

WINTER 2022

DECEMBER 2022

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President's Message



Thank All of You for making this year as your NC Chapter President a year I will remember always! I appreciate the hard work and many hours spent from each of the Board and Committee members throughout the year to make it a success.

The Chapter held six conferences (all in person) and several workshops after two years of COVID restrictions; hosted the 2022 PWX in Charlotte; participated in the Mid-Atlantic Equipment Show featuring the APWA-NC Rodeo; ran courses for EVT Training and Construction Inspection; and several YP Events. A special Thank You to everyone who attended these events and supported our Chapter.

Our Division Boards continue to bring new and innovative ideas to our membership. We encourage all members who have an interest in becoming more involved in our Chapter to reach out to any of the current Board members. We have several Committees who are always looking for more Volunteers. Please email our Chapter Administrator, Kate Davison, at apwancadmin@ncsu.edu.

I hope everyone will help me welcome and support our incoming NC Chapter President—Mae Bryant.

Mae has spent many years with the APWA-NC organization as Streets Division President, Diversity Chair, Awards and Scholarship Committee Chair, and as the Marketing Chair for this past year's PWX host committee. Mae will serve as a Great President for 2023.

I want to thank LaBella Associates for allowing me the opportunity and time to serve as your 2022 APWA-NC Chapter President. I knew when I committed to moving up through the Executive Board more than 4 years ago that it was going to be very time-consuming, but without the support of my employer it would not have been possible. Every member of our Board has been supported and backed by exceptional employers. The Chapter is grateful to them for allowing us the time needed to do our jobs.

As the Holiday Season approaches, please remember to give thanks to all the folks who keep us safe and who provide the services we use daily—Our Public Works Family!

Respectfully,

Rebecca "Becky" Bost
APWA-NC President

DIVISION NEWS

Project Spotlight: Dune Infiltration System

Is your coastal road flooding? A Dune Infiltration System can help.

By Marc Horstman, PE, PH, CFM

While road flooding is often just an inconvenience, it can be a crisis that endangers the public safety of residents, tourists, and business owners. Over the past few decades, portions of Caswell Beach Road in Caswell Beach, NC, have become impassible to passenger vehicles due to moderate rainfall events. This route is the only road connecting Oak Island, Caswell Beach, and Fort Caswell. It has frequently been impassable for more than eight hours at a time, and in severe rain events, the road has been impassable for up to two days. Emergency personnel has expressed concerns about addressing emergencies within the town's limits during storm events due to chronic road flooding. A solution for this hazardous flooding issue was desperately needed to allow safe passage for citizens and emergency services during and immediately after storms.

Caswell Beach Road is located adjacent to the dunes abutting the Atlantic Ocean. Stormwater is traditionally discharged directly into the ocean with no prior treatment. The previous method of pumping stormwater into the sound and dunes primarily focused on removing excess water to allow for vehicular passage and did not include any water quality treatment.

WK Dickson evaluated the feasibility of implementing a new and innovative Dune Infiltration System (DIS) to treat the stormwater quantity associated with road flooding and the water quality issue. The public beach is a recreational area that attracts hundreds of tourists yearly. Water quality is not only an environmental concern at this project location but also a health and safety concern.

DIS was initially developed in 2005 as a pilot project for the Town of Kure Beach through a partnership between the Town of Kure Beach, the NC Department of



Coastal road flooding, Caswell Beach, NC. Photo owned by WK Dickson.

Transportation, and the NC State University Biological & Agricultural Engineering Department, as a means to address water quality issues. These systems have been tried, assessed, and studied as part of university research and have proven to be effective alternatives for coastal municipalities to reduce stormwater runoff and fecal bacteria.

Unlike the pilot project, the primary focus of the Caswell Beach Dunes Infiltration project was on flood control and public safety. Water quality benefits were secondary. The new system allows the town to collect and pump water out of low-lying areas along Caswell Beach Road through stormwater piping into a series of infiltration chambers embedded within the dunes that utilize the existing beach sand as infiltration media. The DIS system was optimized to reduce street flooding to a level safe for vehicular traffic within two to four hours following storm events. The DIS at Caswell Beach is only the second location in North Carolina to put a DIS into action.



Dune Infiltration System (DIS), Caswell Beach, NC. Photo owned by WK Dickson.

The initial concept involved pumping floodwaters from four critical flooding areas to four localized DISs. The proposed layout had to consider the proximity of the groundwater to adjacent homes as the surrounding structures could not be affected by stormwater dispersal into the ground. In addition, the seasonally high-water table had to be a minimum of two feet from the bottom of the gravel level.

A conceptual design report identified potential system locations and routes for stormwater pipe alignments, dune infiltration system suitability and layout, required easements, required permitting, and planning level construction cost estimates. This conceptual analysis determined several design constraints that narrowed the four potential sites to one ideal location on a town-owned property near a highly visible public beach access point south of the Oak Island lighthouse. The proximity to the lighthouse and the existing boardwalk allows for environmental education opportunities using educational signs to highlight the purpose and importance of DISs as an alternative to traditional beach outfalls.



Stormwater pipe. Photo owned by WK Dickson.

The final design included several standpipes at key low points along Caswell Beach Road, where stormwater would be pumped by town staff using a portable trailer-mounted pump and array. Stormwater was pumped through existing stormwater pipes to plastic open-bottom chambers buried beneath the dunes. After the completion of proof of concept, design, and permitting activities, the project was bid. Construction began in January 2021. January to March is the optimal time to construct a DIS to avoid sea turtle hatching season and lessen the impact on tourism.

In addition to reducing flooding, a DIS provides secondary water quality improvements. When it rains, water flows across impervious surfaces and picks up pollutants. Elevated bacterial levels in these pollutants can lead to beach closures or swimming advisories, impacting the local tourism-based economy. When these elevated bacterial levels are not adequately addressed, they can degrade the beaches' natural setting, destroy wildlife, and endanger public health. A DIS uses the sand's natural filtering ability to remove rainfall runoff pollutants. After the runoff is diverted into the DIS, the stormwater infiltrates into the sand and strips the contaminants and pathogens using natural absorption and bacterial desiccation. The filtered groundwater

then migrates to the ocean, flowing underneath the dunes and beach sand. Studies show these systems remove between 75% and 95% of pollutants, including pathogens, hydrocarbons, and excess nutrients.

DISs can be implemented within beachfront communities to address road flooding issues while providing an additional water quality benefit. Furthermore, these systems can utilize oceanfront property that will never be developed, specifically primary and secondary dunes.

Now that a DIS has proven to be a cost-effective and sustainable solution, it is another method to help coastal communities combat flooding. These systems are not only a proven solution to reduce coastal road flooding but can also be utilized to address coastal water quality issues by treating pathogen-laden stormwater runoff that contributes to beach closures. Keeping the beaches open during the summer months is critical for the economic vitality of coastal towns.

Marc Horstman, PE, PH, CFM is a Project Manager with WK Dickson's Watershed Services group with an emphasis on municipal and nature-based stormwater infrastructure H&H modeling, planning, design and implementation.



Caswell Beach, NC. Photo owned by WK Dickson.

All photos used with permission from WK Dickson.



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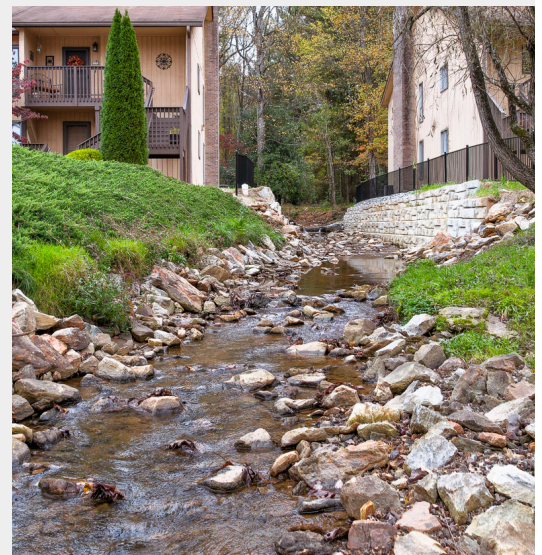
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NAGS HEAD, NC



PEBBLE CREEK

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DIVISION NEWS

Stormwater Management Division Report

The Stormwater Annual Conference was held on 9/18-9/20 at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem, NC. With 304 professionals in attendance, the conference and sessions were engaging, educational, and fun! Monday started out with a bang as the keynote was delivered by Don Schwenneker (you may know him as “Big Weather”) from ABC-11 in Raleigh. Don’s presentation was followed by a wonderful educational session on infrastructure funding opportunities consisting of presentations by Mark Van Auken (Arcadis), Katie Cromwell (Raftelis), Ryan D. Eaves (Durham County), and Matthew Jones (Hazen & Sawyer).

The rest of the conference included sessions on a variety of topics surrounding the stormwater and surface water world including streams, stormwater control measures, project case studies, and programmatic issues. The City of Winston-Salem were wonderful hosts throughout the event and at our Monday night social at Footnote!

The conference received robust support from 43 separate partners that make it possible for APWA-NC to continue to improve and upgrade the conference for our attendees. This year included the introduction of a new conference app that was used to track attendance and provide our attendees with information while eliminating some waste! The Stormwater Division Board looks forward to continuing to make our Stormwater the go-to event for surface water professionals in North Carolina in 2023. Be on the lookout in 2023 for announcements related to our annual education events and save the date for the 2023 Stormwater Conference on September 17-19th in Charlotte, NC.



Don Schwenneker, "Big Weather," ABC-11

PLATINUM PARTNERS



DIVISION NEWS

Facilities & Grounds Division

2022 was an exciting year for the Facilities & Grounds Division. We held our first conference in three years and had an excellent turnout for the first in-person delivery of APWA's Facilities & Grounds Management Certificate Program. A number of our Board members volunteered and participated in PWX2022, and we held our first ever Facilities & Grounds Fall Shoot. The Fall Shoot was a great success and took the place of our traditional Fall Workshop. New members attended who had not attended past events, and the event attracted significantly more sponsorships than we had previously raised at similar events. Our members and Board of Directors have enjoyed a great year, and we are excited about 2023!



*Above: Facilities & Grounds Fall Shoot
Bottom Right: PWX2022*

DIVISION NEWS

Dream Big and Share Your Vision

By Dale James

It was a cold day on Thursday, February 21, 1957 where a six-year-old boy sat in Mrs. Webster's first grade class day dreaming of things far away such as lunch and the end of the school day. Little did the thought occur of something happening that day that would make a life lasting impression on this first grader's life.

You see, the evening of that Thursday, 8:00 p.m. to be exact, in the Old College Building on the campus of North Carolina State University, 40 Public Works Officials from across North Carolina were meeting to discuss the formation of an organization to promote the Public Works profession in North Carolina. After much discussion this group approved to establish the North Carolina Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

The new North Carolina Chapter received its first financial report on January 31, 1958. The report read:

Receipts:.....\$77.48

Disbursements:.....\$4.57

Balance on Hand:.....\$72.91

Even back then the desire to have "positive cash flow" was on the minds of our first Board.

Fast forwarding, in May 1969 (now at 18 years of age) this young fellow was employed in the Solid Waste Division with the City of Greensboro as a dispatcher. July 6, 1969, another landmark day in the life of this young fellow occurred when he was married to the love of his life Vicky Manuel James. We both had given our lives to the Lord in our earlier years and He has richly blessed our union ever since. With upward mobility within the Solid Waste Division, I



Dale James, APWA-NC Chapter Treasurer (Right)

was supported by the Division and joined the North Carolina Chapter of the American Public Works Association on April 1, 1984 in the then Sanitation Division (now Solid Waste Division). With continued support from my employer and members of the Division, it was my honor to serve as Division President in 1995.

Joining the State Board in 1995 as a Division President, little did I know that this journey would last for 27 years. Serving on key committees and in a director's role, the Chapter granted me with the humbling experience of serving as Chapter President in 2001. Having retired from the City of Greensboro in 1999 with 30 years of service, I now needed the support of my current employer, HDR Engineering Inc.

They were totally supportive for 13 years. Following my time with HDR, Moffatt & Nichol Inc. supported my efforts within APWA-NC for another 7 years until my retirement.

In the summer of 2003, I was asked to assist Robert K. (Bob) Seals as assistant to the treasurer. It was one of the highlights of my life to work side by side with this great man. By the end of the year Bob decided that it was time to “retire” as our Chapter Treasurer. The Board approached me to consider taking the position of Chapter Treasurer. Not totally knowing what that really entailed I agreed to give it my best shot for a year to see how things would work out. Well, December 31, 2022 I will complete 19 years as your Chapter Treasurer. Just as Bob knew when it was time to move on, so I have realized it is time for me to move on.

I cannot adequately express my gratitude for the opportunity in serving the American Public Works Association North Carolina Chapter in one capacity or another for the past 27 years. 27 different and unique Boards. 27 different Chapter Presidents. Numerous Chapter Secretaries and two Chapter Administrators. One wonderful wife and helpmate and most of all my Lord Jesus Christ!!

I conclude by introducing to the Chapter your new Chapter Treasurer, Christina Vanderzee, retired, City of High Point. Christina has been working with me for more than a year preparing for her role with the North Carolina Chapter. I am confident you will give her the same support and consideration that has been given to me throughout the years.

When you get time read Proverbs Chapter 3, (Exhortations to Obedience).

I will leave you with two thoughts:

Verse #5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Verse #6 In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

Thanks to you all!! Hope to see many of you down the road!

– **Dale James**
APWA-NC Chapter Treasurer



Christina Vanderzee, new APWA-NC Chapter Treasurer

The advertisement for TELICS features a diagonal split background. The top-left section shows an aerial view of a complex highway interchange. The bottom-left section shows large blue industrial pipes. The bottom-right section shows a man and a young child walking hand-in-hand on a paved path. The TELICS logo, consisting of a stylized blue 'T' and the word 'TELICS' in bold, is positioned in the upper right. Below the logo, text states: 'Founded in 1981 with integrity as our cornerstone, TELICS is committed to fairness and project excellence for our clients.' A list of services is provided with blue arrow icons: 'Right of Way & Relocation', 'Utility Coordination', 'Appraisal', and 'Design'. At the bottom, the company's website and phone number are listed: 'TELICS.com' and '888.350.8933'.

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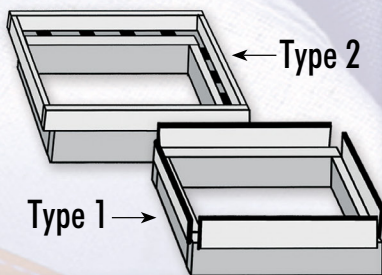
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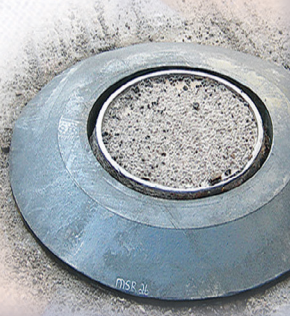
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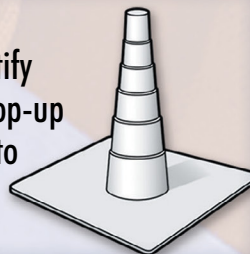


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IN THE COMMUNITY

Young Professional Spotlight

Donna Almelhem, EIT, Young Professional APWA-NC Social Media Coordinator

Submitted by APWA-NC Young Professional Committee



Get To Know **DONNA ALMELHEM, EIT**

- **CAREER:** Engineering Designer at ESP Associates, Inc.
- **INDUSTRY SECTOR:** Public Sector Planning and Design
- **APWA-NC MEMBER SINCE:** 2021

Born and raised in Kuwait, Donna moved to North Carolina in 2014 to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at NC State. After graduating in 2018, Donna moved to Charlotte and began her career as a civil engineer focusing on water, sewer and storm water design.

In Her Own Words

At NC State, I decided to focus my civil engineering degree on structural design thinking that I would enjoy designing bridges after I graduated. During my internship at NCDOT, I began to realize that there was far more to civil engineering than bridge design and that my real passion was simply working in public works. After graduating, I exclusively worked on projects for the public sector.

During the height of the pandemic in 2020, I began working at ESP Associates transitioning from only utility design to stormwater projects. ESP really allowed me to diversify the types of projects I was designing while still working for public clients. It is very exciting to live in Charlotte, one of the fastest growing cities in the state and to see some of my projects come to life knowing I had a hand in designing them.

Looking Forward

Donna is looking forward to seeing and being a part of Charlotte's growth. Donna is also looking forward to receiving her PE license and continuing to work on projects in her community. She is hoping to continue to be involved with APWA and learn from her peers and mentors in the group.

A Little Advice

Find a mentor, join organizations, and network as much as possible. The industry is never as big as it seems and the more people you know, the more people you can learn from.

Mentor

Andrew Martin, PE, and Symplis Nsabua

Outside of Work

Outside of work, I love traveling the world. Greece is my favorite place I have visited so far. I also enjoy photography and reading.



Congratulations to Malcom Lewis, APWA-NC 2003 Chapter President

Congratulations to Malcolm Lewis, APWA-NC 2003 Chapter President receiving his Master of Theology Degree from Vintage Bible College presented by Dr. Curtis Wood, President.



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**2022
MOBI
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City of Creedmoor Cross City Trail
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5

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IN THE COMMUNITY

Save the Date:

2023 APWA-NC Annual State Conference

APWA-NC Chapter will be hosting its annual state conference March 14-16, 2023 at Embassy Suites in Concord.

We are hoping to offer technical construction inspection training, and 2 tracks of training for this event. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Partners should be seeing information coming out in the next month to sign up to participate at the event, with several sponsorship opportunities, including partner bingo, mini-golf donation course, and several great events for more networking with attendees. All attendees will get a great benefit of networking, great sessions, and face time with some of our wonderful partners and sponsors. We look forward to seeing everyone at the next conference in March!! More details to come.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

APWA Membership

APWA-NC chapter is just one of 63 chapters that are represented around the United States. We have been growing quickly thanks to all the first-time attendees at our conferences. Several years ago, APWA National started a “never been a member campaign” that allowed us to sign people up for membership at a discounted rate if they had never been a member before. Recently we hit OVER 1300 members, which is a great accomplishment for our chapter. As of 9/30/22, we had 1306 members. We are currently still processing memberships from a couple of our last conferences, so there are more to come. With so many members, there are so many ways to get engaged and involved. If you are interested in any involvement opportunities with our chapter, please contact the Chapter Administrator at apwancadmin@ncsu.edu.

"Recently we hit OVER 1300 members, which is a great accomplishment for our chapter. As of 9/30/22, we had 1306 members."



Disasters can
strike without
warning.
Be prepared.
Be resilient.
We can help.



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IN THE COMMUNITY

Call for Sustainability Spotlight Stories!

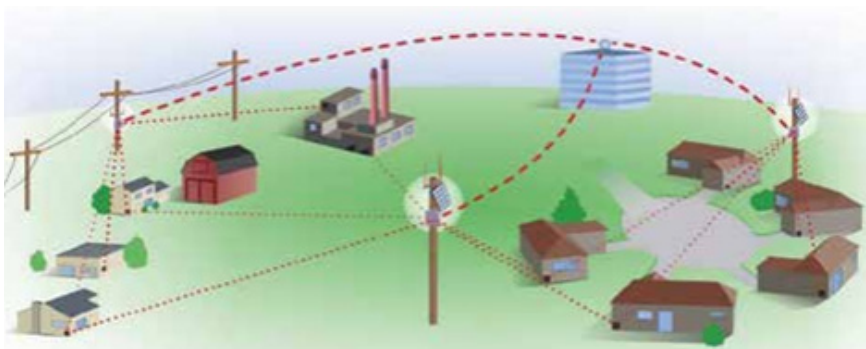
The APWA-NC Sustainability Committee is looking for examples of environmentally sustainable infrastructure planning, projects, and practices to be featured in the quarterly newsletter. Please contact Mary Beth Meumann at mary.meumann@bolton-menk.com if you are interested in featuring your story in a future newsletter! Following is a list of example topics for Sustainability Spotlights:

Planning and Policies

- Future land use, transportation, or utility growth plans which incorporate natural resources inventories and protection strategies
- Transportation plans which prioritize public transit and alternative modes of transportation
- Plans which consider current and future impacts of climate change
- Ordinances or incentives which encourage redevelopment or discourage urban/suburban sprawl
- Ordinances or incentives which encourage Low Impact Development (LID) practices or strengthen environmental protections

Projects

- Green Infrastructure and LID components
- Restoration and conservation efforts
- Designing for resilience in the face of climate change and extreme weather
- Multi-benefit projects including constructed or protected natural features
- Projects which encourage or enable alternative modes of transportation, or reduce miles driven
- Energy-efficient or clean energy sources
- Sustainable materials (reused, recycled, natural, locally sourced or otherwise low-impact)
- Environmental education components
- Projects which exceed environmental requirements



Advanced Metering Infrastructure



Bicycle Master Plan



Warm mix asphalt and in-place recycling

Facilities, Operations, and Maintenance

- Good Housekeeping and Pollution Prevention training
- Illicit Discharge, Detection, and Elimination training
- Energy efficiency efforts and clean energy transition for facilities and fleet
- Sustainable pavement improvement methods and maintenance plans
- Advanced water metering infrastructure
- Reuse, recycling, waste reduction, and composting operations
- Materials management and training programs
- Rainwater harvesting
- Reduced pesticide use



Bioretention and native plants

For additional examples and guidance, reference the APWA Center for Sustainability's (C4S) Sustainable Practices in Public Works report at [C4S_SustainabilityPracticesInPublicWorks_small.pdf \(apwa.net\)](https://www.apwa.net/C4S_SustainabilityPracticesInPublicWorks_small.pdf).

Note: Images sourced from APWA Center for Sustainability's (C4S) Sustainable Practices in Public Works.


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OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

LMD Conference

Public Works Education & Career Forum

Theresa J. Little Watley (LMD President-Elect

The 2023 LMD Conference will be held in Raleigh, NC at the State View Hotel from May 17 -19, 2023. We hope you all will consider attending this not-to-be-missed event that will be packed with informative sessions and vendor offerings.

However, for the 2023 LMD Conference we will also be trying a new thing. In the interest of preparing and intriguing our next generation to pursue public works career opportunities, we will host a Public Works Education & Career Forum on the afternoon of May 17, 2023. For this first endeavor, we will invite Academic Professionals (secondary school, community college and college/university educators, counselors, and curriculum specialist) to attend free of charge.

Topics to be included during the Forum will include the following:

- What is Public Works?
- What job opportunities exist in public works?
- What are the requirements / pre-requisites for these public works jobs?
- What is the job market forecast public works jobs/careers?
- What are the salary ranges for these public works jobs?
- What does/can APWA-NC (and its individual members) do to support college and pre-college interest in public works?
- ...and much more!

We also plan to provide each attendee a free boxed-lunch and take-home copies of (or access to) existing

APWA documentation regarding Public Works Careers.

So, how are we going to do this? Prayerfully, with a lot of help from many APWA-NC Members along with their organizational and professional contacts. Why? Because we all should do our part to ensure that there is a willing and capable next generation to fill our shoes and to keep our various public works systems working.

Currently, a sub-committee of interested APWA Members are working to provide additional support to the LMD Board in our effort to make this first Public Works Education Forum a success. Our most important first task is identifying Academic Professionals within the State who are willing and able to attend the Forum. Next, we need APWA-NC Members and Associates who are willing and able to provide content, presentations, life experiences, additional resource documents, etc. for the Forum. And lastly, we will need Sponsors to donate funds and/or in-kind services for the Forum.

So, if this concept has piqued your interest and you are willing to assist in any way, please contact me ASAP. We would love to have you officially join the APWA-NC LMD Public Works Education & Career Forum Subcommittee as we try a new thing. Thanks so much!

Theresa J. Little Watley, MSEM, PMP
Utility Section Manager

City of Charlotte - Department of General Services
Construction, Survey and Utility Services Division

600 East 4th Street | 12th Floor, 1233 | Charlotte, NC 28202
704-534-0570 (cell) | Theresa.Watley@charlottenc.gov



2023 Leadership & Management Division (LMD) Conference

Public Works Education & Career Conference

STATE VIEW HOTEL RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023

**Attention Academic Professionals* from NC
Post-Secondary and Secondary Institutions**

~ Save The Date ~

Topics Will Include:

- What is Public Works?
 - What types of public works job opportunities exist in NC?
 - What are the requirements for these public works jobs?
- What is the job market forecast for public works jobs / careers?
 - What are the salary ranges for these public works jobs?
- What does / can APWA-NC (and its individual members) do to support college and pre-college interest in public works?
 - and much more ..

If you are interested in attending this no-cost Forum or have questions, please email twatley@ci.charlotte.nc.us.

** Advisors, Internship/Co-op/Workforce Development Coordinators, Guidance Counselors, Curriculum Specialists, Department Leads, etc.*

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upcoming
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