

Regional Finance Forum

“Financing Resilient and Sustainable Water Infrastructure”



September 10-11, 2015

Addison, TX



Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center

Environmental Finance Center Network

Thursday, September 10, 2015

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| 8:30-9:00am | Registration | |
| 9:00-9:45am | Session 1 (45m) | <p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Welcome from Region 6, EPA’s Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center, and USDA Rural Development.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Bill Honker, EPA Region 6, Director for Water Quality Protection Division</p> <p>Jim Gebhardt, EPA Water Finance Center, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Administrator for Water Finance</p> <p>Jacki Ponti-Lazaruk, USDA Rural Development, Assistant Administrator for Water and Environmental Programs</p> |
| 9:45-10:45am | Session 2 (1h) | <p>Financing Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure</p> <p>Hear how a utility has successfully financed resilient and sustainable water infrastructure.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <p>Dave Taylor, Waurika Lake Master Conservancy District, OK <i>Financing for drought resiliency even after the rain</i></p> <p>Interact with a panel of experts on importance of upfront planning for financial sustainability.</p> <p>Panel:</p> <p>Heather Himmelberger, Southwest Environmental Finance Center</p> |

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| | | Jerry Kopke, Communities Unlimited Dorothy Young, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality |
| 10:45-11:00am | Break | |
| 11:00am-12:00pm | Session 3 (1h) | <p>Group Discussion</p> <p>Facilitated discussion for utilities and community leaders to share local financing needs with larger group.</p> <p>Discussion questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What challenges are communities facing when making long-term infrastructure decisions? How are these conversations changing with weather events? - Have you identified long-term needs and/or established goals? How can EPA's Finance Center assist in meeting these goals? Whether you've established long-term goals or not, what would you identify as the biggest priority? - If you were suddenly given a budget increase, what is the one thing you would spend it on? - If an elevator or airplane were maintained in the same way you maintain your system, would you feel safe enough to ride it? |
| 12:00pm-1:00pm | Session 4 (1h) | Networking Lunch (Lunch provided) |
| 1:00-1:45pm | Session 5 (45m) | <p>Funding Disaster Recovery</p> <p>Hear from speakers on federal funding for disaster recovery efforts.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Charlie Cook, FEMA, Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Division</p> <p>David Goldbloom-Helzner, EPA, Water Security Division</p> |
| 1:45-3:00pm | Session 6 (1h15m) | <p>Financing Resilient Infrastructure Table Top Exercise</p> <p>Participate in a table top scenario to determine solutions for financing emergency response and long-term resiliency from extreme storm and drought events.</p> |
| 3:00-3:15pm | Break | |

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| <p>3:15-4:30pm</p> | <p>Session 7 (1h15m)</p> | <p>Partnering for Financial Success</p> <p>Hear from utilities that have partnered with other utilities and stakeholders to achieve sustainable solutions. Will discuss how the partnership was funded and how the partnership assisted in financing utility needs.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Maxine Pruitt, Guthrie Public Works Authority, OK <i>Creating a more sustainable regional water system in partnership with Langston University</i></p> <p>Jerry Estes, North Arkansas Electric Cooperative and Fulton County Water Authority, AR <i>Partnering through a rural electric cooperative</i></p> <p>Donald Sarich, P.E., San Jacinto River Authority, TX <i>Regionalizing for an alternative water supply</i></p> <p>Woody Bryant, General Manager, Lonoke White Public Water Authority, AR <i>Forming partnerships and raising revenue to create the Lonoke White Public Water Authority</i></p> |
| <p>4:30-5:30pm</p> | <p>Session 8 (1hr)</p> | <p>Networking with Peers and Funders</p> <p>(Light refreshments provided)</p> <p>Talk one-on-one with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funders/funding experts about their local finance needs - Utility peers on their financing experiences - The Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center to hear of services and activities |

Friday, September 11, 2015

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| 8:30-9:00am | Networking/Registration | |
| 9:00-10:00am | Session 9 (1h) | <p>Communicating Utility Needs to Customers – Getting Community Buy-in for Financing Needs</p> <p>Share successful communication campaigns and community engagement efforts that focus on local drivers.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Sonia Brubaker, EPA Water Finance Center <i>Value of Water campaigns and community engagement efforts</i></p> <p>Bret Weingart, Assistant Director, Utilities Department for Oklahoma City, OK <i>Why community buy-in and innovative financing mechanisms are important for a 100 mile water pipeline project</i></p> <p>Table breakouts: Crafting communication messages</p> |
| 10:00-10:30am | Session 10 (30m) | <p>Financing Conservation for Maximum Revenues</p> <p>Hear from a utility on how opportunities were identified for expanded uses of reclaimed water.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Stephen Jenkins, P.E. RPS Group <i>Development of the San Marcos feasibility study and the opportunities for reclaimed water</i></p> |
| 10:30-11:30am | Session 11 (1h) | <p>Financing for Stormwater Programs</p> <p>Hear strategies on creating a dedicated revenue stream, incorporating green infrastructure, market-based tools, and incentives.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Dan Nees, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center Joanne Throwe, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center</p> |
| 11:30am-12:00pm | Session 12 (30m) | <p>Forum Wrap Up</p> <p>Suggestions for the Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center</p> <p>Next steps for attendees</p> |