Town

Nearly one half of humanity lives in towns, and urban populations are growing. Major issues facing urban dwellers are access to clean water for drinking, sanitation needs, and storm water management intensified by climate-related events. As we bring solutions forward, sustainability and environmental justice are more important than ever.

9:00am ET
Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

9:15am – 10:00am ET
The Flint Water Crisis: Parallels to Third World Resource Exploitation and Disregard for Public Health
Presenter: Dr. Laura Sullivan
Looking back over the years since lead and bacteria poisoned Flint's water, Dr Sullivan will draw correlations between the factors that contributed to water crises in Flint, on Native American reservations, and in the developing world. Privatization of water, pitched to city leaders and village chiefs as a short term cure for debt, inevitably results in theft and contamination of a basic human right.

10:00am – 10:45am ET
Mutual Aid and the Climate Crisis
Presenters: Miriam Belblidia & Klie Klibert
As communities grappled with a slew of concurrent disasters in 2020 and 2021, grassroots mutual aid regained prominence, providing lessons for a more equitable approach to flood risk management and the climate crisis. This presentation explores the origins of grassroots mutual aid within Black, Creole, Indigenous, and immigrant communities, and shares a case study of Imagine Water Works' Mutual Aid Response Network (MARN) in New Orleans.

10:45am – 11:00am ET
Morning Break

11:00am – 11:45am ET
Lick Run Greenway: Tales of the Past, Challenges of the Present and Hopes for the Future
Presenter: Deborah Leonard
This presentation will focus on the past, present, and future of the South Fairmount community in Cincinnati and its relationship with a stream called Lick Run. Ms. Leonard will include a history of sewers in Cincinnati and how this history impacted the Lick Run and residents of South Fairmount. She will present the how and why the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) decided to daylight the stream to combat sewer overflows and the impact and hopes for the future that the newly completed Lick Run Greenway brings to this Cincinnati neighborhood.

11:45am – 12:30pm ET
From Waste to Resource: Capturing Nutrients from Source Separated Urine or Black Water
Presenter: Kim Nace
Creating circular water and nutrient cycles from human sanitary waste should be low hanging fruit, as we humans attempt to live within the boundaries of our eco-sphere. But path dependency and a lack of imagination are the real barriers to new modes of managing these critical resources. It starts in the bathroom, and we all play a part in understanding, advocating and creating change. Come learn what Rich Earth Institute and Rich Earth Tools are doing to move us towards the energy efficient and circular approaches of the future.
Industry/Factory

Industrial water use and the creation of infrastructure that threaten pristine water sources leads to pollution and water scarcity. Hear from those on the front lines, advocating for clean water and protection of water rights and learn what you can do individually and in community to protect water.

1:30pm – 2:15pm ET

Thoughts on the Risk Posed by PFAS to Groundwater Quality in the Miami Valley
Presenter: Mike Ekberg

This session will introduce the concept of groundwater and aquifers and talk about the importance of the buried valley aquifer system in providing drinking water to the residents of the Miami Valley. Come learn what PFAS are, the sources of PFAS, and what the human health concerns are. Lastly, learn what can be done to prevent PFAS exposure.

2:15pm – 3:00pm ET

Running into the Swamps: Field Notes of an Accomplice to Indigenous Resistance, Building Solidarity with Indigenous Resistance Movements
Presenter: Jake Stockwell

Indigenous Resistance is based within a living, changing, ecosystem, i.e. "Swamp", which Jake carries as metaphor to explain the interdependent relationships (violent and peaceable) between Indigenous Peoples, Allies/Accomplices, and Settler-Colonial structures. Jake will interweave Indigenous voices through short videos and personal experience that uplifts Line 3 Resistance while also demonstrating that Line 3 Resistance is a part of a greater Indigenous led movement to protect the remaining global biodiversity. It is a difficult time for Water Protectors, as we struggle to inhabit the inevitable reality that Line 3 will go online in the coming weeks and hundreds of us will continue to contest the issue in Court. At this time the number one ask from the Frontline is to support the fundraising efforts that help Water Protectors be free from criminal charges. Jake will offer a number of links to share with folks.

3:00pm – 3:15pm ET

Afternoon Break

3:15pm – 4:00pm ET

Rights of Nature, Rights of Community
Jim Schenk & Deborah Jordan

Schenk and Jordan will discuss the condition of the Ohio River which is considered the most polluted river in the country by the EPA, what caused it and why we see the Rights of Nature, Rights of Community as being the way to solve the problems with the Ohio River, and why we formed CROW Citizens for Rights of the Ohio River Watershed

4:00pm – 4:45pm ET

Activism, Policy, Rights of Water Panel
Panelists: Jake Stockwell & Jim Schenk
Moderator: Sheryl Cunningham
EVENING PROGRAM

6:30pm ET
World House Choir Performance

6:45pm ET
Welcome & Arthur Morgan Award Presentation

7:00pm ET
Keynote: Indigenous Water Justice and its Climatic, Territorial, and Governance Underpinnings for Our Shared Sustainable Future
Presenter: Dr. Kelsey Leonard

Conference Schedule: Friday, November 5th, 2021