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WWEMA Virtual
47th Washington Forum
April 27 - 29, 2021



WWEMA 47th Virtual WASHINGTON FORUM

Preliminary List of Speakers and Topics

Economic Trends, Trade, Labor, and What's Ahead - *John Manzella, Founder, Manzella Trade Communications, Inc.*

COVID-19 and volatility continue to impact U.S. and world growth, while complexities with the USMCA, Europe, and China are creating new supply chain and investment risks. Combined with new drivers of growth, and shifting demographics, these issues are shaping our future. What does this mean to you and your business? This invaluable program examines trading relationships, analyzes sectors, and explores critical issues involving labor, skills, automation, and immigration. Additionally, it offers survival strategies to improve competitiveness and reduce risk, and provides insight on what's ahead.

The Post(?) - Pandemic Outlook for Construction

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

Like the broader economy, construction is displaying varied trends. Homebuilding is soaring, private nonresidential work is shrinking, and public spending is somewhere in between. Meanwhile, all types of projects are plagued by issues affecting workforce, materials costs, and supply chains. This session will cover each sector's progress, problems, and prospects, including a look at the post-pandemic possibilities.

Rebuilding the Nation's Infrastructure – The Political Dynamics

Eric Sapirstein, President, ENS Resources, Inc.

With the November elections in the rear view mirror and the new Biden Administration closing in on its first "100 days in office", much has already been accomplished with recent passage of the \$1.9 trillion *American Rescue Plan* to provide economic relief to address impacts of the current pandemic. Next on the horizon is a \$3 trillion *Build Back Better* plan to rebuild our nation's infrastructure, get people back to work, create new social programs, implement tax changes, and address climate and resiliency issues. Eric will provide insight into how Congress and the President may move forward to address these issues of infrastructure, environmental justice, and climate resiliency and what that might mean for American business.

Invited Speakers

U.S. Chamber of Commerce and The National Association of Manufacturers

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and The National Association of Manufacturers (The NAM) are powerful voices for manufacturers and businesses, helping them to succeed in the business environment. The NAM is actively supporting and promoting increased funding for water and wastewater infrastructure; eliminating volume caps on private activity bonds and leveraging private capital; providing incentives for partnerships and other tools to assist small systems; promoting SMART technologies to reduce leaks in distribution pipes, reduce pollution from sewer overflows, and increase treatment efficiencies while reducing costs; and enhancing the resilience of cities through innovative stormwater solutions. They also support free enterprise, competitiveness, individual liberty, and equal opportunity with policies on trade; the environment; research, innovation, and technology; and regulatory and legal reforms. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business organization representing companies of all sizes across every sector of the economy. Their members range from the small businesses and local chambers of commerce that line the Main Streets of America to leading industry associations and large corporations. The Chamber's *2021 Policy Priorities* address economic recovery; antitrust and competition policy; capital markets and financial regulation; education and workforce; environmental affairs, climate, and sustainability; infrastructure; intellectual property protections; international trade; supply chain; and technology among others. Speakers from these two associations have been invited to share their priorities and to discuss how we might work more closely together as we seek to rebuild our Nation's infrastructure and economy.

Utility Perspectives on Challenges, Opportunities, and Priorities

Adam Krantz, CEO, National Association of Clean Water Agencies

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) is the nation's recognized leader in legislative, regulatory, and legal clean water advocacy - helping ensure a strong, sustainable clean water future. There is no issue more central to NACWA's advocacy than increasing the availability of infrastructure funding for public clean water utilities, which includes increased federal funding to support this critical infrastructure sector. Originally founded in 1970 as an organization focused on ensuring appropriate distribution of federal construction grant dollars under the Clean Water Act, the Association has maintained a strong commitment to advancing federal clean water funding. At the same time, NACWA has also evolved over the years to recognize the importance of other water infrastructure funding mechanisms including municipal bonds, innovative financing approaches, and public-private partnerships. NACWA recognizes that discussions of infrastructure investment cannot be divorced from the critical issues related to affordability. The reality is that many local governments and their utilities are facing huge affordability challenges. Some have shrinking rate bases, but even those with growing populations are witnessing increasing segments of their rate base that are unable to afford the rising costs of clean water. In short, higher costs for water infrastructure investments are disproportionately impacting the poorest segments of a given community's populations. Adam will provide keen insight into the many issues facing clean water systems today, discuss the opportunities that these challenges provide, and share the priorities of the Association as it advocates for this critical segment of the water industry.

Water Week Policy Zoom-In with EPA Officials and Members of Congress

Joint webinar hosted by this year's Water Association Partners



This webinar is hosted jointly by this year's [Water Association Partners](#) and will provide attendees the opportunity to hear directly from key EPA officials and Members of Congress on the important regulatory and legislative water policies they are working on now and in the years ahead. Don't miss the chance to hear about the important and timely federal water initiatives taking shape in Washington, DC. Please register with separate complimentary registration https://nacwa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fiqmWROtRZapbKs0HymVEw!

