



Triangle J Council of  
Governments

# Smart Growth Collaborative & Water Resources Collaborative Joint Meeting: Recovery and Resilience During COVID-19

Thursday, December 10, 2020

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Virtual meeting – Microsoft Teams link shared with RSVP

## Agenda

### 1. Welcome & Introductions (~15 min.)

*TJ Cawley, Morrisville and Lori Bush, Cary - Water Resources Collaborative Co-Chairs*

*Wendy Jacobs, Durham and Steve Rao, Morrisville - Smart Growth Collaborative Co-Chairs*

### 2. COVID-19 Recovery Funding Overview, Michael Wallace, National League of Cities

Michael Wallace, Legislative Director for the National League of Cities, will provide an overview of emergency federal resources and appropriations for programs that may be used to assist residents and small businesses harmed by COVID-19. He will provide examples of how cities and towns have used such funds to stabilize small businesses and their employees, including those unable to access federal aid directly. Michael will also provide a preview of relevant priorities for the next Administration and Session of Congress.

### 3. COVID-Related Utility Revenue and Affordability Challenges & Solutions, Mary Tiger, OWASA

Mary Tiger, who leads OWASA's Affordability Outreach Program, will provide an update on the challenges that COVID has created for utility revenue and customer assistance. She will discuss OWASA's suspension of service disconnections during the pandemic (which is still underway) and the strategies the utility is employing to help develop and connect customers to bill payment assistance.

### 4. Questions & Open Discussion (~35 min.)

This is intended as a venue to learn and share ideas—potential discussion topics include:

- *How are cities reaching individuals and small business owners that may not know about available resources (regarding both COVID recovery funds and water bill assistance?)*
- *How could TJCOG help direct people in the region toward both COVID recovery funds and water bill assistance?*
- *How are water utilities planning to address equity considerations if/when resuming disconnections?*
- *What are some strategies or practices that utilities can use to balance affordability and revenues?*

### 5. Closing (5 min.)

*Co-Chairs*

## Speaker Biographies

**Michael Wallace** is Legislative Director for Housing, Community and Economic Development at the National League of Cities, an organization dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. Working in partnership with 49 state municipal leagues, NLC serves as a resource to and an advocate for over 19,000 cities, villages and towns.

As a member of the Federal Relations team, Michael works closely with mayors, council members, and municipal staff to represent local priorities in the areas of housing, community development, and economic growth.

Prior to joining NLC, Michael worked for U.S. Congresswoman Julia Carson (IN), managing her House Financial Services Committee portfolio.

Michael graduated from Marian University in Indianapolis, Indiana, with degrees in philosophy and theology. He moved to Washington, DC to run the Llewellyn Scott Catholic Worker House, a homeless services provider and shelter.

**Mary Tiger** is the Sustainability Manager for the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA). In her role with OWASA, Mary leads the organization's Affordability Outreach Program which includes working with over 20 social service agencies in Orange County to address the affordability of water and wastewater services.