

WWEMA 47th Washington Forum
April 29-May 1, 2020
The Alexandrian, Alexandria, VA

Preliminary List of Speakers and Topics

Welcome and a Brief History of Alexandria, VA

The Honorable Justin Wilson, Mayor, City of Alexandria, VA
Daniel Lee, Ph.D., City Historian, Office of Historic Alexandria

We are honored that The Honorable Justin Wilson, Mayor of the City of Alexandria will open the WWEMA 47th Washington Forum with a welcome to attendees and an overview of the current city and its many attractions. Daniel Lee, the City Historian, will provide a brief overview of the rich history of Alexandria, VA which began with the first European settlement in 1695. Once a significant port, in 1801 much of Alexandria was swept into the new District of Columbia by George Washington but later returned to Virginia. The first fatalities of the Civil War occurred in Alexandria. At the turn of the century, the most common production in the city was glass, fertilizer, beer, and leather. We will learn much more about this interesting and historic city.

It's an Election Year – What Does that Mean for Politics and Infrastructure?

Rich Galen, Chairman, Barrington Worldwide

It's an election year and anything goes. Rich will bring his keen wit and political insights to discussion on trade, infrastructure, and the election process as we delve into what the candidates are saying about issues like infrastructure, what the current Administration and Congress are doing to shore up their constituency support, what the impacts may be on business, and what it all might mean at the ballot box in November.

The Economic Outlook

Ken Simonson, Chief Economist, The Associated General Contractors of America

There is some uncertainty facing contractors and other businesses heading into 2020. The unemployment rate remains low, posing a continued challenge to finding qualified workers and driving up wages. While various measures indicate solid current activity, full backlogs, and a robust pipeline of projects to bid on in the nonresidential construction markets the outlook for retail construction remains grim. Ken will discuss many of these issues and more as he shares his economic outlook for 2020.

Priorities and Outlook for EPA in 2020 and Beyond

Andrew Sawyers, Ph.D., Director, U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management
Jennifer McLain, Ph.D., Director, U.S. EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
Deborah Nagle, Director, U.S. EPA Office of Science and Technology
Jeff Lape, National Program Leader for Water Reuse, U.S. EPA Office of Water

Our panel of U.S. EPA Office Directors will provide insights on the priorities of each of their offices and the regulatory and policy issues they are tackling in 2020 and beyond. Lead, PFAS/PFOA, perchlorate, nutrients, harmful algal blooms, peak wet weather flows, biosolids, water quality standards,

affordability, infrastructure, and other issues continue to dominate the headlines. Water reuse is also a significant priority for the Office of Water and we will hear about efforts underway to launch the implementation of the *Water Reuse Action Plan* with support and contributions from water sector stakeholders. They will share information on these and other issues that will frame the Agency's regulatory agenda.

The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) – What Will it Mean for U.S. Manufacturers?

Birgit Matthiesen, Director, North American Manufacturing, Arent Fox LLP

Chuck Chaitovitz, Vice President, Environmental Affairs and Sustainability, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

TBA, Office of the United States Trade Representative, U.S. Department of Commerce

The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) was signed into law by the President on January 29, 2020. Already ratified by Mexico, and soon to be ratified by Canada, the “new NAFTA” is expected to come into force as early as June or July 2020. The three countries will soon be meeting to draft the critical underlying regulations to implement the provisions of the USMCA. These “uniform regulations” will be very important to WWEMA members as they will spell out the “how” and “when” of the rule changes. This panel presentation will provide insights into the many changes in the trade agreement and impacts on business and explore opportunities to develop best practices as well as ease market entry and bolster exports for U.S. technology companies along the U.S.-Mexico border being spearheaded by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Priorities of the Water Research Foundation and Discussion of a New Report *Water Utility*

Partnerships: Resource Guide and Toolbox

Peter Grevatt, Ph.D., CEO, The Water Research Foundation (Speaker to be announced)

The Water Research Foundation is now the consolidated research organization for the water sector. As such, it has a large portfolio of projects that cross all water areas including drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and water reuse. Critical projects in the pipeline will be discussed as well as a recently completed new report titled *Water Utility Partnerships: Resource Guide and Toolbox*. This report, co-sponsored by AWWA and NACWA, provides direction on developing utility partnerships to address challenges such as water supply reliability, water quality, and water costs. It encourages utilities to form partnerships to achieve greater technical, managerial, and financial capacity while working to maintain regulatory compliance.

-Additional Speakers and Topics will be Announced in the Near Future-