



UNC School of Government Environmental Finance Center

2023 Water and Wastewater Finance Strategies Workshop

400 South Road, The School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC

Room 2601

February 22 – 23, 2023

Wednesday, February 22nd

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| 9:00 am | Registration Check-In (Room 2601, second floor)
Continental Breakfast |
| 9:30 | Welcome and Introduction / Finance Overview
<i>Erin Riggs, Executive Director, Environmental Finance Center</i> |
| 10:15 | Break |
| 10:30 | Legal Issues in Water Finance
Trends and updates on legal issues to be aware of in North Carolina that affect utility finance.
<i>Kara Millonzi, Professor, UNC School of Government</i> |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch |
| 1:00 | Viable Utility Reserve Data Exploration and EFC Tools Demo
Using data to make decisions related to the North Carolina Viable Utility Reserve program.
Demonstrations of the affordability and financial health checkup tools.
<i>Julia Cavalier, Research Director, Environmental Finance Center</i> |
| 2:00 | Break |
| 2:15 | Breakout Activity: EFC Tools
Tools breakout activities for the Viability Utility Reserve program, affordability tool, and financial health checkup tools. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity introduction (15 min)• Activity in 4 breakout rooms (1 hour)• Report back (30 min) <i>Anna Patterson, Project Director, Environmental Finance Center</i>
<i>Julia Cavalier, Research Director, Environmental Finance Center</i>
<i>Kristen Downs, Project Director, Environmental Finance Center</i>
<i>Erin Riggs, Executive Director, Environmental Finance Center</i>
<i>Hope Thomson, Project Director, Environmental Finance Center</i>
<i>Andrew Waters, Project Director, Environmental Finance Center</i> |
| 4:00 | Wrap Up |
| 4:15 | Adjourn |



Thursday, February 23rd

- 9:00 am **Continental Breakfast** (outside room 2601, second floor)
- 9:30 **Wells and Equity**
Understanding unserved areas and new pathways to connecting them to your system.
Hope Thomson, Project Director, Environmental Finance Center
Andrew Waters, Project Director, Environmental Finance Center
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 **Local Perspectives: Customer Assistance**
Innovative customer assistance approach to eliminate the customer delinquency fee.
Heidi Hackett, Assistant Director of Customer Service, Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA)
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 **Self-assessing Financial Performance and North Carolina Dashboard Demo**
Benchmarking and tracking your utility's financial performance. Demonstration of the 2022 NC Rates and Financial Sustainability Dashboard.
Anna Patterson, Project Director, Environmental Finance Center
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 **Finding the Money! Capital Finance Programs and Options**
Capital funding approaches and public programs that provide capital for future needs, followed by 30-minute Q&A with DWI staff.
Shadi Eskaf, Director, NC DEQ Division of Water Infrastructure
Jon Risgaard, SRF Section Chief, NC DEQ Division of Water Infrastructure
Victor D'Amato, Viable Utilities Unit Supervisor, NC DEQ Division of Water Infrastructure
Kaine Riggan, BRIC/FMA Lead, North Carolina Department of Safety
- 4:00 **Closing Statements**
- 4:15 Adjourn

10.0 Continuing Education Hours

Individuals seeking PDH credit should submit this agenda and license # to NC BELS.

Water Treatment Operators and Water Pollution Control Operators should sign a course attendance roster at the conclusion of the course.