

Tuesday, August 27
(Opening Session begins at 8:30am)

Key Note Presentation: “Gwinnett’s Water Innovation Center – Collaboration Advancing Water Technologies”

With an aggressive focus on water supply resiliency, Gwinnett County (located immediately to the north east of the City of Atlanta) is boldly developing a Water Innovation Campus to meet the water resource needs of our vibrant and growing region. At nearly one million people, Gwinnett is considered one of the most diverse and fastest growing places in the US. The water need projections for residential, agricultural and industrial users in our region are formidable, and the need for innovative solutions to maximize efficiencies in our facilities is clear. Our approach is to integrate applied research, emerging technologies, collaboration with academia and industry, job training, and active and inclusive outreach.



Melissa Meeker is the Director of the *Water innovation Center @Gwinnett* and has more than 25 years of comprehensive experience in water resources management, with an emphasis on alternative water supply development and research, workforce development and public engagement. Melissa previously served as the Chief Executive Officer of The Water Environment and Reuse Foundation and was instrumental in the merger of three critical water-related research foundations.

She also served as Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District and Deputy Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, with responsibility for overseeing statewide water and environmental restoration policy, including Everglades restoration. Meeker has a BS in Biology and a MS in Environmental Resource Management.