

**ACEC Water, Energy and Environment Committee
Summer Meeting
August 26th and 27th, 2021**

**ACEC Headquarters
8th Floor
1015 15th Street N.W.
Washington, DC
202.347.7474**

Agenda

- Permitting - [Autodesk](#)
- Public Finance - Council of Infrastructure Finance Authorities [CIFA](#)
- Drinking Water – Association of Municipal Water Agencies [AMWA](#)
- ESG - [U.S. Chamber ESG](#)
- Sustainability – Equity/Climate – Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure [ISI](#) ;
[Envision](#)
- Climate Mitigation – Carbon Free Technology Initiative [CFTI](#)
- Climate Strategy - ACEC Strategy Discussion

<i>Thursday, August 26, 2021</i>

- 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast – Welcome – Introductions**
Lauren Evans, Pinyon Environmental, Chair, ACEC Water, Env. & Energy Committee
Lynn Schloesser, ACEC Director, Water, Env. & Energy Programs; Priorities
- 8:30 a.m. **Review of Congressional Activities** – presentation: [WEE 2021 Summer Meeting Priorities](#)
- 9:30 a.m. **Permitting – Digital Advances – Public Acceptance**
In this session we hope to learn the latest developments in permit streamlining through digital technologies. How can permit process improvements advance project delivery?

Carolina Venegas Martinez, Autodesk – presentation: [Autodesk](#)
- 10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:45 a.m. **Public Finance of Infrastructure – Council of Infrastructure Finance Authorities (CIFA)**

New levels of SRF and WIFIA program support and expansion of water project scopes are expected with expanded federal authorizations and appropriations. The Storm Act of 2020 adds wide-ranging resilience SRF funding. What are the challenges to state finance authorities, local units of government and design firms? How are communities with low MHI supported?

Diedre Finn, Executive Director, CIFA – presentation: [CIFA](#)

12:00 noon **Lunch – Metropolitan Water Priorities – Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA)**

AMWA is an organization of the largest publicly owned drinking water systems in the United States. AMWA's membership serves more than 156 million people – from Alaska to Puerto Rico – with safe drinking water. AMWA is the nation's only policy-making organization solely for metropolitan drinking water suppliers. Member representatives to AMWA are the general managers and CEOs of these large water systems. Among AMWA's challenges: financing and emerging contaminants e.g., PFAS. What are the federal priorities of AMWA?

Erica Brown, Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer, AMWA

1:00 p.m. **The Role of ESG in the Business Community -US Chamber**

In corporate governance and investing, the hot topic is Environmental, Social and Governance, or ESG. ESG considerations are making their way into the board room, corporate disclosures, and investor considerations. Many corporations must communicate with a variety of different groups—using new and different communications tools covering ESG topics. Today [over 80% of the S&P 500 now issue sustainability reports](#). These reports cover ESG topics beyond the confines of SEC reports.

What are the ESG trends that appear to influence engineering markets short- and long-term? What are the information resources used to track these trends? Are ESG trends indicative of regulatory or legislative initiatives that will influence markets?

Evan Williams, Director, Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness, U.S. Chamber of Commerce – presentation: [CCMC ESG](#)

2:30 p.m. **Break**

2:15 p.m. **Sustainability – Equity/Climate – Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) and Envision**

The [Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure](#) (ISI) is the organization that developed and manages [Envision](#), a framework that encourages systemic changes in the planning, design, and delivery of sustainable, resilient, and equitable civil infrastructure through education, training, and third-party project verification. In its 10 years of development and operations, thousands of practitioners and hundreds of projects have benefited from practices under Envision. A recent Executive Order suggests that federal agencies may find value in addressing equity and climate issues long managed under Envision. How do federal agencies use Envision? Is there a role under recent federal initiatives to expand the use of Envision?

Anthony Kane, President & CEO, Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure, with Michaela Wittmann, HDR, and participation of personnel from the Army Corps of Engineers: Michael Voich, Maria Wegner, and William Curtis Veatch. Presentations: [Envision Slides](#) ; [Sustainable Infrastructure and the Role of Envision](#)

4:10 p.m. **Adjourn**

6:00 p.m. **Registered Meeting Attendee Dinner – 5-minute walk from meeting**

Lincoln Restaurant
1110 Vermont Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20005

<i>Friday, August 27, 2021</i>

8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**

8:15 a.m. **Climate Mitigation and the Future of Electric Utility Infrastructure – Real and Surreal**

The Administration has targeted net zero electricity by 2030 and a net zero economy by 2050. The path forward includes electrification with phase-out of coal and natural gas for power and heating use. Reliance on renewables and nuclear is highly accelerated. Maintaining security, reliability, and affordability are major challenges. Many recent reports point to a fantastic journey: IEA Net

Zero Roadmap, Princeton Renewables Roadmap, NASME report, IEA Critical Minerals Report. How does planning, investment and permitting move to meet such deadlines? What technologies need to be commercialized to meet these deadlines? What is the reduction in temperature achieved by the effort, and at what cost?

Eric Holdsworth, Edison Electric Institute (EEI) [Carbon-Free Technology Initiative](#) - presentation: [CFTI](#)

9:45 a.m. **Break**

10:00 a.m. **Discussion**

- **Meeting Schedule**

- WEE 2021 ACEC Fall Conference roundtable meeting Th 10/28, 11:00 a.m. to noon
- WEE 2022 winter meeting tentatively February 24-25, 2022 Washington DC, ACEC offices.
- ACEC 2022 annual meeting, May 22-25, Washington DC
- ACEC 2022 fall conference, October 16-19, Colorado Springs, CO

- **Advocacy/Awareness/Education - General**

- ACEC strategic plan – WEE goals
- Remediation Work Group - EPA Reverse Industry Day
- ***Climate Strategy*** discussion of content, regulatory/legislative direction

Discussants: Mike McMeekin, Amy Squitieri, Andrew Ratzkin

- *Draft Strategy*
- *Climate Communications*
 - Global and regional climate data trend information
 - Limitations of climate models – decades of use and observations
 - Costs and benefits of:
 - *Mitigation/Net-Zero* emissions reductions
 - *Adaptation/Resilience*

- **Topical Path Forward**

- ACEC fall conference October 27-30, 2021, Marco Island, FL
 - Climate session – latest IPCC climate science – how it informs design: [Andreas Muehlbauer](#), Assistant Vice President and Sr. Lead Research Scientist at [FM Global](#)
 - WEE Roundtable – latest on infrastructure authorizations, appropriations, confirmations, cyber incident reporting

- ACEC annual meeting May 22-25, 2022, Grand Hyatt Washington DC - sessions
 - Potential sessions - FEMA/USACE pre-disaster mitigation, equity, permitting (e.g., transmission)
 - WEE Roundtable
 - Future webinar (suggestions, volunteer developers)
 - cyber security challenges: small business, incident reporting
 - FERC siting and permitting developments
 - opportunities to collaborate with CFTI
 - Climate change, mitigation/adaptation
 - flood/drought resilience
- **Request for contacts of vendors that would add value to ACEC:** cyber security, remote sensing, materials, other

12:00 p.m. **Lunch and Adjourn**

Biographical Information in Order of Appearance

Dr. Carolina Venegas Martínez is Autodesk Water Industry Manager, where she is responsible for planning and driving the strategic planning, industry partnerships and acquisitions, and emerging market opportunities in the Water industry. Carolina has more than 18 years of experience working in the environmental engineering/ water/wastewater field and has worked for consulting firms, regulatory agencies, and academia (faculty, researcher, Chair) in the US and overseas. She actively serves as peer reviewer of over 15+ journals and has authored several industry and scholarly papers in the field.

Prior to joining Autodesk in 2019, Carolina served as Academic Operations Manager and part-time faculty in the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northeastern University in Boston, where she led and executed strategic initiatives related to the expansion of the academic offering at graduate and undergraduate levels, space/budget planning, domestic and international student recruiting, expansion of research/teaching facilities, and safety.

Carolina holds a BS in Civil Engineering and a Specialization degree in Sanitary Engineering from Universidad del Norte in Colombia, a master's degree in Environmental Technologies and a PhD in Environmental Engineering (focused on Wastewater treatment) both from Universidad de Cantabria in Spain.

Deirdre Finn, is Executive Director, of the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA), which represents the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), the nation's premier programs for financing water infrastructure that protects public health and the environment. Since 2007, Deirdre has worked as a management consultant and public policy advocate for environmental, educational and emergency management issues. From 2000 - 2007,

she worked in Florida state government, serving as deputy chief of staff for Governor Jeb Bush and in various roles at the Department of Environmental Protection. Prior to public service, she worked on campaigns. Deirdre earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana. dfinn@cifanet.org

Erica Brown brown@amwa.net is Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer for the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) in Washington, D.C. AMWA is an organization of the largest publicly owned drinking water utilities in the U.S. At AMWA Erica provides the vision and direction for the creation and implementation of innovative programs for AMWA's membership. She develops strategies to support and promote policies and innovations that enable utilities to enhance their resilience while building a strong and sustainable organization in the midst of environmental, regulatory and community changes.

She also directs development of AMWA's comments and recommendations to federal agencies about these issues. She works with federal agencies and other organizations toward actionable science and information to support water utility decision-making in sustainability actions, financing and climate resilience. Her professional expertise and experience is in environmental policy, environmental regulation, homeland security, sustainability and climate change.

Erica received her B.S. in Civil Engineering and M.T. in Secondary Science Teaching from the University of Virginia. In previous positions she has supported EPA's drinking water rule development, served as a subject matter expert for the evaluation of facility anti-terror systems and technologies for the Department of Homeland Security, facilitated agile software development processes and taught high school earth science.

Evan Williams, Director, Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness (CCMC), U.S. Chamber of Commerce Evan Williams, a director at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness (CCMC), leads the portfolio on corporate governance and financial reporting. This includes environmental, social, and governance (ESG) policy. He also operates the Chamber's Corporate Governance Working Group, which is composed of a large and diverse body of issuers and corporate governance thought leaders. Before joining the Chamber, Williams spent six years working on financial services policy on Capitol Hill. He is a graduate of the University of Richmond.

Anthony Kane, as the president & CEO of ISI, Anthony oversees the organization's overall operations and leads the development of the Envision framework for sustainable infrastructure. Anthony was formerly a research director at the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, a research associate with the Materials, Processes, and Systems Group at Harvard University, and an instructor at the Boston Architectural College. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture Summa Cum Laude from Virginia Tech and a master's in design studies from Harvard University. Anthony is a co-author of Ceramic Material Systems in Architecture and Interior Design and a contributing author of Infrastructure Sustainability and Design.

Eric Holdsworth is a leading expert on the issue of global climate change, with over 20 years of experience in this field. Currently, he is the Managing Director, Clean Energy and Environment

at the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), where he helps oversee EEI's involvement in the global climate change issue. In that capacity, he helps direct the development and execution of strategies to shape national climate policy consistent with EEI principles, including promoting policies to accelerate the development of clean energy and energy-efficient technologies.

Eric also manages EEI's involvement in the international arena, including with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and oversees EEI's involvement in state and regional climate efforts. Eric has written and spoken extensively on the subject of climate change and its potential impacts on the electric power sector.

Eric holds a Masters in Business Administration, with a specialization in International Management, from the American Graduate School of International Management, also known as "Thunderbird." He also holds a B.A. in International Affairs from the George Washington University, where he specialized in Latin America.

Below find links to the presentations:

[Autodesk](#)

[CCMC ESG](#)

[CFTI](#)

[CIFIA](#)

[Envision Slides](#)

[Sustainable Infrastructure and the Role of Envision](#)

[WEE 2021 Summer Meeting Priorities](#)