economic growth, environmental restoration, and social revitalization. This session will explore how communities are turning the challenges of brownfield sites into opportunities—transforming underused, contaminated properties into vibrant spaces for housing, business, green infrastructure, and public amenities.</p> <p>Attendees will learn about innovative strategies for brownfield redevelopment, including tribal partnership, federal and state funding sources, and inclusive planning processes that engage local residents. Real-world case studies will highlight successful projects that not only improved land value and public health but also fostered equity, resilience, and long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Whether you're a planner, developer, policymaker, or community advocate, this session will offer practical tools and inspiration to reimagine brownfields as building blocks for thriving, future-ready communities.</p>
S41	Cybersecurity and Emergency Response Planning for the Water Sector Kimberly Moore Engineering & Technical Services Manager Department of Health (DOH)	Latest industry information regarding cyber security and America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) planning requirements that enable water systems of all sizes to become more resilient in risk-based hazard response. This presentation will provide water and wastewater system managers, certified Water Works and Wastewater Operators, and decision makers for these entities with an understanding of the key elements of an emergency response plan, tools available to help assess risk, and information regarding related requirements in current and future drinking water regulations
Wednesday 4:00 - 5:00 PM		
S42	Tribal Reception	You are warmly invited to join us for a special Tribal Reception to gather, communicate, and network around Tribal infrastructure. This event will take place on Tuesday afternoon from 4-5 pm, following the Tribal Technical Assistance panel in the Golden Delicious room. Don't miss this opportunity to network and foster connections among Tribes. All are welcome! Light refreshments will be provided.
S43	ArcGIS Online for Small Water/Wastewater Utilities Jack Rosenblit Small Utility Consultant Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)	This training will go over how to leverage ArcGIS Online to map out and maintain water/wastewater systems for small utilities.

Session Descriptions

S44	OSS to Sewer Conversion Corrina Marote Equitable Wastewater Futures Program Manager Public Health—Seattle & King County Matt Morkert Operations Manager, Vice President Century West Engineering Paul Weller Senior Project Manager PACE Engineers, Inc.	Washington faces challenges transitioning from On-Site Sewage Systems (OSS) to sewers due to environmental concerns, funding gaps, and high costs. This session explores required funding, available resources, and typical project expenses. Two case studies will highlight lessons learned, outreach efforts, challenges, and funding sources like ULID and grants, equipping local governments with key insights for successful conversions.
S45	Brownfields 101: Turning Blighted Properties into Benefits, One Step at a Time Elaine Heim Brownfields Communications Planner Department of Ecology (DOE) Bridget Paris Program Manager, Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Department of Commerce (COM) Sarah Frederick EPA Brownfields Project Manager U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Brownfields are formerly developed properties that are vacant or underutilized and may be contaminated, like long-closed gas stations and old industrial sites. Properties like these can drag down local economies and community morale, but resources can lift them up into public assets like jobs, parks, and affordable housing. In this fast-paced session peppered with case studies, the State Brownfields Team will share the basics of brownfields, identify funding resources, and explain just what “technical assistance” means. Bring your curiosity and come away inspired!
S46	Drought Planning in the Mid-Columbia Basin: Protecting the Drinking Water Supply Brean Neiman Financial Coordinator/Grant Lead Lincoln County Conservation District Kevin Lindsey Principal Hydrogeologist GeoEngineers	<p>The Mid-Columbia Basin’s water resources are facing unmitigated threats from drought, creating risks to public health, agriculture, and the local economy. Drought directly threatens access to a safe, reliable supply of drinking water and jeopardizes crop production. Given the region’s economic dependence on agriculture, drought impacts also threaten economic stability and security. The Mid-Columbia Basin Drought Preparedness Plan (the Plan) will create locally driven drought resiliency recommendations that will influence water management and direct future resources toward drought resilient water solutions.</p> <p>Many communities in the Mid-Columbia Basin rely on groundwater as their drinking water source. Drought increases groundwater withdrawal rates and stresses the local aquifer, which is in decline. Municipal and community water systems and farmers in the region are already struggling to meet their water demand; some are being forced to lower their pumps as water levels fall, switch to shallow sources that require costly treatment, or develop expensive water storage projects. In agriculture, dryland farming is vulnerable to drought as the water supply comes directly from rain. Irrigated agriculture in the Plan area relies on surface water supplied by the Bureau’s Columbia Basin Irrigation Project; agricultural lands without access to CBP water irrigate with groundwater.</p> <p>The Plan kicked off in February 2025 and will be completed by February 2027.</p>

Session Descriptions

Thursday 8:15 - 9:15 AM		
S47	DWSRF Cultural and Environmental Review Overview Scott Kugel Cultural and Environmental Program Specialist Department of Health (DOH)	An overview of the cultural and environmental review requirements for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) funded project. Learn about what our environmental reviews look like, how cultural resource reviews are completed, and how to best set yourself up for a successful project both before and after you apply for funding.
S48	Conducting Board Meetings Kathleen Strozyk Small Utility Consultant I Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)	This training is for new and seasoned governing members who are interested in holding professional and time-efficient meetings for drinking water and wastewater systems. This session will review executive sessions, agendas, and what elements should make up your agenda, minutes for public record, and the importance of record keeping and what records to keep. This information will help the utility hold professional meetings that keep the structure of the board meeting on track, so that the meeting produces effective results.
S49	Tips and Tricks to Procuring Professional Services Travis Porter Project Manager Department of Commerce (COM)	Procuring Professional Services can make or break a project, but it doesn't have to be scary or difficult. In this session we will walk through the procurement process and share tips for developing a scope of work, setting up a request for qualifications, scoring proposals, and navigating expectations and communication. We will also explore some examples of projects and compare what made them successful, and what could have gone better.
S50	Homegrown Database for Improved Project Management Chris Malone Public Works Finance and Asset Manager City of Vancouver	Vancouver recently created and implemented a homegrown Sequel database to manage scope, schedule, and budget for the design of capital projects. This presentation will demonstrate the user interface and reporting capabilities of the database.
S51	Evergreen Community Recognition Program: Does Money Grow on Trees? Julia Kast Evergreen Communities Coordinator Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	The DNR's Urban & Community Forestry program provides technical and financial assistance to jurisdictions across the state. Its new Evergreen Community recognition program is an initiative to recognize and celebrate municipalities for their commitment to managing their urban trees. The financial assistance programs with four other state agencies include RCW language that requires consideration or preference to applicants recognized as an Evergreen Community. Learn more about the program and working options to incorporate into these agencies' funding opportunities.
Thursday 9:30 - 10:30 AM		
S52	Avoiding Due Diligence Pitfalls: How to Navigate Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) Sandra Matthews Ecology Site Manager & Northwest Region Office Team Lead Department of Ecology (DOE)	Brownfields offer valuable redevelopment opportunities like affordable housing and retail space, but if due diligence isn't done correctly, you won't be eligible for resources that could have helped pay for it. Using real-world case studies and audience interaction, you'll learn about potential pitfalls and why you need to comply with All Appropriate Inquiries (AAI). You'll also get tips for finding qualified consultants, and resources that help you produce Phase I and II environmental site assessments that will satisfy statutory requirements.

Session Descriptions

S53	Recovering the Cost of Development with Customer Buy In: Connection Charges Chase Bozett Assistant Project Manager FCS, a Bowman Company	This presentation topic discusses capital funding sources available through utility rates and charges. The focus will provide an overview of how cities, counties, and special districts can apply connection charges when new customers connect to a utility system. We will cover the general methodologies available to calculate connection charges in Washington, as well as review the related laws in the RCW. This presentation will also discuss some recent trends in applying connection charges to accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and scaling the charges for single-family developments based on house size.
S54	DWSRF Technical Assistance – IT’S FREE! Sam Delmer Emerging Contaminants Program Administrator Department of Health (DOH)	DWSRF is offering free technical assistance to public water systems to improve their technical, managerial, and financial capacity to promote compliance and eligibility for DWSRF funding.
S55	Clean Buildings Performance Standard- Tier 2 Compliance & Incentives Jeff Rasmussen Outreach & Education Program Manager Department of Commerce (COM)	Overview of the CBPS Tier 2 compliance pathways and incentive programs. In this presentation, we walk through how can building owners comply with the standard, a utility provider’s role in supporting the building owner and how the new legislation plays a role in the buildings owner’s compliance.
S56	Simplifying SAM.gov Samuel Rodriguez Small Utilities Consultant I Rural Community Assistance Corp (RCAC)	SAM.gov (System for Award Management) registration is essential for all utilities seeking federal funding for infrastructure projects. To access these funds, entities must have an active Unique Entity ID (UEI), which needs to be renewed annually through SAM.gov. This step is often overlooked, which can delay important projects. Many utilities find SAM.gov to be complex, time-consuming, and filled with confusing government jargon. Users frequently experience frustration and struggle to find helpful resources. It’s also important to beware of scam sites that falsely offer UEI renewals for a fee, as they can seem very convincing. SAM.gov renewal is always free. This training session will simplify the registration and renewal process by highlighting common challenges and offering tips for easier navigation.
Thursday 10:45 - 11:45 AM		
S57	Cultural Resource Investigations, Archaeological Monitoring, and Your Project Samantha Fulgham Archaeologist Emily Whistler Archaeologist Plateau CRM	This session will describe the process of conducting a cultural resource survey and will describe how to keep your project timeline on track. It will include a description of the materials and information you might be able to provide that will help your consultant, and actions you might take to assist and keep the cultural resource project moving forward. The session will discuss the archaeological and cultural monitoring during project execution, and will describe the process. This presentation will also include information about the impacts to your project’s budget and timeline. The session will address project budgets, timelines, and other variables that might impact your project, and strategies to control those variables. There will be plenty of time to ask questions about procedures, strategies, or other questions the attendees may have.

Session Descriptions

S58	<p>Working with Finance and Philanthropy: Funding Opportunities with Foundations and Impact Investors</p> <p>Tresa Thomas Massiongale Principal Peacefield</p> <p>Jody Opheim Executive Director Partners for Rural Washington (PRWA)</p> <p>Sharon Miracle President and CEO Yakima Valley Community Foundation</p> <p>Robert Foster Co-Founder and Managing Director Courage Housing</p>	<p>Investors and philanthropists are working alongside communities across Washington to foster infrastructure development. In addition to capital upgrades, other areas include workforce, supply chain, partnership and change management, technology and many other domains. Funding for infrastructure projects will not be realized by relying solely on government grants or loans. The philanthropic and investment sectors are seeking opportunities to fund rigorously designed, well-managed and financially sustainable infrastructure projects.</p> <p>This panel brings together a corps of experts across relevant fields to discuss efforts in Washington to identify rigorously designed, well-managed, and financially sustainable infrastructure projects for private capital investment. What are the secrets to successful funding partnerships? How do communities find and build relationships with foundations, impact investors and other non-governmental funders? This session will provide tips and insights to help attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the mindset and trends influencing finance and philanthropy • Find and build relationships with grantmaking foundations, impact investors and other funding sources outside federal, state and local government programs • Frame and communicate their projects in terms that are compelling to foundations and financial professionals
S59	<p>Washington Loan Tracking (WALT)</p> <p>Jason Cammarano WALT Administrator Department of Health (DOH)</p>	<p>An overview of registering for DWSRF's application portal, navigation, avoiding pitfalls, what's new and Q&A.</p>
S60	<p>Implementing SFAP Funds and Using Environmental Justice Strategies</p> <p>Darci Ronning Utility Project Manager City of Wenatchee</p>	<p>The Department of Ecology Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (SFAP) provides flexible options for utilizing grant funding in combination with loans to help a utility complete other utility work while in the area. The combination of funds utilizes federal dollars at low interest loans allowing a utility to perform a "dig once" project. When federal loans are utilized, Ecology requires an environmental justice analysis which is a good business practice to follow for all projects. The environmental justice analysis helps a project manager consider all of the impacts the project will have to the community and plan mitigation efforts to lessen the burden while construction activity takes place.</p> <p>The City of Wenatchee has successfully been awarded 3 SFAP grants and has applied the dig once approach along with Environmental Justice considerations and actions on each project. This presentation will share the grant writing approach to each project and how environmental justice steps are implemented through construction. Projects will include the 9th Street Stormwater Retrofit project, the Pershing Street Stormwater Retrofit project and the Walla Walla Outfall Retrofit project. Each project has its own unique requirements for environmental justice considerations, city match dollars and loan requirements.</p>

Session Descriptions

S61	Behavioral Health and Early Learning Facilities Funding Opportunities Kristin Ramos Early Learning Facilities Supervisor Joe Price Behavioral Health Facilities Supervisor Department of Commerce (COM)	Join staff from the Department of Commerce to learn about behavioral health and early learning facilities. Both programs will have funding rounds open this autumn.
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Speaker Bios

<p>Jeff Aken Senior Planner Department of Commerce (COM)</p>	<p>Jeff Aken (he/him) is a senior planner for the Washington State Department of Commerce. As a regional planner in Growth Management Services, he provides technical assistance to jurisdictions in Snohomish and King Counties on comprehensive planning, parks, and historic preservation. Jeff has 18 years of professional planning experience, most recently as the Parks Planning Manager in the City of Redmond. Prior to that he worked as a planner for non-profit organizations including Forterra and Cascade Bicycle Club providing technical assistance, community engagement and policy development around healthy, sustainable communities. Jeff holds a bachelor's degree in political science, and a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Washington. Jeff lives in Wenatchee where he enjoys cross-country skiing in the winter and mountain biking and hiking in the warmer months.</p>
<p>Amelia Alberts Principal Funding Specialist Compass Strategies</p>	<p>Amelia Alberts is the owner of Compass Strategies, a grant writing consultancy based in Spokane with a primary focus on serving non-profits and rural communities throughout Washington state. She is a talented funding specialist and has accumulated an impressive resume of funding experience; since 2022 she has helped clients procure over 10 million in grants and loans. Amelia has specific experience with Department of Commerce, Department of Environmental Quality, USBR, IWRB, USDA RD, ARPA, DOT, AND FAA funding in Washington, Idaho, and other states. She prides herself on being an effective project manager while providing an authentic experience for both her clients and funding agencies throughout the grant process. Amelia is proficient in funding research, preparing funding matrices, writing and editing grant proposals, and helping manage the grant process from inception to award.</p>
<p>Stephanie Allen Environmental Engineer Department of Ecology (DOE)</p>	<p>Stephanie Allen is an engineer in the Financial Management Section of the Department of Ecology's Water Quality Program in Washington State. She provides funding and technical assistance coordination for small communities in western Washington. Her focus is Ecology funded small community wastewater infrastructure projects. She is a licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.) in the state of Washington. She received a graduate degree in Civil & Water Resources Engineering from Portland State University. Her background includes serving as a NPDES permit manager in Washington State, a Solid Waste Engineer in the state of Massachusetts, and a Geologist for the State of New Jersey.</p>
<p>Ben Annen Vice President HLA (Cle Elum)</p>	<p>Ben Annen is the Vice President at HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., based out of Yakima, WA. Ben has 16 years of industry experience as the contract City Engineer for numerous eastern Washington cities, and his experience spans a wide variety of municipal engineering capital improvements and private development projects, from early planning to construction closeout. Ben thrives in understanding community needs and developing implementation strategies with an emphasis on funding. In 2016, the City of Cle Elum expressed interest in a full-scale downtown revitalization, after decades of pondering the idea without traction. Ben assisted the City in securing a \$100,000 grant from TIB through the newly introduced Complete Streets program, which snowballed into \$14.5 million from 25 grants, allowing this project dream to become a reality.</p>
<p>Greg Armstrong Project Engineer Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)</p>	<p>Greg is the Puget Sound Region Engineer for the Transportation Improvement Board and has had over 30 years of experience helping agencies throughout the state put together over 1,000 transportation projects.</p>
<p>Chelsea Bagwell Program Manager Department of Commerce</p>	<p>Youth Recreation Facilities Program Manager</p>
<p>Andrew Beagle NE Regional Engineer Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)</p>	<p>Andrew has spent over two decades in public sector transportation across research, technical policy, training, planning, programming and project development. Andrew focuses on low-cost operational safety and multimodal design enhancements, strategic asset management approaches, and how transportation design influences land use outcomes. Andrew currently supports local agencies as the NE Regional Engineer for the Transportation Improvement Board.</p>

Speaker Bios

<p>James Best Residential Solar Supervisor Department of Commerce (COM)</p>	<p>James R. Best III is a dedicated leader with extensive experience in tribal planning, economic development, and strategic project management. He currently serves as the Residential Solar Supervisor at the Washington State Department of Commerce, where he began in March 2025. In this role, James supervises the Solar for All team within Commerce’s Energy Programs in Communities (EPIC) Unit in the Energy Division and also provides supervisory support to the State Solar Grants team in the Solar Section. Prior to joining Commerce, James spent five years with the Spokane Tribe of Indians’ Planning & Economic Development Department. During his tenure, he held progressively responsible roles including Grant Writer, Economic Development Manager, Planning & Economic Development Manager, and ultimately, Planning & Economic Development Director. In these roles, he oversaw department operations, intergovernmental coordination, and comprehensive planning initiatives that supported sustainable growth and community resilience. James holds a B.A. in Political Science and an M.A. in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University, as well as a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Montana. His commitment to continued learning is reinforced by certifications from Harvard Business School and the Falmouth Institute in leadership, tribal governance, and project management.</p> <p>Throughout his career, James has successfully led initiatives in housing development, infrastructure improvement, economic planning, energy resilience/sovereignty, and climate resilience. A skilled communicator and strategic thinker, he is passionate about fostering economic opportunity and sustainable development in tribal and other historically impacted communities. His ability to build strong partnerships, manage complex projects, and secure funding has made a lasting impact on the Spokane Tribe and continues to benefit communities across Washington State.</p>
<p>Chase Bozett Assistant Project Manager FCS, a Bowman Company</p>	<p>Chase Bozett is an Assistant Project Manager at FCS, a Bowman Company with nine years of experience in water, sewer, and stormwater rate and fee development. Chase has assisted clients throughout the Pacific Northwest with revenue requirement and cost-of-service studies, multi-year financial planning and connection fee development. Past IACC presentation topics include “Rate Setting and Infrastructure Funding” (2019) and “Utility Rate Study Development: A Spotlight on Future Capital Funding Strategies” (2024).</p>
<p>Vanessa Brinkhuis Streamflow Restoration Grant Unit Supervisor WA State Department of Ecology Water Resources</p>	<p>Vanessa Brinkhuis has worked for Department of Ecology’s Water Resources Program since 2017, and she is currently the Streamflow Restoration Grant Unit Supervisor. The grant unit oversees several grant opportunities, including the Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grants, and manages a large portfolio of grant projects across Washington State. Eligible project types include water right acquisitions, water storage (surface storage and managed aquifer recharge), altered water management and infrastructure (source switches, water efficiency and streamflow retiming), and watershed function, riparian and habitat improvements (in-channel improvements, riparian restoration, strategic land acquisition, levee modification, floodplain modification, large wood placement, fish passage, and beaver dam analogs and/or beaver introduction), and environmental monitoring. Prior to Ecology, Vanessa worked as a marine biologist focusing on coral reef restoration, and she has shifted and applied that experience to the Program’s streamflow and habitat restoration across Washington State.</p>

Speaker Bios

Jason Cammarano WALT Administrator Department of Health (DOH)	Jason Cammarano is a born Olympia native, who has done a little bit of everything, everywhere. He has more than 20 years of experience in administration and management which focused primarily in International Development prior to the pandemic. This includes small non-profits organizations; community service organizations; US state government; local governments, private business; corporate law; and US Federal Government. He has lived and worked for 7 years in Ukraine, 3 months in India, and 15 months in the Federated States of Micronesia. Jason describes his life as Forest Gump in the middle of Lord of the Rings. Jason has a BS in Rhetoric and Media Studies from Willamette University, and a MPA in International Affairs from the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs. Jason works as the Washington Loan Tracking Administrator with the DWSRF team and has been with them for less than a year. His previous job was a COVID vaccine liaison for Sonoma County Department of Health Services, specializing in mobile vaccinations operations. Throughout the pandemic, he did nearly everything except put the actual needle into someone's arm. In spare time Jason practices yoga, plays disc golf, bowling and scuba diving at times.
Chelsea Cannard Source Water Protection Program Manager Department of Health (DOH)	Chelsea Cannard has 11 years of experience in Environmental Public Health specializing in land use practices, drinking water, and wastewater systems. She has been with the Office of Drinking Water for 2 years, primarily focused on funding and technical assistance opportunities to improve access to safe and reliable drinking water. She started her career in surface water hydrology and fisheries, working with USFWS, USFS, and Pend Oreille PUD. She has an AAS in Water Resources Technology and a BS in Environmental Studies.
Lam Chan Assistant Director of Public Works & Utilities Spokane Tribe of Indians	Lam Chan plays a critical role in the development, implementation, and execution of plans that support the goals of the Spokane Tribe's Public Works & Utilities Department. He works closely with the department's Director to coordinate and oversee daily departmental operations and is an integral part of the leadership team responsible for managing high-level projects. With 24 years of service to the Spokane Tribe, Lam brings extensive experience and dedication to his role. He holds a master's degree in Geographic Information Systems and has served as the Tribe's GIS Manager for many years before transitioning into his current role. In his leadership capacity, Lam has consistently demonstrated his value as both a strategic planner and a hands-on project manager. Lam possesses expertise in fiscal oversight, time management, and project coordination. Whether working independently or collaboratively, he is known for his professionalism, efficiency, and reliability.
Janet Cherry Senior Environmental Engineer Eastern Research Group	Janet is an environmental engineer with experience in private industry and with the State of Washington Department of Health.
Charlotte Claybrooke Active Transportation Programs Manager Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	Charlotte Claybrooke is the Active Transportation Programs Manager for the Washington State Department of Transportation. She also serves as the State Safe Routes to School Programs Manager Coordinator. She has been with the WSDOT since 2004. Prior to that time, she worked for 10 years with the Washington State Department of Health as the agency's Physical Activity Specialist with an emphasis on non-motorized transportation. Charlotte has a Masters of Science Degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder.
Melissa Conger Stormwater Project Specialist Department of Ecology (DOE)	Melissa Conger is a Stormwater Project Specialist for the Washington State Department of Ecology - Water Quality Program. The Water Quality Program offers grants and loans on a competitive basis for high priority water quality projects. Melissa has been with Ecology for four years, serving as a Project Manager and Cultural Resources Contact for stormwater projects.

Speaker Bios

Ashley Corrao GAP Program Director Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee Consortium	Ashley Corrao serves as the GAP Program Director for the RTOC Consortium. In her role, she supports the work of all 271 Tribes in Region 10 by advancing Tribal environmental capacity through the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP). Ashley is dedicated to strengthening Tribal governance, promoting environmental protection, and ensuring that Tribes have the tools and resources needed to lead effective, community-driven environmental programs.
Keith Cournyer Water/Wastewater Operator Evergreen Rural Water of Washington (ERWOW)	Keith Cournyer is the southwest region circuit rider for Evergreen Rural Water of Washington (ERWOW). He has a level 3 Water Treatment Plant Operator and Water Distribution Manager, as well as a level 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator and a Cross Connection Control Specialist. He began his career in 2010 and has worked as an operator and manager at a variety of water and wastewater treatment systems.
Eric Cunningham Regional Supervisor for Public Assistance Washington State Military Department	Eric Cunningham, Regional Public Assistance Supervisor for Washington Emergency Management Division, helps communities recover and rebuild after disasters. With 28 years of experience in emergency management, Eric has served in diverse roles with organizations like Douglas County Emergency Management, the American Red Cross of Montana, Ruston Fire Department, and Marion Rural Fire & Rescue. Over the past 14 years, he has helped manage 19 presidential disaster declarations, delivering over \$5 billion in recovery funding. Committed to building resilience, Eric values teamwork and approaches his work with gratitude, ensuring communities have the tools to navigate their most challenging times.
Sam Delmer Emerging Contaminants Program Administrator Department of Health (DOH)	Sam Delmer is a public health professional with over five years of clinical experience as a medical assistant in infectious diseases. She transitioned to the Washington State Department of Health in 2021 to manage grants and contracts for the Office of Communicable Disease Epidemiology before moving over to the Office of Drinking Water in 2024. While working in infectious diseases, Sam earned a Master of Public Health from the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health researching the impact of fast fashion on emerging infectious and zoonotic diseases using the One Health framework. Sam administers the DWSRF Emerging Contaminants in Small and Disadvantaged Communities grant and coordinates DWSRF technical assistance for eligible public water systems in Washington State.
Greg Dobb Environmental Engineer Department of Ecology (DOE)	Greg Dobb is an environmental engineer in the Water Quality Program for the Department of Ecology. After joining the Ecology team as a permit writer and funding project manager, Greg now supervises the Permit Development Unit for Ecology's Eastern Regional Office, overseeing wastewater permit development, engineering reviews, and grants and loans staff. He graduated from WSU in 2012 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and holds his P.E. with a Chemical endorsement. Prior to joining Ecology, he accumulated 10 years of experience in aerospace manufacturing in varying engineering roles including process safety, capital projects, and instrumentation. Growing up fishing the Puget Sound instilled a lifelong want to help protect the waters of the state for future generations. Since joining Ecology, he has found a passion in assisting small, eastern Washington communities face their unique challenges and meet their water quality goals.
Jay Drye Director, Local Programs - WSDOT Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	Jay Drye is the Director of Local Programs for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). In his role he is responsible for the federal-aid oversight program for local agencies in Washington, technical and educational support programs, along with multiple grant and funding programs. Local Programs has more than 1500 active projects currently in the state being led by over 400 agencies. Jay has been with the WSDOT for over 33 years in various positions in Eastern Washington, Olympia, Northwest Washington, and Headquarters. Jay Drye is a University of Washington graduate and has a background in heavy civil engineering, project management and construction. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and has a certification in advanced project management.

Speaker Bios

Seth Elsen Unit Supervisor, Water Quality Program Department of Ecology (DOE)	Seth Elsen is a Unit Supervisor with the Washington Department of Ecology's Water Quality Program, with a focus on wastewater and Tribal affairs. He holds undergraduate degrees from the University of Minnesota, Morris, and a master's in natural resources from Utah State University. He is an enrolled member of the Brothertown Indian Nation.
Matthew Enders WSDOT Technical Services Manager Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	Matthew is the Technical Services Manager for the Local Programs Division of the Washington State DOT. In this role he oversees the traffic & safety programs for local agencies in the state. He also serves as the director of the Washington State LTAP Center. Matthew has over 25 years of experience in the field of traffic safety.
Robert Foster Co-Founder and Managing Director Courage Housing	Robert is the Co-Founder and Managing Director of Courage Housing, an investment firm committed to developing and operating multifamily housing that empowers new Americans to flourish. Through strategic partnerships with resettlement non-profits and public entities, Courage Housing aims to tackle the nation's refugee and affordable housing crises by deploying capital and expertise to create the conditions for thriving communities. Before co-founding Courage Housing, Robert's experience included serving as the Executive Director at AMP, a global partnership and investing initiative launched by Secretary Clinton at the U.S. State Department. In this role, Robert worked alongside renowned partners such as the World Bank, The Aspen Institute, The Rockefeller Foundation, and Fortune 100 companies to drive impact on a global scale, fostering collaboration and innovation to address pressing global challenges.
Sarah Frederick EPA Brownfields Project Manager U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Sarah Frederick serves as the Washington Brownfields State Coordinator and a Senior Brownfields Project Manager with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Pacific Northwest Region. In this position she works with local and state agencies to help communities access resources to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated, or potentially contaminated, properties. She has a bachelor's in geology, a master's in geography from the University of Arizona, and over eight years combined experience working for state and federal agency programs protecting public health and the environment.
Samantha Fulgham Archaeologist Plateau CRM	Samantha L. Fulgham, M.A., is a Project Manager for Plateau CRM. Her professional experience includes work across the Pacific Northwest and where she has conducted a variety of projects in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. Since starting employment at Plateau CRM in May 2018, Samantha has led and managed a variety of projects throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. Her primary responsibilities include permit writing, report writing, excavation work, crew management, lab analysis services, and consultation with clients, State and Federal Agencies, and Tribes. Currently, Samantha manages proposals for Cultural Resource Surveys and manages Projects focused on Excavation, Data Recovery, Mitigation, Forest Service projects, Green Energy Facilities, and artifact collection analyses.
Cynthia Fuller (retired) Project Manager Department of Commerce (COM)	Cynthia is a retired project manager who spent over 20 years at Ecology managing grant and loan agreements for small cities and towns. Her final years in state service were as a project manager for Commerce working with small cities, towns, districts and homeowner's associations assisting them with project development, management and funding.
Fran Goli Director of Broadband Initiatives Shoshone-Bannock Tribe	Francis Goli is working to bridge the digital divide in the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Community.

Speaker Bios

Jocelyne Gray DWSRF Environmental Engineer Department of Health (DOH)	Jocelyne Gray, P.E., WDM4, CCS, (she/her pronouns) is the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) environmental engineer in the Office of Drinking at the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). She has worked for DOH for over seven years, mostly in the Southwest Regional Operations as a regional engineer then as the assistant regional manager. She transitioned to the DWSRF Program in 2023. Previous experience includes managing 42 small public water systems and consulting. Infrastructure funding has been a part of Ms. Gray's entire career. She is a professional engineer licensed and a certified water operator. She graduated from Washington State University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. While at Mason PUD 1, her water department won the Grace Under Pressure award in 2011 from DOH for handling two major water emergencies simultaneously. Ms. Gray is a 2015 recipient of the Society of Women Engineers Emerging Leader award.
Ryan Gross Technical Assistance Engineer U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Ryan Gross coordinates Water Infrastructure Technical Assistance for the US EPA Pacific Northwest Region. In this position, he works with SRF programs and TA providers to help communities access federal funding for water infrastructure projects. Ryan has worked as a water engineer with the federal government for 20 years. He is a licensed professional engineer in the State of Washington.
Leslie Hardwick Tribal Liaison NoaNet	Leslie has worked in Tribal Telecomm for more than a decade, most recently with the Spokane Tribe and is currently the Tribal Liaison for NoaNet.
Chris Hawkins WSDOT Active Transportation Planner Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	Chris has worked in WSDOT's Active Transportation Division since 2023 coordinating capacity building technical assistance for local agency and tribal partners. Previously he worked in local government as a planner in public health and community design to improve built environments in relation to physical activity. The start of Chris' over two decades of work in transportation projects planning, development and support was as a volunteer for City of Olympia's Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Planning Commission before joining the staff of a non-profit delivering local transportation projects with an emissions reduction focus.
Elaine Heim Brownfields Communications Planner Department of Ecology (DOE)	Elaine Heim is a content strategist, technical editor, and the Brownfields Communications Planner with the Toxics Cleanup Program at the Washington Department of Ecology. She has a master's in strategic communication from Washington State University, and more than 20 years' experience protecting human health and the environment. Elaine and her team work to empower (and inspire!) the real brownfield heroes: people who want to transform blighted properties into sparkling assets for their community's benefit.
Bennet Hestmark Tribal Climate Resilience Program Manager Department of Commerce (COM)	Bennett Hestmark (he/him) is new to Commerce in August 2024 serving on the GMS team as the Tribal Climate Resilience Program Manager. Bennett is a citizen of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (Lakota) located in South Dakota. Bennett's professional background has been primary in tribal government administration with experience as a management analyst and grant writer for natural resource programs, and most recently grant administration. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Utah State University, and is currently enrolled in the Master of Public Administration program at The Evergreen State College. As the Tribal Climate Resilience Program Manager, Bennett provides program administration, technical assistance and contract management activities for the Tribal Climate Resilience program. He is passionate about providing resources to tribal nations to promote resilience, sustainability, and economic growth.
Kurt Holland Principal Varela (Tonasket)	Kurt is a principal engineer and vice president of Varela Engineering and has nearly 20 years' experience in municipal water, wastewater, stormwater and street project planning, and design and construction management. He has been the principal engineer for the Tonasket Prefect Passage Project.

Speaker Bios

Jonathan Holmes Deputy State Coordinating Office for Public Assistance Washington State Military Department	Jonathan Holmes is the Deputy State Coordinating Officer for Public Assistance working jointly with FEMA, FHWA, USDA, BIA, SBA, and USACE since 2007. The State Public Assistance (PA) Program assists local jurisdictions, state agencies, tribal governments, and certain private non-profits in recovering from declared emergencies, major disasters or fire declarations. Jon has worked on (4) FEMA emergencies, (23) FEMA disasters, and multiple FEMA fire declarations throughout all 39 counties in Washington. Jon leads a team of 35 staff and 10 disaster reservists. Jon and his staff are currently engaged in eight (8) open State-Led Disaster Declarations working with FEMA at Camp Murray, WA.
Mara Isaacson Program Manager Department of Commerce (COM)	Library Capital Improvement Program Manager
Karen Izumoto Water Quality Combined Funding Planner Department of Ecology (DOE)	Karen serves as the Water Quality Combined (WQC) Funding Program Planner at the Washington State Department of Ecology. The WQC funding program offers more than \$150 million in grants and low-interest loans each year to water quality projects across the state. Previously, she supported stormwater and nonpoint projects within the program as a financial manager. Karen earned a Master's in Public Administration from the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Washington, and a Bachelor's in Urban Planning at Western Washington University.
Deborah Johnson Wellhead Protection Program Coordinator Department of Health (DOH)	Deborah Johnson provides technical assistance to local communities statewide under the Source Water Protection Program, for both the wellhead protection component of water system plans & critical aquifer recharge areas regulations under GMA. She also worked as a regional planner for the SW Region. Deborah has over 30 years' experience in current & long-range planning at the city, county, & regional level. She also served as an Olympia planning commissioner for 10 years after relocating to attend The Evergreen State College's MPA program. She is a Washington State native who grew up in the Wenatchee Valley.
Julia Kast Evergreen Communities Coordinator Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Julia Kast serves as the Evergreen Communities Coordinator with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Urban & Community Forestry Program (UCF). The DNR UCF program provides technical, educational and financial assistance to Washington cities, towns, counties, tribal governments, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions. In her current role she leads statewide recognition program initiatives including Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, & Tree Campus USA Higher Ed in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation, and lead the development and implementation of The Evergreen Community Recognition Program. She brings a strong commitment to fostering community partnerships and promoting meaningful engagement to support the health and resilience of Washington's urban forests. Julia hopes to continue to collaborate find new ways to empower and celebrate communities across the state.
Melissa King Broadband Manager Nez Perce Tribe	Melissa is currently serving the Nez Perce as the Manager of Tribal Broadband services.
Niles Kostick Manager, Center for Government Innovation State Auditor's Office (SAO)	Niles has been with the Office of the Washington State Auditor since the beginning of 2014. Since then, he's performed hundreds of audits, managed the performance of an inventory of more than 600 government clients, and presented to thousands in accounting, reporting, internal control, and data-related fields. He currently holds the position of Manager for the Center for Government Innovation, where he works to help local governments better leverage their financial data.

Speaker Bios

Scott Kugel Cultural and Environmental Program Specialist Department of Health (DOH)	Scott Kugel is the Cultural and Environmental Program Specialist for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in the Washington State Department of Health. He has been in that position since 2019 and was previously a Land Use Planner for Chelan County. He earned an M.S. in Cultural and Environmental Resource Management from Central Washington (DOH) University and a B.A. in Geology from the College of Wooster. In his free time, he enjoys hiking and biking.
Mike Lamey Loan Specialist USDA Rural Development (RD)	Mike started with USDA's Rural Development in 2022. With 20+ years of banking experience, Mike brings knowledge in residential, consumer and commercial lending. As a North Central Washington native and Wenatchee resident, he is familiar with the communities he serves and enjoys working with rural residents that need financial assistance for projects in the area. As a Community Programs Specialist, Mike provides funding through the Water & Environmental and Community Facilities program. Mike is a WSU grad and has 2 children in their 20's and enjoys all the outdoor activities North Central Washington has to offer.
Kirsten Larsen Senior Planner City of Wenatchee	Kirsten Larsen is a senior planner and Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Wenatchee. She works on current planning project and oversees the Historic Preservation program and is staff to the Historic Preservation Board. Prior to joining the City of Wenatchee, she was a Senior Planner with the Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services working with local governments in Washington to provide technical assistance, and specialized in transportation planning and transfer of development rights (TDR) policy for the agency. Kirsten has experience working for multiple jurisdictions in north central Washington as a current and long range planner. Prior to moving to Washington, she was a transit planner for the City of Scottsdale, AZ. She has a master's degree in Urban and Environmental Planning and master's certificate in Transportation Systems from Arizona State University.
Kevin Lindsey Principal Hydrogeologist GeoEngineers	Kevin has 35 years of technical experience in geology and hydrogeology, including water supply well siting, design, oversight, rehabilitation, sampling, and testing; hydrogeologic characterization; and groundwater supply investigations and basin studies. He has managed several multiphase hydrogeologic and interdisciplinary investigations and has experience as a project manager and/or senior technical staff member, focusing on projects assessing groundwater quality, quantity, and supply; controls and characteristics of surface water-groundwater continuity; and aquifer impacts from shallow groundwater development. Kevin's water-well project experience, gained in planning, implementing, and managing well projects that in total exceed 30,000 feet of production well drilling, gives him a range of knowledge related to assessing groundwater quality, quantity, and supply; controls and characteristics of surface water groundwater continuity; aquifer impacts from groundwater development; and managed aquifer recharge. As project manager for the Columbia Basin GWMA from 2004 through its end in 2014 Kevin brings an in-depth knowledge of the history of water resource development in the project area.
Erik Makinson President/Founder Resource Synergy LLC	Erik Makinson has built a career on helping organizations realize financial and environmental value through sustainability programs. Over the past 10 years, he has led the development of Resource Synergy and continues to be intimately involved in the company's day-to-day operations. Prior to Resource Synergy, Erik built a waste consulting business for Engie Impact, which today supports over 100 clients representing 60,000 business sites. Earlier in his career, Erik led sustainability initiatives for The Coca-Cola Company, supporting the global Walmart business and North America Foodservice Division. Erik has spoken at conferences or has written articles for numerous organizations including the National Restaurant Association, US Chamber of Commerce Foundation, GreenBiz, Environmental Leader, and the California Resource Recovery Association. He holds a BA in Business Administration/Marketing from Seattle University, a Certificate of Sustainable Business from Presidio University, Resource Recovery Manager Certification from the California Resource Recovery Association and Certified Energy Manager (CEM) designation from the American Association of Energy Engineers. On this project, Erik will provide program oversight and staff leadership.

Speaker Bios

Chris Malone Public Works Finance and Asset Manager City of Vancouver	Civil Engineer licensed in the State of Washington; Master Degree in Business Administration; and licensed Project Management Professional. Over 25 years working at the City of Vancouver with the last 10 years focusing on public works infrastructure asset management and financial management.
Corrina Marote Equitable Wastewater Futures Program Manager Public Health—Seattle & King County	Corrina Marote is the Equitable Wastewater Futures Program Manager at Public Health – Seattle & King County. She leads efforts to address wastewater infrastructure challenges, particularly in urban areas with aging On-Site Sewage Systems (OSS). Her work focuses on identifying sustainable wastewater solutions, securing funding, and promoting equitable access to sanitation. She has been with King County for over a year and actively engages in regional collaboration to improve wastewater management
Ashley Martinez Environmental Engineer Indian Health Service (IHS)	Ashley Martinez is an environmental engineer with the Indian Health Service's Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction. She has been an engineer with IHS for six years, working first in Wisconsin and now in Bremerton, WA. Ashley works with Tribes in Western Washington on the development, funding, design and construction of individual and community water/wastewater facilities. Her recent projects include individual wells and septic systems, lift station rehabilitation, and sewer force main replacement.
Sandra Matthews Ecology Site Manager & Northwest Region Office Team Lead Department of Ecology (DOE)	Sandra Matthews is a site manager with the Toxics Cleanup Program at the Washington Department of Ecology, team lead for the Affordable Housing Grant Program in Ecology's Northwest Regional Office, and project manager for the Everett Smelter Cleanup. Sandra is experienced dealing with contamination that can harm human health and the environment, including contamination from smelters, dry cleaners, manufacturing, and leaking underground storage tanks.
Layne Merritt Project Manager J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc.	Layne is a registered professional engineer in Washington, Idaho and Wyoming. He has been assisting communities for 34 years in addressing their infrastructure planning, funding, engineering design and construction needs. He has been with J-U-B Engineers for 15 years and continues in his efforts to help make communities better.
Mary Miller Tribal Technical Assistance Lead Department of Commerce (COM)	Mary Miller (she/her) works as the Tribal Technical Assistance Lead in the Office of Tribal Relations at the Washington State Department of Commerce. Mary was born and raised in Washington state. Prior to joining the Office of Tribal Relations, Mary launched the Tribal Climate Resilience Grant program at Commerce, distributing \$52 Million in Climate Commitment Act funding to tribes within Washington, with a 94% participation rate among tribes. Mary's professional background includes roles with the Washington State Public Works Board, the United States Department of Agriculture, the City of Boston Mayor's Office, the Clark County Food Bank, and the Oregon Historical Society. Mary also previously worked in Community Operations for Uber, and helped to launch the UBER EATS app in cities around America. She holds a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership from Eastern Washington University, a Bachelor of Arts in Recreation Administration from Western Washington University, and an Executive Certificate in Strategy Execution for Public Leadership from Harvard Business School. Mary is a proud two-term alumni of AmeriCorps VISTA.
Samuel Mineer Assistant Project Manager J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc.	Sam's experience includes water, wastewater, stormwater, roadway and general site design. He has helped prepare construction plans and specifications, technical reports, and has assisted with construction observation and project administration. He actively works with an array of clients, ranging from private companies to public entities. He has worked with the WDOH, WDOE, and the WDOC on various projects, connecting regulatory agencies and clients so that projects meet funding requirements and the appropriate documentation is maintained.
Sharon Miracle President and CEO Yakima Valley Community Foundation	Sharon Miracle is the President and CEO of the Yakima Valley Community Foundation.

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Mary Monahan Senior Scientist Department of Ecology Toxic Cleanup Program	Mary Monahan is a senior scientist for the Department of Ecology's Toxic Cleanup Program, working in the Central Region. She has been enthusiastically working with brownfield projects for her entire career as both a private consultant and a public servant for the State of Washington. She enjoys every aspect of brownfield work, including collaboration with local governments and communities, the science of toxics cleanup and working to provide funding opportunities to help project champions realize their dreams. Mary is a firm believer in the team approach to brownfield redevelopment. She holds advanced degrees in the science of toxic cleanup and brings decades of work experience to her projects. In her down time, she enjoys hiking with her friends and dogs.
Kimberly Moore Engineering & Technical Services Manager Department of Health (DOH)	Kim Moore is the Engineering & Technical Services Section Manager in the Office of Drinking Water at the Washington State Department of Health. She leads formulation and development of statewide plans in collaboration with federal, state, and local partners to advocate for the needs of the water sector and promote the resiliency of public water systems. During an incident serves as a liaison to agency and State Emergency Operations Centers. Serves as the representative of the water sector on the State Cybersecurity Advisory Committee. Previously she has worked in drinking water and on-site sewage programs at local health departments
Brianna Morin Legislative Policy Analyst Association of Washington Cities (AWC)	Brianna Morin is a Legislative Policy Analyst at the Association of Washington Cities where she covers city transportation, public works and infrastructure, energy, and broadband issues. She holds a master's in public administration from the University of Washington Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.
Matt Morkert Operations Manager, Vice President Century West Engineering	Matt Morkert is the Vice President & Operations Manager at Century West Engineering in Spokane, WA. With over two decades of experience, he has worked extensively on civil infrastructure projects, primarily for municipal clients. His work involves project scheduling, work distribution, and financial oversight. Currently, Matt focuses on wastewater and sewer system projects, assisting local governments in navigating funding mechanisms and regulatory requirements. His experience includes coordinating infrastructure improvements such as water system upgrades and sewer conversions, as well as engaging communities through outreach and funding strategies.
Brean Neiman Financial Coordinator/Grant Lead Lincoln County Conservation District	Brean was raised in the heart of the Yakima Valley on a 10-acre cherry orchard, where she developed a strong work ethic early on by helping with the family's aluminum orchard ladder manufacturing and garage door installation business. She went on to earn degrees in Information Technology and an Associate of Arts from institutions in Spokane. For the past 20 years, Brean has called Davenport home, contributing to Lincoln County through her work and community involvement. Brean joined the Lincoln County Conservation District in June 2024. As a Financial Coordinator/Grant Lead, Brean brings a blend of technical expertise, rural roots, and a deep commitment to local development. Her background gives her a unique perspective on the needs of both agricultural and rural communities.
Staci Nelson Director of Grant Services Partners for Rural Washington (PRWA)	Staci Nelson is the Director of Grant Services for Partners for Rural Washington and a principal at Nelson Stevenson Consulting. With more than 25 years of experience, she has devoted her career to serving the non-profit sector as a staff and contracted business leader. Staci is skilled in all facets of grants work and has secured millions of dollars in funding from private, corporate, state, and federal sources. She most recently led the Northwest I-90 Manufacturing Alliance (NIMA) for 9 years. Staci grew up on a farm and ranch in Montana, married into a Whitman County farm family and has a long-held passion for maintaining the vitality of rural America.

Speaker Bios

Annalisa Noble Principal Funding Strategist Tower Consulting	Annalisa Noble is the Principal Funding Strategist and OMWBE-certified owner of Tower, a grant writing consultancy based in Spokane, WA and registered with the MRSC Small Works Roster. With over a decade of experience, she partners with rural communities, municipalities, ports, utility districts, nonprofits, airports, and other public agencies to secure funding for high-priority infrastructure and community projects. Her expertise spans grant writing, funding strategies, research, procurement, and post-award reporting for state, federal, and private funders. Since 2015, Annalisa has helped secure more than \$150 million in grant and low-interest loan funding, with a strong focus on rural Washington communities. She is known for her practical, strategy-driven approach and her commitment to helping small communities navigate complex funding landscapes.
Oxcenia O'Domi Executive Director U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Oxcenia O'Domin is Sugpiaq and Unangax, originally from Chignik Lake, Alaska, and a member of the Unga Tribe. She serves as the Executive Director of the RTOC Consortium, which acts as a two-way bridge between all 271 Tribes and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Region 10. The Consortium ensures that Tribal voices are heard and that critical information on policies, regulations, and funding opportunities reaches Tribal communities. Oxcenia is dedicated to protecting and improving Tribal health and environmental conditions across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. Throughout her career, she has focused on advancing Tribal governance, promoting environmental health, and empowering Native communities.
Evan Olsen Grants Analyst Supervisor Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	Evan Olsen has worked for nearly 20 years in government with a focus on improving access to public transportation. He has worked in policy development, federal civil rights program compliance, local and statewide planning before his present work supervising a \$750 million grant portfolio consisting of 20 programs. When Evan is not working you can find him in his garden or out enjoying nature.
Jody Opheim Executive Director Partners for Rural Washington (PRWA)	Jody Opheim serves as the Executive Director of Partners for Rural Washington, the State's Rural Development Council. Jody's professional experience includes 20 years in higher education fundraising and management, including partnership and project development, working with volunteer boards, proposal writing and grant administration. She especially enjoys developing collaborative projects and proposals for corporate, foundation and government funding. She was the founding manager for the Washington State University Energy Systems Innovation Center and the WSU-Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Advanced Grid Institute. Jody earned her bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Missouri-Columbia and enjoys reading, gardening, traveling and serving as crew chief for Opheim Motorsports Group.
Eleanor (Ellie) Ott Senior Environmental Engineer Department of Ecology (DOE)	Eleanor (Ellie) Ott is a seasoned environmental engineer and permit writer, working the Water Quality Program at the Department of Ecology's Southwest Regional Office. With her experience, Eleanor helps municipalities navigate the intricate landscape of wastewater infrastructure planning and decision-making, providing guidance to communities of varying sizes. Her expertise encompasses nuanced areas such as AKART determinations, nutrient permitting, and policy development. Eleanor is a long-time resident of Washington State, received her master's degree in environmental engineering from WSU (2013), and is passionate about protecting the water environment.
Bridget Paris Program Manager, Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Department of Commerce (COM)	Bridget Paris serves as the Program Manager for the Washington State Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund at the Department of Commerce. She is a hope dealer and passionate about contamination cleanup, land recycling, and environmental restoration. Bridget has over a decade of experience in working with and for local governments, and over ten years of grant, contract and project management experience. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, biking, paddleboarding, cooking and reading.

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Nicole Patrick Program Manager Department of Commerce (COM)	Nicole Patrick serves as the Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Commerce Emergency Rapid Response grant program. Currently, Nicole works to support tribal and local governments during disasters and emergency events through the Emergency Rapid Response, CDBG-Coronavirus, and Disaster Recovery grant programs. With an MA in Public Administration, Nicole brings twenty-plus years of interest and passion for managing state and federally funded grant programs. Before joining Commerce, Nicole managed public transportation grants for WSDOT/ Washington State Ferries and Arizona DOT.
Kate Pedersen Energy Resilience Specialist Department of Commerce (COM)	Kate Pedersen is currently serving as the Energy Resilience Specialist for the Energy Resilience and Emergency Management Office (EREMO) within the Energy Division at the Washington State Department of Commerce. Kate runs the Washington Energy Resilience Technical Assistance Program where she assists Washington communities achieve their energy resilience goals by filling capacity gaps, exploring energy resilience solutions, finding funding, and applying for grants. Kate brings to her work experience in emergency management, a passion for good data practices, and a dedication to equity. Kate holds a BA in Environmental Design – Architecture from the University of Colorado and masters’ degrees from the University of Washington in urban planning and public health.
Adele Peers Education & Encouragement Planner Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	Adele has been with the Active Transportation Division since spring 2024 where she has been managing the statewide bicycle education program, launching Washington’s first e-bike rebate program and working to establish a statewide e-bike lending library grant program. Adele came from state Dept of Social & Health Services where she launched new legislative driven grant programs for vulnerable groups. Adele’s career began in inclusive education in the UK, since then she has consulted for humanitarian and development organizations on inter-agency and government cooperation in Asia and the south pacific before moving to Washington in 2021.
Chris Pettit Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Manager Department of Health (DOH)	Chris is the DWSRF Program Manager in the Department of Health. Prior to taking his current position, he directed state agencies overseeing water resource management in Washington and Florida, and was a practicing attorney specializing in land use and water resource management. He received his law degree from the University of Florida and Masters in Law from the University of Cape Town. He enjoys long walks on frigid beaches amongst walrus colonies contemplating how and why to write bios.
Travis Porter Project Manager Department of Commerce (COM)	Travis is a project manager for Department of Commerce’s Small Communities Initiative. He provides technical assistance to small water and sewer systems who need help with project management and navigating funding. Travis has worked in NPDES permitting for over 10 years, was the Environmental Coordinator for the Nebraska Army National Guard, and has experience in water, wastewater, hazardous waste, and other environmental projects.
Joe Price Behavioral Health Facilities Supervisor Department of Commerce (COM)	Joseph Price is Commerce’s Behavioral Health Facilities Program Supervisor.
Kim Prisock Financial Management Engineer Department of Ecology (DOE)	Kim Prisock is an engineer in the Financial Management Section of the Department of Ecology’s Water Quality Program. She assists small communities in eastern Washington with wastewater planning, design, and construction projects through Ecology’s Water Quality Combined Funding Program. She enjoys collaborating with other technical assistance providers and partner agencies to help fund critical infrastructure needs all over the state. She’s also passionate about promoting STEM education and recruiting the next generation of talented professionals into the clean water workforce. Kim is a licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.) in the state of Washington and holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Gonzaga University.

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<p>Ashley Probart Executive Director Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)</p>	<p>Ashley Probart is the Executive Director of the Transportation Improvement Board. Ashley will discuss strategic ways to fund local infrastructure projects using available local tools in combination with state funding options. He has nearly thirty years of working with local jurisdictions to secure infrastructure funding. Ashley has served in executive positions in two state agencies, and was a lobbyist for the Association of Washington Cities for over a decade. While lobbying for AWC, he specialized in the areas of public works contracting, supporting the Public Works Board, CERB, numerous economic development initiatives, transportation funding and public utility issues. Ashley was also staff to the Senate and House Transportation Committees.</p>
<p>Megan Quinn Director, Municipal & District Finance Harris & Associates</p>	<p>Megan Quinn is the Director of Municipal & District Consulting at Harris & Associates, where she leads efforts to help cities, counties, and special districts navigate complex funding and policy challenges. With 19 years of consulting experience, Megan brings deep expertise in public finance, real estate economics, land use planning, and financial analysis. She has managed a wide range of projects across urban, suburban, and rural settings, delivering economic and policy solutions at the local, regional, and state levels. Her portfolio includes public facility financing plans, AB1600 nexus studies, fiscal impact analyses, development and credit reimbursement agreements, cost reimbursement reviews, financial feasibility studies, and land-secured financing strategies. Megan is currently supporting multiple agencies throughout California in updating their Development Impact Fees and meeting annual and five-year AB1600 reporting requirements. She recently completed the Guidebook on residential proportional development impact fee and system development charges for the Washington Department of Commerce. Her ability to integrate financial, economic, and land use insights makes her a valuable partner on both small- and large-scale initiatives. She holds an MBA with a concentration in Urban Land Development and a BS in Business Administration with a focus on Real Estate and Land Use—both from California State University, Sacramento. Megan also serves as the UrbanPlan Chair for the Urban Land Institute’s Sacramento District Council and sits on its Executive Committee.</p>
<p>Kristin Ramos Early Learning Facilities Supervisor Department of Commerce (COM)</p>	<p>Kristin Ramos is Commerce’s Early Learning Facilities Program Supervisor.</p>
<p>Ernie Rasmussen Executive Director Bigfoot Communications of the Colville Tribes</p>	<p>Worked for the WA Dept of Commerce as Tribal Liaison. WSBO as the Digital Equity Manager and currently as the Exec Director of Bigfoot Communications of the Colville Tribes</p>
<p>Jeff Rasmussen Outreach & Education Program Manager Department of Commerce (COM)</p>	<p>Jeff Rasmussen is the Outreach and Education Program Manager for the Clean Buildings Unit within the Washington State Department of Commerce’s Energy Division. From his previous professional work in non-profits and from serving as an elected City Councilmember, Jeff brings over 15 years of experience in community engagement and outreach primarily working with local and state governments along with non-profit organizations.</p>
<p>Jason Reyna Loan Specialist USDA Rural Development (RD)</p>	<p>Jason Reyna was born in Anacortes, WA. After leaving the US Army in 2014, he obtained his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Columbia College. He then worked for Social Security Administration and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration before being hired by USDA Rural Development as a Loan Specialist for Single Family Housing in 2021. In May of 2023, he was given a new opportunity to serve and give back to his community when he switched to being a Community Programs Loan Specialist working Community Facilities and Water and Environmental Programs. Jason currently resides and works in Mount Vernon, WA.</p>

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Samuel Rodriguez Small Utilities Consultant I Rural Community Assistance Corp (RCAC)	Samuel Rodriguez works for the Rural Communities Assistance Corporation (RCAC) where he provides technical, managerial, and financial assistance to small, disadvantaged community water and wastewater systems in Washington so that systems can operate sustainably and deliver quality services to the communities served. Mr. Rodriguez works closely with rural residents and local leaders to assist them in the development and management of water, wastewater, or solid waste systems. Before joining RCAC, Mr. Rodriguez worked at a small engineering firm where he did wastewater treatment plant design, construction project management, and provided funding assistance to small utilities and tribes in the Pacific Northwest.
Darci Ronning Utility Project Manager City of Wenatchee	Mrs. Ronning has over 19 years of utility planning experience and an extensive project management background. In her current role as a Utility Project Manager for the Public Works Department with the City of Wenatchee she focuses on water, sewer and stormwater improvements. She has extensive experience managing consultants and contractors as well as working closely with state agencies including Ecology, Department of Health, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and local city and county governments in the Wenatchee Valley. She is experienced at grant writing and finding funding opportunities for city projects. Before joining the City of Wenatchee, she was with Soos Creek Water and Sewer District in Renton, WA. Her previous experience includes private development utility planning, design review, permitting and stakeholder coordination She is current on land planning trends, water regulations and state and local policies for public works.
Rick Rose Loan Specialist USDA Rural Development (RD)	Rick Rose was born and raised in Flagstaff AZ. He spent 2.5 years in Tokyo, Japan serving various communities in the county. Rick graduated from CA State University Long Beach in Interpersonal Communication Studies after which he worked as a mortgage broker from 2001-2003. Rick has been with RD and since 2004 and started in Single Family Housing after moving from UT to Wenatchee. After 2 years of housing, Rick was hired as a Community Programs Loan Specialist in 2006. Rick has two adult children living in Burien WA. His son is working hard at becoming a pilot and his daughter is working hard to figure out her direction. Rick is currently living in Spokane, WA with his wonderful wife and life partner Melinda Ovnicek who has two adult boys working to get out on their own working in fields they love. Rick loves to snow ski, wake surf, mountain bike, back pack, and overall be in the outdoors while staying out of the ER. Rick is especially fond to serve Rural America with development, economic and capacity needs.
Jack Rosenblit Small Utility Consultant Rural Community Assistance Corp (RCAC)	Jack Rosenblit joined RCAC in 2023 as a Small Utility Consultant. He provides technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) assistance to small, disadvantaged community water and wastewater systems so they can operate sustainably and deliver quality services to the communities served. Mr. Rosenblit works closely with rural residents and local leaders to assist them to develop and manage water, wastewater, or solid waste systems. He also prepares and delivers classroom and individual training as needed to build the capacity of local partners
Sierra Schatz Environmental Engineer Indian Health Service (IHS)	Sierra has served as an Environmental Engineer with the Portland Area IHS since 2019. She works with Native Tribes in the Puget Sound region to identify sanitation challenges and develop and carry out projects to address them. She has led and participated in design, new construction, and repair/rehabilitation efforts for groundwater wells, water treatment and distribution, and wastewater collection and treatment systems. She enjoys working on community-wide and individual household systems. She holds a degree in environmental engineering from the University of Michigan and a professional civil engineering license in Washington State.
Matthew Selby City Administrator City of Leavenworth	Matthew Selby joined the City of Leavenworth as its City Administrator in August 2022. Previously he served as the Interim Assistant City Manager of Yakima; Land Use and Economic Development Director of Acton, MA; and Community Development Director of Ashland, MA. Selby began his municipal career as the Conservation Agent of Ashland, home of the Nyanza Chemical Waste Dump, one of the first Superfund sites in the US. He was instrumental in permitting the redevelopment of the site into multi-family housing and solar arrays.

Speaker Bios

Maria Serra Public Works Director City of Pasco	Maria Laura Serra, P.E. serves as the Public Works Director for the City of Pasco, Washington, a role she was appointed to in 2024 after more than a decade of growing responsibility within the Public Works Department. Over the past 11 years, Maria has led numerous significant infrastructure projects in Pasco, including major water, wastewater, and transportation improvements that have contributed to the city's growth and sustainability. She currently leads a team of 100 staff members, overseeing engineering, operations, infrastructure maintenance, and environmental compliance. Maria has managed the City's long-term Capital Improvement Program and played a key role in securing over \$200 million in funding through grants and loans. Her professional experience spans both the private and public sectors in Latin America and the U.S., having started her career working on complex port engineering projects across Latin America. Originally from Argentina, Maria holds a Civil Engineering degree from the Universidad de Buenos Aires and is a licensed Professional Engineer in Washington State.
Maggie Slife LTAP ADA Engineer Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	Maggie Slife is the ADA Engineer for WSDOT Local Programs Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). Maggie's main job is providing technical engineering support to local agencies, as well as creating and delivering training material related to all things ADA. Maggie's goal is to help local agencies implement ADA standards and make sure local pedestrian transportation systems are compliant with local, state, and federal guidelines. Maggie comes from a highway design background, and has been with WSDOT for a bit over 1 year. Her experience in the design seat gives her a unique technical understanding of the challenges in integrating accessibility into real-world projects.
Amie Smith Program Lead Department of Commerce (COM)	Amie has worked for the Department of Commerce Small Communities Initiative since March of 2024. She helps small water and sewer entities find creative solutions to complex challenges. Prior to this, she managed a water and sewer district in Lewis County for eight years. As the District Manager, she brought the district from the brink of insolvency to a flourishing, self-sustaining utility through adaptive, deliberate financial management practices.
Janea Stark Executive Director & Tribal Liaison Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)	Janea Stark is the Executive Director & Tribal Liaison for the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) and has staffed the Board since 2004. Developing strong relationships is the foundation of everything Janea does, professionally and personally. Janea works closely with the Board and the Legislature to develop State economic development and rural broadband policy. Janea provides resources and technical assistance to potential clients to develop projects to bring to the Board for approval. With this, she has first-hand knowledge of the challenges that many of our local jurisdictions are facing when trying to fund community and economic development in their area. In 2018, Janea authored the proviso language for CERB's administered Rural Broadband Program. In 2022, Janea helped secure a historical funding appropriation from the Legislature for CERB. In 2023 and 2024, Janea authored the site readiness and rural broadband program legislative language that updated RCW 43.160. Janea is a Washington native. She is currently serving as the Chair of the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC). When she isn't working, she enjoys traveling with friends and family, taking cardio kickboxing classes, and strength training.
Loren Steveson Wastewater Technician Evergreen Rural Water of Washington (ERWOW)	Loren Steveson started working for the Town of PeEll Public Works in 2003, there he obtained his Water Treatment Plant operator I and Wastewater Treatment Plant I. Also did the day to day public work tasks. Loren left PeEll in mid-2004. He then started working for the City of Toledo as the Public Works Assistant and the Water and Wastewater operator. At Toledo Loren also obtained his Water Distribution Manager I, he is a Cross Connection Control Specialist and has had his Class A CDL with tankers since 1987. Loren now is the Western Washington's state USDA funded Wastewater Technician that provides Technical assistance and training for Wastewater Treatment Facilities and now also obtains his Wastewater Treatment plant operator II.

Speaker Bios

<p>Teri Stripes Economic Development Specialist City of Spokane Valley</p>	<p>Teri is the Economic Development Specialist with the City of Spokane Valley, focusing on economic growth and implementation. Teri has over 20 years' experience in community and economic development. Teri's expertise has led to the redevelopment of blighted/low-performing districts. Her career engages her passions in community revitalization through sustainable economic and community development practices and collaborative public-private partnerships. She implements Spokane Valley's growth strategies in the City's most prominent industries: retail trade, health care and social assistance, government, manufacturing, construction, waste management and remediation, accommodation and food services, transportation and distribution, and wholesale trade. Teri will be instrumental in building the City's Brownfields program, leading to future funding, strategic planning, assessments, and cleanups.</p>
<p>Kathleen Strozyk Small Utility Consultant I Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)</p>	<p>Kathleen brings over four years of hands-on experience as a drinking water and wastewater operator serving a rural town in Eastern Washington. In her role, she has been involved in system operations, maintenance, and effective communication with the town council, including presenting funding requests for infrastructure improvements. Beyond her operational expertise, Kathleen has served for more than nine years on the local school board, five of those as chairperson, where she gained extensive experience in governance and public service. Her leadership extends through her work with the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), where she has supported small communities in strengthening their board practices and enhancing managerial capacity in their water and wastewater systems.</p>
<p>Alex Swanson Managing Director Washington State Association of County Engineers (WSAC)</p>	<p>Axel Swanson is the Managing Director for the Washington State Association of County Engineers. He holds degrees from both Gonzaga University and Vermont Law School and has worked in county government for over 15 years. In his role as Managing Director, he covers policy issues and advocacy work related to transportation and infrastructure for the Engineers Washington State Association of Counties.</p>
<p>Tresa Thomas Massiongale Principal Peacefield</p>	<p>Tresa Thomas Massiongale is a seasoned impact investing and philanthropy expert, certified as a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® and a Certified Fund Raising Executive® with a lifetime fundraising total exceeding \$285 million in private capital, primarily benefiting underserved and rural communities. Tresa holds degrees from Columbia University and San Francisco State University and trained in Social Impact Strategy at the University of Pennsylvania. Using the power of collective lift, Tresa convenes finance and philanthropy alongside bold visionaries and dedicated change agents: because when the right idea, the right partners, and the right strategy come together, the impossible becomes inevitable.</p>
<p>Mischa Venables CHIP Program Manager Department of Commerce (COM)</p>	<p>Mischa Venables (she/her) is the Connecting Housing to Infrastructure Program (CHIP) manager for Growth Management Services at the Department of Commerce. Mischa joined Commerce in 2023 as a contract manager for CHIP and was promoted to program manager in 2024. Before commerce, Mischa served for six years as the accounting manager for the Yakima County Superior Court clerk's office. She has a background in real estate, accounting and property management. Mischa holds a bachelor's degree in business management and an associate's degree in accounting. Born and raised in Mill Creek, Mischa now lives in Republic with her husband Brian and their two daughters.</p>
<p>Lilith Vespier Infill Housing Manager Department of Commerce (COM)</p>	<p>Lilith Vespier, AICP, was the Community Development Director for the City of Leavenworth prior to joining Department of Commerce August 2024. Lilith has worked in the private planning practice, county government, city government and now State government. Throughout her planning career she has focused on community (long-range) planning with the goal of empowering people and communities. During her time at the City of Leavenworth, she was able to support the adoption of multiple new housing regulatory tools, among other projects for a strong community.</p>

Speaker Bios

Simon Vickery Associate Davis Arneil Law Firm	Simon received a B.S. in Psychology from Haverford College, near Philadelphia. He worked in environmental and public policy in Philadelphia before attending the University of Colorado Law School, where he was a Casenote Editor of the University of Colorado Law Review. Simon was admitted to the Washington State Bar in 2017 and clerked for Judge Bradley Maxa on Division Two of the Washington State Court of Appeals. He worked on public policy issues in Pierce, King, and Whatcom Counties before relocating to North Central Washington. Simon's areas of practice include land use and municipal law, environmental law, and general civil litigation. In his spare time, Simon enjoys rock climbing, biking, and skiing.
Cathleen Walker Loan Specialist USDA Rural Development (RD)	Cathleen started with USDA Rural Development in 2021 but brought with her 30 years of lending experience in both the residential and commercial lending industry. As a Community Programs Loan Specialist, she has been able to apply her experience while working with various rural communities, Tribes, and non-profits to finance the needs of their community. She is building infrastructure through water, storm water and wastewater projects and helping communities through the Community Facilities program by financing items from a new ambulance to assisted living homes. Although she is a fairly new face with the agency, she is passionate about the mission to grow the rural communities.
Jane Wall Executive Director Washington State County Road Administration Board (CRAB)	Jane Wall has spent her career working in the public sector, currently serving as Executive Director for the Washington State County Road Administration Board. Before serving the County Road Administration Board, Jane was the Managing Director for the Washington State Association of County Engineers. During this time, she also served as the transportation and public works legislative liaison for the Washington State Association of Counties. Prior to her work with counties, Jane worked as a lobbyist for the Association of Washington Cities. She has also lobbied for higher education institutions in Washington. Jane holds a M.A. in Public Administration, and a B.A. in Political Science. Jane resides in Olympia, WA, with her husband and two young children.
Max Wedding Program Manager Public Works Board (PWB)	Max has been working at the Public Works Board for about three years helping communities around the state navigate the PWB's funding process and managing funding contracts. He co-leads the PWB's Communications, Engagement, and Technical Assistance Committee and helps field technical assistance requests to the IACC's online portal throughout the year. He spent 8 years before joining the PWB working in higher education in Oregon, including roles in community engagement, project management, and program management. He has an MPA with a focus in Local Government from Portland State University.
Briana Weisgerber Active Transportation Programs Engineer Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	Briana is a member of WSDOT's Active Transportation Division where she provides engineering support to the Safe Routes to School and Pedestrian and Bike funding programs. Prior to her role at WSDOT, Briana conducted analysis and created designs to improve the safety for walking, biking, and rolling in communities across the country.
Paul Weller Senior Project Manager PACE Engineers, Inc.	Paul Weller, PE, AICP, is a Senior Planner and Engineer at PACE with over 21 years of experience in municipal infrastructure planning and engineering. His work has focused extensively on water and sewer system planning, regulatory compliance, and project funding for utility districts across Washington State. Paul has managed multiple sewer comprehensive plan updates, including for Valley View and Soos Creek Water & Sewer Districts, navigating both technical modeling and public engagement to address OSS conversions. Most recently, he managed Skyway Water & Sewer District's Equitable Wastewater Futures project for the 80th Avenue South sewer extension, which addressed environmental justice and access to sewer service for underserved communities. He has also led grant writing efforts to fund sewer extensions in unsewered areas, securing both DOE grants and CDBG funds to offset high connection costs for low-income households. Paul's integrated expertise in utility planning, permitting, and financial strategy has helped numerous districts transition from OSS reliance to fully serviced systems. His practical insights from ULID formation, funding gap closure, and public outreach directly support the session's objective of equipping local governments for successful OSS-to-sewer transitions.

Speaker Bios

Dessa Wells Regional Field Manager Rural Community Assistance Corp (RCAC)	Dessa has several years of small business financial management experience. She is QuickBooks certified and has been leading workshops on financial management with RCAC for the past three years. She provides technical assistance to small, rural, and Tribal utilities offering guidance in bookkeeping best practices, rate studies, financial statement development, budgeting, financial management, funding application assistance, income surveys, leadership development, and assistance with small water system management programs.
Emily Whistler Archaeologist Plateau CRM	Emily L. Whistler, M.A., started at Plateau CRM in January 2020. As the Director of Sustained Services, and Project Manager, at Plateau CRM, she oversees all projects that involve construction monitoring, along with Preliminary Cultural Resource Reviews, monitoring plans, and Unanticipated Discovery Plans. Her responsibilities include project management, client interface, state and federal permitting, Memorandum of Agreement consultation, report writing, and fieldwork. During her time as a Project Archeologist at Plateau CRM, Emily has conducted and managed projects throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Prior to joining Plateau CRM, Emily worked in cultural resource management on and off since 2010. In that time, she has worked in Washington, Idaho, California, and Baja. She has participated in large and small-scale probing projects, damage assessments, known site excavations, but construction monitoring has always been her favorite. Emily is the Director of Sustained Services which develops monitoring plans, services monitoring projects, and assists with Unanticipated Discovery Plan implementation.
Lora Wilmes Director of Operations and Public Works City of Carnation	Lora Wilmes is the Director of Operations and Public Works for the City of Carnation, where she leads the planning and delivery of capital improvement projects, infrastructure maintenance, and essential public services. With over a decade of experience in municipal operations, she plays a key role in coordinating with engineers, contractors, and regional partners to deliver public infrastructure projects and ensure high-quality service to the community. Lora brings a strong background in project management, regulatory compliance, and community engagement—ensuring that public works efforts are efficient, transparent, and aligned with the city’s long-term goals. Her leadership reflects a deep commitment to building resilient systems that serve both the city’s current and future needs.
Deb Witmer Senior Program Manager Department of Commerce (COM)	Deb Witmer serves as the Senior Program Manager in the Energy Resilience & Emergency Management Office (EREMO), part of the WA State Department of Commerce’s Energy Division. She and her team have built a state-wide Energy Resilience Program, including the design of a Whole Community Resilience Planning Process. She also oversees programs on Energy Safety and Wildfire Mitigation Planning. Deb brings to her work many years of project planning and management, along with public outreach and engagement experience, particularly with vulnerable populations. Her areas of expertise include access and functional needs and emergency management. She holds a BA in Communications from Kent State University as well as a MS in Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School/Center for Homeland Defense and Security (NPS/CHDS). She brings a passion for resilience and whole community to her work with the State of WA. Deb lives in downtown Seattle with her cat and an overstuffed art studio space.
Steve Worley Public Works Director City of Vancouver	Steve M. Worley, P.E. is the Public Works Director for the City of Vancouver, WA, bringing over 38 years of experience in civil engineering and municipal infrastructure. Prior to joining Vancouver in 2024, he led major capital projects in Pasco, Fife, and Spokane Valley, including award-winning water reuse and transportation initiatives. A licensed professional engineer, Steve is known for his collaborative leadership and innovative approach to public infrastructure. As he prepares for retirement in 2025, he remains committed to sharing insights on sustainable and strategic public works planning.

Speaker Bios

Sarah Zehner
Stormwater Financial
Assistance Program Planner
Department of Ecology
(DOE)

Sarah Zehner is a Stormwater Planner in the Financial Management Section of the Washington Department of Ecology's Water Quality Program. She is the coordinator for the Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (SFAP) that is part of the Ecology's Water Quality Combined Funding Program. She assists communities with applying for and receiving funding for stormwater projects throughout the state. Sarah holds a bachelor's degree in geology and environmental science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



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