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Session Focus:
Utilities in Tennessee – Things You’ll Want to Know

27 OCT 2023
11:30AM CT
193 POLK AVE, SUITE D
NASHVILLE, TN 37219

ZOOM ALSO AVAILABLE

Moderated by Ross Colona, Assistant Director, TN Comptroller’s Division of Local Government Finance

Panel Members:
- Mike Adams, Dickson County Water Authority
- Drexel Heidel, West Knox Utility District
- Greg Moody, Comptroller of the Treasury, Chairman, TBOUR
- Anthony Pelham, Warren County Utility District

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SUCCESSFUL CONNECTIONS
MEET THE PANELISTS

MODERATOR ROSS COLONA

Ross Colona is an Assistant Director in the Tennessee Comptroller’s Division of Local Government Finance and serves as the designated manager to the Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation (TBOUR). Ross leads the Comptroller’s oversight of local government water, wastewater, and natural gas utilities across Tennessee. He is also responsible for overseeing the preparation and presentation of all materials to the TBOUR and provides assistance to utilities on a variety of technical, managerial and financial issues. Ross also provides training to local government officials across the state, and he assists customers who have utility-related complaints.

MIKE ADAMS, DICKSON COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

Professional Engineer Michael Adams graduated in 1995 from Tennessee Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Michael began his career with the Water Authority of Dickson County in 2006 as the staff engineer designing and reviewing water and wastewater projects for WADC. Since 2012, he has served the Authority as executive director, managing the daily financial and operational functions, and developing and administering the organization’s policies. Prior to joining the WADC, Michael was partner and principal engineer at Bledsoe, Adams & Christy, LLC, in Dickson, Tennessee, serving both private and public sector clients from 2000 to 2006. From 1995 to 2000, Michael served as design engineer at James & Associates in Dickson and Nashville, Tennessee. Currently, Michael serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Association of Utility Districts. He is past vice president of the Dickson Farmers Coop, past president of the Dickson County Livestock Association and past board member of the Dickson County Chamber of Commerce. Michael is an active member of Grace Baptist Church, and has served both as a deacon and as a technical consultant for the Building Committee in developing plans for their new sanctuary. Michael and his wife, Kelli, have three children and two grandchildren, and live and work on the family’s 165-acre cattle farm. Their two sons work for other public utilities in Tennessee.
DREXEL HEIDEL, WEST KNOX
UTILITY DISTRICT

Drexel Heidel is currently the General Manager of West Knox Utility District which serves approximately 27,000 water and sewer customers in Northwest Knox County. Drexel is a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Civil Engineering, is a professional engineer, and has over thirty-eight years of water and wastewater experience. He was first employed by Hensley-Schmidt, Inc. in Chattanooga from 1985 to 1991. He then worked for the City of Chattanooga at the Moccasin Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant before heading to West Knox Utility District in October 1993. Drexel is actively involved in TAUD and is currently serving as a Board member. Drexel’s interests include kayak fishing, hiking, basketball, boating, and hanging out at Norris Lake with family and friends. He is married to Janet, his wife of 41 years and has two sons Alex 39 and AJ 37.

GREG MOODY, COMPTROLLER
OF THE TREASURY, CHAIRMAN, TBOUR

Greg Moody serves as the Director of the Office of State Assessed Properties (OSAP) for the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury. OSAP is responsible for administering the annual audit, appraisal and assessment of Tennessee’s public utility and transportation properties. These assessments are certified to the state’s 95 counties and hundreds of local governments for billing and collection of property taxes. Greg also serves the State of Tennessee as Chairman and Comptroller’s Designee of the newly established Tennessee Board of Utility Regulation. Greg has spent more than 32 years in the property assessment profession. He began his career with the Division of Property Assessments in 1990. In 1995 he began working for the Shelby County Assessor of Property, where he held numerous positions including the Director of Appraisal. In 2014, Greg returned to the Division of Property Assessments as an Assistant Director. He was named OSAP Director in March 2018. Greg is a proud member of the International Association of Assessing Officers. He currently holds the IAAO designation of Certified Assessment Evaluator. Greg is the past president of the Tennessee Chapter of the IAAO. Greg and his wife Leslie have one grown daughter, Caitlin. In his spare time Greg enjoys playing disc golf and supporting University of Tennessee sports, the Memphis Grizzlies NBA team, and the Pittsburgh Steelers.
ANTHONY PELHAM, WARREN COUNTY UTILITY DISTRICT

Anthony L. Pelham is a Tennessee Tech University Engineering Graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (1997) and Master of Science in Civil Engineering (2012). Anthony is a Licensed Professional Engineer with nearly two decades of experience in the water utility industry serving in several capacities as Consulting Engineer with James C. Hailey & Company, Director of the City of McMinnville’s Water & Sewer Department, and currently serves as the General Manager of Warren County Utility District where he has developed a reputation of sound leadership and dedication to the water needs of the community. The water industry is a family affair as his father, Tim Pelham, managed a rural utility for 38 years until his retirement in 2021. Anthony’s brother, Marlan, is a Licensed Water Treatment Plant Operator in Rutherford County, and two of his nieces, Ashley and Haley, recently graduated with Engineering Degrees from the University of Tennessee and work with Engineering Firms in Nashville and Murfreesboro. Anthony has served on several state and local committees and commissions and currently serves on the TAUD Board. He was appointed to the Utility Management Review Board (UMRB) in 2022 by Governor Lee, and since 2014 he been the head Trustee for the non-profit Warren County James C. Hailey Scholarship Trust that has awarded over $250,000 in scholarships to Warren County students. Together, Anthony and his wife volunteer with the non-profits, Cancer Relay for Life and River Clean-up activities. A Middle Tennessee native, born and raised in Warren County, faith and family are at his core and he is an ordained minister by the Mt. Zion Association of The Baptist Churches where he has served as Pastor and Assistant Pastor to several small, rural Baptist Churches. Anthony enjoys the outdoors, travel, reading, a good meal, and a peaceful life on the banks of the Collins River near Rock Island with his wife of 27 years, Vanessa, and their two beloved dogs Bonnie & Clyde.