

WEAU Mid-Year Young Professionals Summit

EVENT PROGRAM

**Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Cottonwood Heights Hyatt Place Hotel
Salt Lake City, UT**



The First Annual WEAU Mid-Year Young Professionals Summit

The **WEAU Young Professionals (YP) Committee** is excited to announce the first ever WEAU Mid-Year YP Summit. The goal of the YP Summit is to bring a variety of professionals together who are early in their water and wastewater careers. The summit provides opportunities to **network with peers** from across the state of Utah, learn about **up-and-coming technologies**, discuss the **future** of the water and wastewater industry, and dive deeper into **the career paths** available in the water realm.

The committee has created an engaging program of round table discussions, presentations, and networking activities. The keynote speaker is **Kim Shelley, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality**. Kim will share her guidance on early career success, why now is a critical time to be a wastewater or water quality professional, and the value of building a career that makes a difference.

Session 1 - Navigating Your Future: Conversations with Industry Professionals is a roundtable discussion led by facilitators who have differing levels of experience in their careers and will represent many of the career paths in the industry (**construction, engineering, manufacturing, operations, and regulatory**). YPs will participate in multiple discussions with the facilitators and their fellow YPs to learn more about industry trends, ask career advice, share lessons learned, and strengthen their YP connections.

Session 2 - A Personality Test Perspective: Exploring Your Communication Style will focus on the importance of working with different personality types, which is critical to finding success in any industry. During the session, attendees will work in teams to determine how to best communicate with **various personality styles** through industry related scenarios.

The YP Committee is excited to host this event and provide a space for young professionals to **make friends, ask questions, establish career goals**, and further develop communication and leadership skills.

AGENDA

5:15PM - 5:30PM

Registration & Check-in

5:30PM - 6:00PM

Networking Dinner &
Icebreaker Activity

6:00PM - 6:15PM

Keynote Speaker
Kim Shelley, Utah DEQ
Executive Director

6:15PM - 6:30PM

Break & Icebreaker Activity
Prize Drawing

6:30PM - 7:15PM

Session 1: Navigating Your Future
Conversations with Industry Professionals

7:15PM - 7:30PM

Break & Prize Drawing

7:30PM - 8:30PM

Session 2: A Personality
Test Perspective

Exploring Your Communication Style

8:30PM - 8:45PM

Closing Remarks & Group Photo

Keynote Speaker

Kim Shelley, Executive Director Utah Department of Environmental Quality



Utah Department of Environmental Quality Executive Director **Kim Shelley** will share her guidance on **early career success**, why now is a **critical time** to be a wastewater or water quality professional, and the value of **building a career** that makes a difference.

Kim Shelley's career has focused on Utah's environmental priorities. As the Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), she leads with a vision of improving the health and quality of life of Utah residents through the administration of state and federal laws that protect Utah's air, land and water.

An engineer by training, Shelley has held various leadership roles within DEQ, most recently as the department's deputy director. She was appointed director in January 2021. In addition to her public sector experience, Shelley has worked in private industry as a research and development engineer.

Shelley was raised in Salt Lake City and is a graduate of the University of Utah with a bachelor's degree in Metallurgical Engineering. She is married with two children and enjoys spending time at her family cabin in Big Sky, Montana when she is not recreating in Utah's outdoors.

Facilitators

CONSTRUCTION



Sean Sudol, DN Tanks

Sean Sudol is the Preconstruction Services Manager for DN Tanks in Nevada. Sean is a registered Civil Engineer with over 12 years in the water / wastewater infrastructure design and construction industry. In his 8 years with DN Tanks, Sean supports owners and consultants from conceptual through commissioning as they evaluate water & wastewater treatment and storage projects. This includes development of project budgets, design documents, site layouts, site visits, constructability analyses, and other assistance to deliver successful and efficient projects.



Dan Taylor, MGC Contractors

Dan Taylor works for MGC Contractors as a project manager and estimator in the water / wastewater and heavy civil construction field. He is accomplished in Design-Build, CM/GC, and traditional project delivery methods of estimating, project management, and design collaboration, and has managed projects across the Northeast and Western US. He graduated from Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio with a degree in Civil Engineering & Construction Management.

ENGINEERING



Tess Laffer, AECOM

Tess Laffer is a staff engineer with AECOM based in the Murray, UT office with experience in planning, funding, surveying, design, preselection, permitting, bidding, and construction phases for various water and wastewater projects. Tess moved from Boston to Salt Lake City in November 2022 and has been a member of the WEAU organization and associated YP committee since moving. Her main project is the North Salt Lake Water Reclamation Facility, where she is leading various design packages for different segments of the new facility.



Gary Vance, J-U-B Engineers, Inc.

Gary Vance is a project manager at J-U-B Engineers for wastewater treatment projects. He has over 20 years of experience in treatment facility planning, design, and construction and has been involved with WEAU since moving to Utah in 2007. He is currently the WEAU Secretary. Gary received his masters in Civil/Environmental Engineering from University of Colorado-Boulder and his bachelors in Chemical Engineering from the University of Idaho.

Facilitators

MANUFACTURING



Steve Myers, Hach

Steve Myers is a registered professional engineer with over 20 years of experience in water. He has experience in consulting and manufacturing with a focus on design, optimization, and implementation of complex treatment solutions. He currently works for Hach as a program manager with a special focus on sustainability. Steve is the Vice President for the Water Environment Association of Utah and serves on several WEF and AWWA committees.



Brandon Tremelling, Geneva Pipe and Precast

Brandon Tremelling currently serves as the Technical Resource Engineer for Geneva Pipe and Precast. His primary duties involve working with design engineers and project managers to ensure the quality design and performance of precast concrete infrastructure throughout Utah. Prior to his role at Geneva, Brandon worked in municipal engineering, specializing in hydraulic/hydrologic design and modeling for a number of cities throughout Northern Utah.

OPERATIONS



Jill Jones, Central Davis Sewer District

Jill Jones is the General Manager of Central Davis Sewer District. Jill graduated from the University of Utah with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's in Environmental Engineering. She is a certified Wastewater Collection and Treatment Grade IV operator. In addition, Jill is a member of the Wasatch Front Water Quality Council, a coalition of POTWs across the Wasatch Front that conducts research on Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake. Jill's passion is desserts, a meal is not complete without a sweet treat.



Manjot Masson, Central Davis Sewer District

Manjot Masson is the Assistant Manager at Central Davis Sewer District. Manjot has been with the District for over 8 years serving as the District Engineer for most of her career. Manjot has a bachelor's and master's degree in civil/environmental engineering from the University of Utah. She is a certified Wastewater Collection and Treatment Grade IV operator. Manjot is learning to love desserts as much as Jill.

Facilitators

REGULATORY



Sarah Ward, Utah DEQ

Sarah Ward started her journey in the wastewater field and WEAU in 2005 while working at Payson City Wastewater Treatment Plant, where she assisted the superintendent in plant operations and budget and oversaw the industrial pretreatment program. In 2018, she took a position at the Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Quality as an Environmental Scientist writing permits and performing inspections. In 2022, she started her current position in the Executive Director's Office at the Department of Environmental Quality as the Innovative Strategy Specialist. Sarah has served in many positions within WEAU, starting as a committee member to chair the Pretreatment Committee and then serving on the WEAU Board as a director and then through the presidential track. Sarah married her best friend in December 2019. She has one son and three bonus daughters. She loves spending time with family, from being at home working in the yard or remodeling to hanging out in the outdoors hiking, mountain biking, skiing, ice climbing, and more.

Volunteers

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers:

Marlo Davis
Maggie Shalvoy
Sherry Sheffield

Facilitators:

Jill Jones
Tess Laffer
Manjot Masson
Steve Myers
Sean Sudol
Dan Taylor
Brandon Tremelling
Gary Vance
Sarah Ward

Keynote Speaker:

Kim Shelley
Ashley Sumner

YP Summit Planning Committee



Katie Reams, J-U-B Engineers, Inc.

Katie Reams is a project engineer at J-U-B Engineers in Kaysville, Utah. Her work focuses on designing water and wastewater solutions for communities in Northern Utah. Katie currently serves as the YP Co-Chair for WEAU and the Outreach/Mentorship Director for Women of Water. In both professional and extracurricular activities, Katie finds her strengths in creating meaningful relationships and connecting with people around her. In her free time, you can find Katie walking her dogs on one of Utah's many beautiful trails or spending time with her family at home.



Lauren Schmidt, J-U-B Engineers, Inc.

Lauren Schmidt is a design engineer at J-U-B Engineers in Salt Lake City, Utah. She is a member of J-U-B's Water Treatment Group, with experience in planning, design, and construction of several wastewater treatment plant projects in Utah and Idaho. In addition to her technical responsibilities, Lauren has a strong passion for the growth and development of young professionals, serving as the WEAU YP Co-Chair and Corporate YP Chair at J-U-B. Lauren is originally from Orlando, FL and enjoys hiking, baking, and dancing in her free time.



Tess Laffer, AECOM

Tess Laffer is a staff engineer with AECOM based in the Murray, UT office with experience in planning, funding, surveying, design, preselection, permitting, bidding, and construction phases for various water and wastewater projects. Tess moved from Boston to Salt Lake City in November 2022 and has been a member of the WEAU organization and associated YP committee since moving. Her main project is the North Salt Lake Water Reclamation Facility, where she is leading various design packages for different segments of the new facility.



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Maggie Shalvoy, Hazen and Sawyer

Maggie Shalvoy is a design engineer at Hazen and Sawyer based in the Salt Lake City, Utah office. She has experience with planning, design, permitting, and construction of various water and wastewater projects. Maggie has been a member of WEAU since moving from Charlotte, North Carolina to Salt Lake City in November 2022. Maggie enjoys hiking, skiing and exploring Utah in her free time.

Attendance Justification

Who are the YPs?

YPs include engineers, operators, consultants, individuals working in government, sales, manufacturing or any other sector of the water/wastewater industry.

WEF YP Criteria:

Under 35 years in age and/or have less than 7 years of experience in the water/wastewater industry.

What can I gain from YPs?

Opportunities for community building, professional development, lunch and learns, plant tours, social activities, and networking.



Pro tips:

- *Come to the summit prepared to ask industry questions, discuss career goals, and participate in session activities.*
- *Exchange business cards and/or LinkedIn profiles with at least three YPs. Follow up with a connection after the meeting.*
- *After the summit, share with your supervisor what you gained from the experience and how it can benefit your team. Also, be sure to complete the post-YP Summit survey with honest feedback to make next year's summit even better.*
- *Do not forget to record your PDH or CEU credits for attending.*

Attendance Justification

2023 Registration Costs

Registration is reduced for both WEAU members and students.

Not a member? Join WEAU and save now!

Student Rate
\$40

WEAU Member Rate
\$50

WEAU Non-Member Rate
\$65

After you have identified the specific advantages of attending the YP Summit, provide the expenses and benefits to your manager. Below is a sample letter you can use as a template for your request. YPs are encouraged to customize the letter to fit their company's goals.

SAMPLE LETTER



YP Summit
Salt Lake City, UT
November 7, 2023

< Date >

Dear < supervisor's name >,

I would like to attend the WEAU Young Professionals Summit taking place on November 7, 2023, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The event includes professional development sessions directly applicable to my work and will allow me to network with a variety of water industry experts and colleagues in the state of Utah. Many of the discussions are tailored to the < your specific profession > water professional and give information on how to < list benefits to your responsibilities >. I am seeking approval for the registration fee, time, and travel to attend this year's summit. Attached is a cost estimate on attending.

After reviewing the YP Summit program, I have identified various topics that will allow me to gain knowledge and understanding on how I can improve my skillset. The program is facilitated by industry experts who have experience addressing water challenges. I chose this program because the presentations are directly related to < an issue > we are dealing with currently. Getting the information from the Summit will greatly reduce the research time and costs that < your organization's name > would normally incur in gaining insight into these topics and allow me to hear from leading industry experts.

The opportunity for me to develop better contacts and gain knowledge in specific areas of the water industry makes my attendance at the YP Summit a worthwhile investment, which will yield rich dividends for < name of your organization >.

Sincerely,

< Your Name >