

Becoming Financially Resilient through Asset Management

August 20th, 2020

One of the key characteristics of asset management is its ability to improve the resiliency of a water system to outside emergencies or catastrophic events, such as the on-going pandemic.

Specific features of asset management related to managerial & financial resiliency will be discussed by Heather Himmelberger from Southwest Environmental Finance Center. Andy Yang from San Jose Water will touch on SJW's systematic approach for evaluating risks posed by outside threats, which consisted of more than 850 Threat-Asset Pair analyses using Triple Bottom Line consequences (social, financial, and environmental). The presentation will also touch on how SJW used similar Triple Bottom Line considerations to evaluate the risk of reactivating various work activities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, assessing inherent and residual risks to employees, the public, the environment, and the financial state of the organization. John Choate will discuss how a VTDEC grant program was awarded to help implement a city-wide program in Winooski Vermont, which is an 8500 densely populated small city adjacent to Burlington.

Heather Himmelberger, P.E. has been the Director of the Southwest Environmental Finance Center since 1996. Heather has provided asset management training & implementation assistance for over 17 years. She has assisted systems of all sizes & types with understanding & implementing asset management. Heather has a B.S. in Environmental Engineering from Penn State University & an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

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Andy Yang is a licensed professional engineer in the State of California, is certified by the Institute of Asset Management, and is a Certified Reliability Leader. He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from U.C. Berkeley and an M.S. in Civil Engineering from Stanford University. His experience includes asset management, master planning, system optimization, leak detection and water loss, transient analysis, and pipeline and pump station design. He has led the development of the Asset Management Program at San Jose Water and serves as the chair of San Jose Water's Asset Management Committee.

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John Choate is currently the Utilities Manager for the City of Winooski, which has approximately 1800 service connections serving a population of 8500. He has helped managed multiple private and public water and wastewater system over that last 37 years in Vermont.

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