

INVITATION ONLY ROUNDTABLE

“Greater Houston: A 21st Century Water Resilient Region”

Innovative Water Technology Demonstration Hub & Regional Water Innovation Partnership Planning Session

December 4, 2017 | 8:00am to 12:30pm | Baker Institute-Rice University, Houston Texas

Registration (click link):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/roundtable-on-greater-houston-water-innovation-hub-and-regional-partnership-tickets-39624036560>

Background on Roundtable

Through its recent announcement of the **Innovative Water Technology Demonstration Hub for Municipal Optimization and Regional Water Resiliency**, along with implementing lessons learned from the Hurricane Harvey Emergency Response, the City of Houston Public Works & Engineering Department and Water Divisions have set in motion a first-in-the Nation proving ground for breakthrough, emerging, and world-class products, services, and best practices. Impacting economic and workforce development, citizen well-being, business and industry growth, the Technology Demonstration Hub and Regional Water Innovation Partnership serve as tools in Greater Houston’s recovery and innovation capacity.

As the City water system continues to implement its long-range strategy for expected growth and demand across drinking, waste, and storm-flood water management, the opportunity to leverage its extensive facility, infrastructure, operation, and related data/information networks into a unique innovation setting for the evaluation, demonstration, and showcase of global and national technologies can be a profound driver of a **21st Century Water Resilience and Innovation Scenario** attracting entrepreneurs, innovators, inventors, and investors.

Further, by coordinating and collaborating with national and international experts, research organizations, and networks of water “innovators” – connected on a more efficient and effective level among a cluster of local and regional water technology development, commercialization, engineering, and investment interests, the formation of the Regional Water Innovation Partnership seeks to organize and engage the best ideas, minds, and resources to address ‘grand challenges’ in municipal water systems, identify and prioritize unique program activities for a global ‘Smart City and Resiliency’ opportunity, and align with Greater Houston’s broader sector, scientific, technical, and entrepreneurial peers.

This work session is a facilitated process for capturing existing effort and programs, defining goals and impacts from technology demonstration at scale and in the field, and to creating a 12-18-24 month set of performance metrics for leveraging the Demonstration Hub with long-term optimization and resiliency. A survey will be conducted among regional interests in advance of the December 4th session which seeks to curate existing research, commercialization, engagement, and investment in water-related activities. Additional reading materials will be provided for pre-gathering insights to spark new tactics and/or reconfirm the positive direction already underway in Greater Houston.

Following the morning work session, attendees are asked to enjoy a box lunch that will transition into a Public Forum. Starting at 1:00pm, the Baker Institute and AccelerateH2O will convene international, national, regional and local expertise to examine Greater Houston as a global platform for water resiliency.

The significant work underway by key civic, business, government and non-profit organizations to rebuild, re-engineer, reimagine a 600+ square mile region could be THE most ambitious national effort towards designing, connecting smart-city, smart-water, and robust demonstration of traditional and unique water sourcing, delivery, treatment, reuse across sectors, communities of interest, and integrated solutions. With a focus on international panelists and exciting subject matter experts on water resiliency, emergency response, and lessons learned from prior challenging water events, the Public Forum will connect the Demonstration Hub, Regional Water Partnership with global networks, programs, investments.

Agenda & Intent of Roundtable Planning Session

7:30-8:30am Registration and Light Breakfast

8:00 Welcome

Linda Capuano, Ph.D.

Fellow in Energy Technology, Center for Energy Studies

Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy, Houston, Texas

The Honorable Bill Callegari

Former State Representative and Member – AccelerateH2O Advisory Board

Opening Remarks - City of Houston Water Technology Demonstration Hub Program

Carol Ellinger Haddock and Yvonne Forrest, City of Houston Public Works & Engineering

Perspective on Hurricane Harvey Emergency Response, Shannon Dunne, Waste Water Division

Challenge for Action – Houston's Resiliency, The Honorable Stephen Costello, Office of the Mayor, Chief Resiliency Officer

9:00am Implementing the Demonstration Hub - Richard Seline, Executive Director & Senior Advisor, Accelerate H2O

9:15am Technology Development, Demonstration, Deployment

Roundtable on global, national sources of water innovation, resiliency, and municipal optimization technologies, integrated solutions, best practices, and performance impacts. Discussion centers on the vetting and selection process, adaption and adoption by public AND private sector water managers, and formation of a national advisory working group to the Demonstration Hub for building a pipeline of early-, emerging, and mature-stage technologies, integrated solutions – positioning Greater Houston as a global hub of water innovation research, commercialization, and business opportunity.

Introduction to Inaugural Technologies Selected in Emergency Response Phase: Viroment, Aquatecture, Drylet

Roundtable Discussion of Current, Evolving Technologies – National Pipeline Advisory Team:

Isle Utilities, US CEO Cristina Ahmadpour

Water Environment & Reuse Foundation, President Melissa Meeker

Water Research Foundation, President Rob Renner

National Renewable Energy Lab - Energy-Water Program Manager Matt Ringer

Bluefield Research – Associate Research Director Erin Bonney

Carollo Engineers, National Demonstration Program Manager Justin Sutherland

10:15am Implementing the Regional Water Innovation Partnership: Relevance to City Water Demonstration Hub and Greater Houston Water Resiliency – Richard Seline

10:30am Facilitated Session: Inventory of Current and Emerging Programs, Projects, Initiatives - Participants

11:00am Facilitated Session: Necessary Priorities, Objectives, Performance Metrics for Success – Participants

11:30am Near-Term Action Plan, Roles and Responsibilities – City of Houston Water Demonstration Hub Team

Announcement of Call for Proposals – AccelerateH2O & SplashLink CEO Ebie Holst

11:45am Introductions, Announcements of Strategic Alliances and Global Water Collaborative

12:00pm Wrap-Up and Closing Comments – Water Demonstration Hub Team

Box Lunch Provided & Adjourn Transition to Public Forum

For additional Planning Session information: Richard Seline rseline@accelerateH2O.org (800) 708-0478