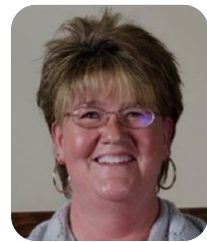


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## President's Message



**W**elcome to 2022! I am excited to serve as the 2022 APWA-North Carolina Chapter president. Since joining our chapter in 2006, I've made many

lasting friendships – I even met my husband, Rusty, at a conference in 2007. I became active in the AMD Division (now known as Leadership & Management Division) and served as AMD president in 2015. I was honored in 2019 to receive the Robert E. Linkner Private Sector Service Award and had the chance to meet and become friends with Mr. Linkner before his passing. APWA will have a special place in my heart always!

First and foremost, we're all looking forward returning to "in-person" APWA functions.

I don't take as much for granted since the COVID-19 pandemic found its way into our state and our lives. Dining out with friends, office gatherings, and in-person worship services used to happen without much thought. Now these events carry more meaning.

Don't get me wrong - I think we as an organization and society have adapted well. We have found that working from home can be accomplished productively, virtual training is possible, and supporting small businesses in your local communities is helping them survive. And our front-line public works employees never missed a beat. We continued to have power every day, garbage service weekly, water and sewer without disruption, and roads were cleared during snow and ice events. All of us thank you.

As our executive board, divisions, and committees plan this year's APWA events, our APWA-NC members can participate and share their expertise with any of these boards or committees. Mae Bryant, president-elect, has been working hard to produce a 2022 State Chapter Annual Conference program. Check out the registration information on the website. The conference will be March 30-April 1 at the Durham Convention Center, preceded by the golf outing on March 29. Partnership opportunities are still available (contact Earl Manning at [emanning@godwin-group.net](mailto:emanning@godwin-group.net) for more information).

Our APWA-NC website continues to list upcoming events on the Calendar-at-a-Glance and our PWX Steering Committee has updated the PWX 2022 page, showing opportunities to get involved. The Awards/Scholarship page lists awards and scholarships that are available annually. We have many worthy individuals who deserve to be nominated. Please step up to recognize the valuable and deserving North Carolinians in APWA.

Finally, let's all try to attend PWX 2022 Aug. 28-31 in Charlotte and show everyone what a great state we serve!

Respectfully,

Rebecca "Becky" Bost  
 APWA-NC President

5

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# PARTNER FEATURE

## Lead And Copper Rule Revisions: How Communities Can Get Started Replacing Lead Pipes

Written by Mohsin Syed, Marketing Associate | WithersRavenel



The health risk presented by lead in water got renewed attention with the crisis in Flint, Michigan, that began in 2014. A change in the City’s source water in combination with unfavorable water chemistry caused lead in the distribution system pipes to enter the drinking water. While distribution of clean water remains a vital mission for municipalities across the nation, the topic was back in the spotlight when late last year the Biden administration released its Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan, which included Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.

The plan promises to “deploy catalytic resources from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law while leveraging every tool across federal, state, and local government to deliver clean drinking water, replace lead pipes, and remediate lead paint.”

The goal is to replace all lead pipes in the United States over the next 10 years. According to the Biden administration, \$15 billion is being allocated from the infrastructure law for lead service line replacements through the Drinking Water Safe Revolving Fund (DWSRF), in addition to \$11.7 billion in SRF funding for water and wastewater infrastructure. In 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will allocate \$3 billion from the \$15 billion for lead pipe replacement allocated under the infrastructure law. This is in addition to the \$350 billion under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) that can be used for lead pipe replacement projects.

WithersRavenel understands the challenges of undertaking lead service line replacements projects. The biggest obstacle is typically quality and availability of data. Service line

materials are often not recorded on municipality records and the only way to truly know the type of material is to expose each service and take an inventory. It’s tedious, time-consuming, and expensive to dig each service line across a service area, but it is the only way to confirm the service materials of those that could not be ruled out through reviewing records. Any existing data or records that could help rule out the possibility of a lead or galvanized pipe (which was historically installed with lead-based solder) is valuable and reduces the number of services that need to be physically identified.

In 2019, WithersRavenel’s Geomatics Department worked on a project for the City of Raleigh to locate and identify service line material.

After the lines were identified, our firm compiled contract documents and assisted project bidding to have the galvanized lines replaced.

According to WithersRavenel Project Engineer Casey Garland, Ph.D., PE, “We can rule out the presence of lead service line a few different ways.”

***“Once we’ve ruled out all the service lines that aren’t lead, it narrows down the pool significantly. With this reduced pool of service lines, we can then begin to identify line material individually by digging or vacuum excavation,” she said. “The timeline for this phase is entirely dependent on the size of the municipality and the quality and quantity of existing data.”***

Some ways to rule out lead service lines include:

- Lead service lines were banned from use in 1988, so any construction after that would have used another pipe material.
- When water mains are replaced, the municipality also replaces the service line from the main to the water meter. If the water main was replaced in the last 30 years, service lines connected to it would not be lead-based.
- When water meters are replaced, the service line can be identified and recorded.

The second phase of this process is replacing the service lines identified as lead or galvanized. “Municipality staff are typically capable of replacing these lines but lack the time to complete them,” Garland said.

“Replacing the lines can be bid out for replacement at a higher rate but, of course, costing a bit more.”

Fortunately, the above-mentioned new funds that are coming available should help accelerate replacement and provide relief for municipalities that have not been able to budget for replacements over the years.

“The biggest challenge in this whole process will likely be human power,” Garland said. “As it stands today, there’s plenty of construction to keep the industry busy for years. We’re about to have enough funds dumped into the system to keep the industry busy for decades. Finding enough people to do the work will be the challenge.”



Following the review of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCCR), an EPA fact sheet from December said: “Lead service line inventories that will be developed under the LCRR are necessary to achieve 100% removal of lead service lines. EPA intends to maintain the requirements for information to be submitted in the initial lead service line inventory by the current October 16, 2024, compliance date.”

Municipalities have been anticipating these changes. “Lead service line replacements have been on folks’ radars for the past couple of years from the upcoming rule revisions,” Garland said.

***“Now that more stringent inventories and replacements will likely be required, municipalities are looking for a solution to meet the new rule requirements,” she said. “With all the ARP money coming through as well, municipalities will have the funding and are now just looking for people to complete the work.”***

WithersRavenel’s multidisciplinary capabilities come into the picture on such projects, with our funding and asset management capabilities aligned with our geomatics group and utilities engineers.

“We have a methodology for service line identification and the software to establish or update service line inventories,” Garland said. “The process of replacement is streamlined at WithersRavenel since we can also handle contracting to replace lines.” ●

**Have questions about the new lead pipe replacement funding and requirements? Reach out to:**

**Utilities:** Casey Garland, Ph.D., PE, [cgarland@withersravenel.com](mailto:cgarland@withersravenel.com)

**SUE:** Jonathon Nichols, [jnichols@withersravenel.com](mailto:jnichols@withersravenel.com)

**Funding:** Amanda Whitaker, [awhitaker@withersravenel.com](mailto:awhitaker@withersravenel.com)



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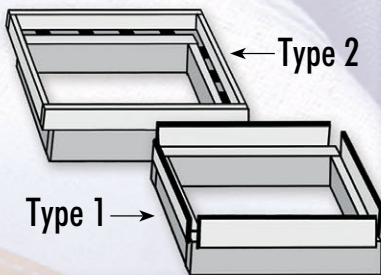


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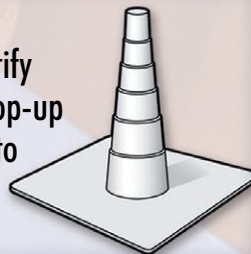


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American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Funds will be Flowing Soon!

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# PARTNER FEATURE

## Addressing Forever Chemicals

Contributed by LaBella



**P**er- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a family of chemical compounds that have been manufactured and used throughout the nation and world since the 1940s. Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) are the most common chemicals used in the PFAS group. They are known as “forever” chemicals because they disintegrate very slowly.

PFAS have been widely used in the manufacture of non-stick cookware, in the textile and outdoor clothing industry, as additives to firefighting foams, and in the packaging industry. Because of the widespread use of PFAS and their resulting presence in the environment, most Americans have detectable levels of PFAS in their bloodstreams. Solid waste streams that contain PFAS are present in most closed and active landfills nationwide. Scientific and medical studies demonstrate that long-term exposure to high levels of certain classes of PFAS compounds can cause significant human health effects, including immunological response alteration, liver damage, and decreased birth weight, and may cause kidney and testicular cancer.

Over the past decade, some state governments have actively developed maximum contaminant levels (MCL) and corrective actions for potable water sources impacted by PFAS, however a federal regulatory framework has not existed. Beginning in 2021, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) developed and published a nationwide approach and framework to “Research, Regulate, and Remediate” PFAS.



The US EPA guidance document is titled “PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA’s Commitments to Action 2021-2024”, and consists of a comprehensive three-pronged multi-year program, to:

**Research:** Develop a research program to better understand the human health effects of certain groups of PFAS and understand how PFAS move through and persist in the environment.

**Restrict:** Develop a comprehensive approach to prevent PFAS from continuing to enter air, land, and water at levels that cause human health and ecological damage. This portion of the roadmap directs various offices within the US EPA to develop nationwide monitoring and regulatory programs for drinking water and effluent (discharge) limits for industry, publicly-owned pretreatment works (POTW), and landfills.

**Remediate:** This section of the roadmap directs US EPA offices to develop and measure the effectiveness of PFAS mitigation technologies and develop new methods, standards, and programs to treat PFAS in soil, air, and water.



A handful of states have proactively developed MCLs for shortlists of PFAS compounds. These states have implemented potable water system testing programs, researched and investigated PFAS sources, and developed their own regulatory programs for investigating and mitigating sources of PFAS in the environment. As such, municipalities in those states are already well ahead of the national curve in working with state agencies to research, restrict, and remediate these forever chemicals.

Fortunately, the federal government has responded to the PFAS crisis by providing funding to address and implement components of the federal PFAS roadmap. Recently, Congress passed the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA) (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or BIL), which will provide the US EPA with more than \$50 billion to distribute water and sewer infrastructure funding to states, tribes, and territories primarily through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. EPA implements the SRF program through state agencies that ultimately provide funding to municipalities through grant and loan programs. IIJA funding may also be provided to states to distribute funding outside the SRF program. IIJA funding will be distributed to states over five years.

A significant share of the \$50 billion will be set aside to address emerging contaminants, including PFAS:

- \$5 billion for drinking water upgrades in disadvantaged communities, which may include addressing emerging contaminants such as PFAS. States can apply for the funding to provide grants to disadvantaged communities of less than 10,000 in population that are underserved (no drinking water or a water system that violates federal drinking water requirements).
- \$4 billion for drinking water improvements through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). All funding will be provided as grants or principal forgiveness loans.
- \$1 billion to address emerging contaminants in wastewater and stormwater systems through the State's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). All funding will be provided as grants or principal forgiveness loans.

While the IIJA funding will provide a boost for DWSRF and CWSRF programs, these programs have always been available to address public health issues. Emerging contaminants are a public health issue and, therefore, traditional DWSRF and CWSRF programs can potentially be leveraged to address PFAS. Similarly, other federal programs such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-I) program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) infrastructure program provide funding to address public health issues such as emerging contaminants.

Many communities are also trying to finalize how they will spend their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation. Infrastructure improvements are an eligible use of ARPA funds to upgrade local water, sewer, and stormwater systems, including addressing PFAS.

Communities should get ready for the anticipated boost in funding, most of which will be offered through competitive grant applications. Therefore, now is the time to prepare preliminary engineering reports, conduct necessary testing, estimate costs, complete environmental reviews, and reserve funding for any required matches. Communities that are prepared will be first in line for funding and their grant applications will be more competitive. ●

## CONTACT US

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# PARTNER FEATURE

## Better Roads the Better Way: Clarkstown, N.Y. Switches to Ultra-Thin Paving Lifts & Manhole Risers

Written by Angus Stocking | American Highway Products



Clarkstown, N.Y., is a town of 84,000, across the Hudson River from Brooklyn and about 30 miles north. It's fair to call the area affluent, but until recently you wouldn't know it from the town's 300 miles of roadway. "Up until 2018 we didn't do much in the way of annual maintenance other than mill-and-pave, and raising manholes to grade with cast iron rings," says Street Construction Inspector Jeffrey Lawrence. "This took a toll on roads, and we realized that we needed a more sophisticated approach if we wanted more mileage for our investment."

A central feature of the new approach was the use of ultra-thin, ultra-durable wear layers of advanced paving material, typically applied in one-inch thicknesses. "It's a better quality surface and a better looking surface, in every important way," says Lawrence.

But ultra-thin layers do present a challenge when it comes to raising manholes. The cast iron risers that Clarkstown was using are simply not available in thin sizes, which means that Lawrence was faced with the possibility that its durable and immaculate new roadway surfaces would be marred by shallow potholes at every manhole. And in a region with lots of annual freeze/thaw cycles, and plenty of snow plowing and road salting, that just wouldn't do. "I started looking around," Lawrence says. He discovered the American Highway Products Pivoted Turnbuckle Manhole Riser.

The AHP adjustable risers are sturdy, lightweight rings of flexible U.S. steel, joined with turnbuckles that make it easy (with no training required) to expand or contract the riser using a screwdriver as a lever to apply 5,600 lb. of pressure evenly around the entire circumference of the riser. This enormous force easily and permanently fits the riser snugly to the existing frame, at the exact height needed to match new road grades.

Importantly for Lawrence, they are available in very thin heights, and customizable in 1/4-inch increments. "In four years, we've purchased over 700 American Highway Products risers, mostly in 3/4-inch and 1-inch riser heights," he says.

*"They're high-quality, reliable, affordable, and I like that they're made in the USA."*

And quick and easy to install permanently. "I do most of the installs myself, just a one-man crew. An install literally takes just a minute and a half—I clean off the original rim, pop in the riser, and tighten it in," Lawrence says.

"Honestly, it's kind of thrilling." Especially compared to a manual adjustment of the casting, which can take a two-man crew hours to complete.

"And I've never had one come out! The American Highway Products riser is a great product, with great results, and makes for a great road!" ●

# DIVISION NEWS

## Leadership and Management Division Hosting an Informative and Engaging Conference

Submitted by Andrew Parker, Senior Engineering Operations Manager | STV

### *2022 APWA-NC Leadership and Management Conference*

*Registration is now open!*

Embassy Suites Wilmington Riverfront  
May 11 - 13, 2022



The Leadership and Management Division of APWA-NC invites you to attend our 2022 conference, May 11-13 at the Embassy Suites Wilmington Riverfront in downtown Wilmington. The hotel is located a half-mile from the Wilmington Historic District, while overlooking the Cape Fear River and Battleship North Carolina. Guests also have direct access to the Wilmington Downtown Riverwalk. Attendees can book their accommodations now at the [Embassy Suites Wilmington Riverfront](#).

A great lineup of informative and engaging learning opportunities is planned that is sure to fit your needs as a public works leader. Topics range from engineering practice and technology advancements to personnel management and leadership skills necessary to thrive in an ever-changing public works environment.

We encourage you to also bring your rising public works leaders to this conference for group mentoring, networking, and insight on current and future issues in public works. [Registration](#) to attend the conference is now open.

As usual, we will mix in entertainment with education. A golf outing hosted by LaBella Associates will kick off our conference - golfers of all levels are encouraged to attend for a fun day of camaraderie and relaxing play. The hotel also has a breathtaking rooftop bar, which will be the location of our social on Thursday afternoon.

The success of this great event depends on the support of our partners. [Registration](#) is now open for organizations interested in partnership opportunities.



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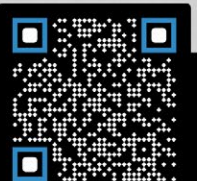
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# DIVISION NEWS

## Stormwater Division

### Overflowing With Upcoming Events!

Submitted by Everett Gupton



Pictured is the APWA-NC Stormwater Committee at the 2021 Stormwater Division conference in Asheville.

Greetings to all the great Public Works professionals in our APWA community from the Stormwater Division. We're excited to kick off another year with a great set of wonderful education opportunities that are relevant to our membership and will help everyone be even better at running their organizations.

Our first event will be a virtual education event on April 20, focusing on \$Funding. We all are aware that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill is a BIG DEAL! The opportunity for this bill to be a transformational piece of legislation for our industry is no secret, but the funding streams can be confusing. We're assembling a great group of speakers to help enlighten our audience, so please keep an eye out for the registration notice.

Our second educational session will be on June 15 and will cover topics related to Program Management of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). With the ever evolving expectations and demands on MS4s, and with all the new MS4s coming online due to North Carolina's rapid population growth, this educational event will help our members understand these changes.

Finally, we have begun preparations for our annual Stormwater Conference, set for Sept. 18-20. This year, we're thrilled to be back at the Convention Center in Winston-Salem and hope that this will be our biggest and best conference yet. Please keep an eye out for our call for abstracts and call for sponsors that will be coming out in the spring.



# DIVISION NEWS

## Facilities & Grounds Division

### 2022 Conference Set for May in Beaufort, NC

Submitted by Buddy Hall | Wolf Trail Engineering, PLLC




The Facilities & Grounds division is excited to host the 2022 Facilities & Grounds conference May 4-6. Our most recent annual conference was in 2019, and we are very happy to be back and meeting

in-person at the Beaufort Hotel in Beaufort, NC.

The 2022 conference will start off with the Facilities & Grounds Golf Tournament on May 4 at the Beaufort Country Club and will continue with




two days centered around the new APWA Facilities & Grounds Management Certificate program. This is an eight-hour course (0.8 CEU credits) designed for facilities and grounds professionals. The program provides training and real-life experiences in the areas of preventative maintenance, grounds maintenance, capital improvement planning, ADA compliance, and more.

We would love for you to join us at the 2022 Facilities & Grounds conference in Beaufort. Registration and sponsorship opportunity details will be shared soon!



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# DIVISION NEWS

## Solid Waste Division

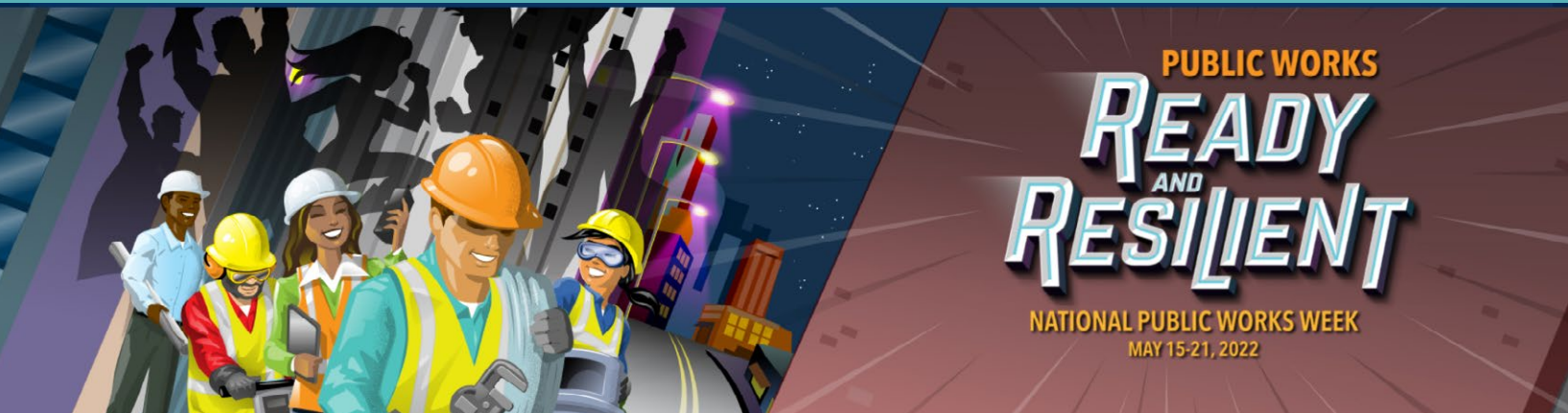
### Honoring Long-Time APWA-NC Board Member Larry Wiegman

Submitted by Lewis Barry | City of Hickory



*We remember long-time friend and solid waste board member who passed away February 2, 2022.*

*In 2019, we presented him with a plaque for his commitment and dedication to the solid waste field.*



# IN THE COMMUNITY

## Young Professional Spotlight

### Meet Jim Mertz, GISP, Chairperson of YPA for 2022!

Submitted by APWA-NC Young Professional Committee



#### GET TO KNOW JIM MERTZ!

- **CAREER:** Project Manager at Bolton & Menk
- **INDUSTRY SECTOR:** GIS
- **APWA-NC MEMBER SINCE:** 2021

Originally from Grand Forks, North Dakota, Jim received his Bachelor of Science in Geography from the University of North Dakota in 2010. He moved to Holly Springs, North Carolina in 2021 and continued volunteering with APWA.

#### In His Own Words

I first discovered the world of urban planning and GIS as a lowly business major at the University of North Dakota. I started dabbling in classes on the side, first a minor, and then fully transitioned to a major. My first job after college was in the public sector and allowed me to contribute to engineering, surveying, planning, GIS, and emergency services. This diverse start to my career is why I often describe my experience as “an inch deep and a mile wide”.

I started with Bolton & Menk in 2017 and have continued to contribute across many work types and maintain my public infrastructure focus. Our company’s mission statement is “We believe that all people deserve to live in safe, sustainable, and beautiful communities” and that couldn’t better describe my passion. The benefit of working in consulting allows me the opportunity to work in many communities in the Carolinas and make a lasting impact in the region.

#### Looking Forward

I am looking forward to meeting people in North Carolina and continuing to work on a variety of projects. I hope to become more involved in APWA, an organization that I feel matches my values of enhancing communities.

#### A Little Advice

***“I think it is important to be a solution-based thinker. Take time to listen, understand needs, and identify potential solutions. Sometimes these will fail, but even the failed attempts will help you learn.”***

#### Mentor

Kyler Bender, PE, PTOE

#### Outside of Work

I am adapting to the newfound, year-round activities available in the Southeast. I have loved exploring the Carolinas with my two boys, splitting time between the woods, mountains, and beaches.

***For more information on how to get involved, contact YPNC Chair Jim Mertz, at [james.mertz@bolton-menk.com](mailto:james.mertz@bolton-menk.com) or 919-501-5597***



# OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT

## PWX 2022 Conference

Charlotte Convention Center

AUGUST  
28-31  
2022

### GET EXPOSURE WHERE IT MATTERS!

On behalf of the American Public Works Association - North Carolina Chapter, we thank you for the support you have provided to the public works programs that has made our state and region the envy of many. You are a key member in our APWA-NC Chapter, so we are contacting you to ask for your financial support as we prepare to host APWA 2022 PWX, "The Best Show in Public Works", with approximately 80,000 net square feet of exhibit space and nearly 6,000 of our fellow public works colleagues from North America and beyond, right here in Charlotte! This is an amazing honor and opportunity for our local members and our region.

We are hosting PWX 2022 here in Charlotte because of partners like YOU! Our chapter, and the entire state of North Carolina, have some of the best private companies that support Public Works ANYWHERE in the nation. On behalf of the entire APWA-NC Chapter, we thank you in advance for your support that will allow us to achieve the very best PWX ever Aug. 28-31, 2022.

Our [Sponsorship Packet](#) highlights our local partner program and summarizes the different levels of partnership and benefits that you will receive for being a PWX 2022 local partner.

Your support for the APWA-NC Chapter and PWX 2022 is so important. For partnering contact information, please reach out to:

**Cameron Patterson**, Fundraising Co-Chairperson  
cpatterson@withersravenel.com | (919) 868-8027

**Jennifer Smith**, Fundraising Co-Chairperson  
jennifer.smith@charlottenc.gov | (704) 336-7924

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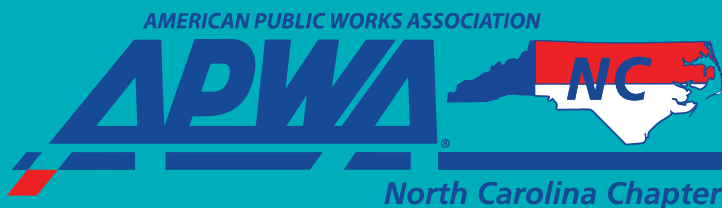


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