



**Water Collaborative
Delivery Association**
Better Projects, Together.



20th Anniversary **SYMPOSIUM** **Preliminary Schedule**

Celebrate two decades of collaborative delivery leadership at the WCDA 20th Anniversary Symposium, where dynamic discussions, expert insights, and real-world experience come together to shape the future of collaborative delivery. The symposium program pairs WCDA's trusted collaborative delivery education content with engaging panel discussions, featuring diverse perspectives from water utility owners and collaborative delivery stakeholders.

Across a series of high-impact sessions that tell the story of project success, attendees will learn practical insights, proven strategies, and peer-driven guidance, all designed to help water sector professionals deliver better projects, together, for a resilient and sustainable water future.

**Full program and speakers
to be announced late
March 2026!**

Day 1 Tuesday, July 28, 2026

NETWORKING BREAKFAST | 8:00 – 8:30 am

(included with registration)

MORNING SESSIONS | 8:30 am – Noon

(including 30-minute networking break)

Opening Keynote

An engaging and energizing session that brings the water collaborative delivery community together and sets the tone for meaningful dialogue, shared learning, and innovation throughout the conference. Keynote speaker to be announced soon!

Lessons Learned from 20 Years of Collaborative Delivery

The morning sessions explore two decades of innovation, evolution, and project success. Collaborative delivery—including construction management at-risk (CMAR), fixed-price design-build (FBDB), progressive design-build (PDB), design-build-operate (DBO), and public-private partnerships (P3)—brings project stakeholders, such as utility owners, designers, contractors, technology providers, equipment suppliers, and operators, together earlier in the project process, a model which can support innovative, efficient, and sustainable solutions for communities. These sessions provide a roadmap to the collaborative delivery process, sharing best practices, real-world utility experiences, and actionable insights. Through a blend of moderated dialogue, interactive discussion, and targeted learning, this topic highlights 20 years of water sector progress, lessons learned, and critical resources.

Featured WCDA Education Content: *Fundamentals of Collaborative Delivery, Implementation of Collaborative Delivery*

LUNCH | Noon – 1:00 pm

(included with registration)

AFTERNOON SESSIONS | 1:00 – 4:30 pm

(including 30-minute networking break)

From Risk to Results: Managing Risk & Contracts in Collaborative Delivery

Risk management is a driver that often leads utilities to select collaborative project delivery and is an element that is critical to driving project success. Sessions related to this topic translate abstract risk concepts into actionable strategies aligned with the dynamic nature of collaborative project delivery. Attendees will explore common

continued

DAY 1 | AFTERNOON SESSIONS *continued*

project risks and allocation principles, managing risks, addressing liability and risk in the collaborative delivery contract, contract commercial concepts, industry-standard contract forms, and considerations in preparation for a successful collaborative delivery project. The essential elements of risk and contracts will be addressed through interactive panel discussions featuring diverse perspectives on risk discipline associated with a variety of collaborative delivery project roles, paired with highlights from WCDA's risk allocation and contracts education curriculum.

Featured WCDA Education Content: *Risk Allocation & Contracts*

Planning Smarter Together: Budgeting & Cost Certainty in Planning and Project Delivery

Have you ever been left scratching your head and wondering, "Why is this project over budget? What could have been done better to align project budget and cost?" If the answer is yes, then this is the session for you. This engaging session will highlight real-world experiences and cover practical approaches to budget development and cost estimating that support more

accurate, transparent, and defensible capital planning and project budgeting. Presenters will explore how early decisions, assumptions, and estimating methods influence project outcomes and how the collaborative project delivery process can support improved collaboration among utilities and project partners, leading to greater cost certainty. Attendees will leave with actionable insights and practical strategies to reduce surprises and better align budgets with real-world project costs.

Featured WCDA Education Content: *Implementation of Collaborative Delivery*

TRANSITION TO GALA | 4:30 – 6:00 pm

The ballroom will be closed during this time to prepare for the gala.

WCDA 20th ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER

(included with registration)

6:00 – 7:00 pm – Networking Happy Hour

7:00 – 8:30 pm - Dinner

Day 2 Wednesday, July 29, 2026

NETWORKING BREAKFAST | 8:00 – 8:30 am

(included with registration)

MORNING SESSIONS | 8:30 am – noon

(including 30-minute networking break)

Day 2 Keynote

Kick off the symposium's final day with a session that sets the tone for collaboration, innovation, and impact—setting the stage for a day that looks beyond project and process to the leadership elements essential for successful teams, organizations, and the communities they serve. Keynote speaker to be announced soon!

Stronger Together: High-Performing Teams for Collaborative Delivery

A successful collaborative delivery project depends on more than contracts, risk registers, and budgets; it depends on effective teaming and a high-performing project team. This session explores what it takes to create high-performing teams, both within an organization and among all project stakeholders. Panelists will address the importance of teamwork across organizational and contractual boundaries, the evolving role of owner advisors, and strategies for engaging procurement partners as key collaborators in the process. Through sharing real-world experiences and practical insights, this discussion will examine how teams maintain alignment as projects move from planning through delivery.

Featured WCDA Education Content: *Role of an Owner Advisor in Collaborative Delivery*

LUNCH | Noon – 1:00 pm

(included with registration)

AFTERNOON / CLOSING SESSIONS

1:00 – 4:30 pm

(including a 30-minute networking break)

Ready or Not? Building Organizational Readiness for Collaborative Delivery

Is your utility ready to deliver a successful collaborative delivery project? This session explores key outcomes from WCDA's research into utility readiness factors driving project success—people, process, and tools—and describes how utility owners can prepare, assess, and align to address readiness gaps and facilitate successful collaborative delivery project implementation. Join this session for an interactive panel of utility leaders as they share how they assessed and strengthened readiness within their organizations, coupled with WCDA experts providing practical frameworks and guidance to help attendees consider their organization's readiness and position their teams for success. Participants will leave with clear, actionable steps to maximize project success and deliver better project outcomes, together.

Featured WCDA Education Content: *Organizational Readiness*

Closing Session

Wrap up the symposium with an inspiring, forward-looking discussion featuring water sector leaders who are shaping the next era of collaborative delivery. This keynote session brings together visionaries from across the sector to explore what's ahead and how we can continue partnering to build better projects, and a more sustainable water future, together.