



CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Orlando, Florida
February 21-24, 2022

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: August 23, 2021

This conference is jointly sponsored by the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and is held in cooperation with the Florida Water Environment Association (FWEA).

The Conference Planning Committee is soliciting abstracts, pre-conference workshops, and session proposals for The Utility Management Conference™. Water and wastewater managers and professionals will gather in Florida to hear the latest approaches, practices, processes, techniques, case studies, and research in all aspects of utility management, including lessons learned as the sector continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts on topics addressing water and wastewater management. Topics to be covered at the conference include but are not limited to:

1. Business Practice Optimization / Change Management
2. Benchmarking & Performance Measurement
3. Customer Service / Customer Experience Improvements
4. Communications and Public Involvement
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
6. Digital Transformation
7. Finance, Affordability & Rates / Procurement
8. Utility Leadership and Strategy Implementation
9. Workforce Development / Succession Planning / Knowledge Management
10. Integrated Water Management
11. Asset Management
12. Cybersecurity
13. Environmental and Regulatory Issues
14. Data Management & Systems
15. Operation & Maintenance
16. Utility Sustainability
17. Alternate Project Delivery / PPP
18. Risk Management / Resilience / Emergency Preparedness
19. Safety/Security
20. Strategic Planning
21. Utility Collaboration & Regionalization
22. Other

Abstracts should be submitted online. Abstracts should be no longer than 1500 words in length, with any tables or graphics uploaded separately. Selected abstract authors will be notified in September 2021 and will be required to submit a final manuscript and signed license agreement in January 2022. Accepted speakers are expected to register for the conference and pay the appropriate registration fee. No travel or assistance funds are available for speakers.

Workshop and session proposals are also being accepted. All proposals should be submitted online and are also due August 23, 2021. Submittals for full- or half-day workshops are encouraged, as are suggestions

for panel or roundtable discussions (with participants identified). In addition to traditional session proposals, the committee is again calling on utility leaders to share their view points with attendees during the unique **Utility Leaders Forum** sessions. Selected presenters will provide a short introduction followed by a lengthy moderated interactive discussion. The Committee feels these sessions are critical to the success of the conference and hopes to hear from sector leaders across the country and globe.

**Abstracts must be submitted online no later than midnight EDT (UTC -4) on August 23, 2021.
To submit, go to: www.wef.org/UtilityManagement**

For reference ahead of all submittals, the Conference Planning Committee will be reviewing submitted abstracts and proposals using the criteria below.

ORIGINALITY - The paper should deal with new concepts or novel applications of established concepts.

STATUS OF THE PROJECT - The abstract should establish that the project is well-developed and should present data or results to support the hypothesis. Data should have been subjected to preliminary analysis, at a minimum.

TECHNICAL CONTENT - Objectives and scope of the project should be stated. The conditions under which the data were obtained and general procedures/methodology used should be presented.

BENEFITS AND SIGNIFICANCE - Actual benefits and widespread applications should be reported.

QUALITY - The adequacy of an abstract is considered indicative of the quality of the final paper or poster and of the presentation at the conference. Authors should prepare their abstracts with care, paying attention to style, organization of the abstract, and accuracy of the data presented.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

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