



Catalyzing Stormwater Capture and Use: Focusing Opportunities and Overcoming Barriers

Full Statement of Purpose and Meeting Objectives

Statement of Purpose:

Many states and cities are increasingly interested in pursuing stormwater capture to supplement water supplies, address water quality challenges, reduce flooding risk, and yield other community benefits. Under the umbrella term of “stormwater capture and use” (SCU), we include management of stormwater at different scales, from large municipal projects to individual onsite capture and use projects. The convening will evaluate the range of opportunities and challenges for urban stormwater capture for use from individual parcels and larger-scale areas. While much progress is being made in parts of the United States, widespread application of SCU has been hampered by perceived institutional, logistical, regulatory, public acceptance, and financial constraints. Some national organizations, including EPA, WEF, and NMSA, have explored stormwater capture potential in the context of evaluating green infrastructure opportunities, but there have been few efforts focused on carefully evaluating opportunities for, and institutional barriers to, stormwater capture for consumptive use. Further, there have been few comprehensive efforts to compile information about these experiences, assess constraints affecting implementation of urban stormwater capture for use, and prioritize actions to address perceived constraints and concerns.

This convening will explore the varied drivers and interests that motivate stormwater capture and use across the country. We will develop strategies and priorities for enhancing state and local capacity to pursue stormwater capture and use by assessing opportunities and key impediments to safe stormwater capture. Actions that are needed to address these impediments and opportunities will be prioritized and mechanisms for taking action based on workshop findings will be identified. We’ll discuss how stormwater capture and use fit into the emerging national interest in developing and implementing multiple-benefit projects that achieve several different goals. Finally, we will identify key research needs that emerge from the discussion of specific topic areas.

Meeting Objectives:

- Assess opportunities to capture and use urban stormwater in the United States and methods to estimate the scale of potential SCU across the country.
- Identify current and planned examples of urban SCU and implementation “lessons learned.”
- Identify and prioritize the most significant legal, technical, financial, communications, and institutional barriers to progress in implementing stormwater capture.

- Identify specific follow-up actions and organizations to address the highest priority barriers and opportunities.
- Identify specific research needs to inform development of a national stormwater capture research strategy being developed by Water Research Foundation, EPA, and others.
- Identify opportunities to educate senior water sector leaders, elected officials, and the public on the beneficial potential of urban SCU.