

2 0 2 0 A N N U A L R E P O R T

T H E Y E A R O F

FIRSTS



THE WATER TOWER

LETTER FROM CEO/BOARD CHAIR

What an amazing “Year of Firsts!” We are so proud of the progress The Water Tower has made in making a name for itself through timely, impactful programming and overall construction of the campus and its ecosystem. This is our first Annual Report and it highlights some of our accomplishments from the last year. Our amazing partners and their support in this journey are unmatched; without them, we wouldn't be where we are today. We are also proud of our incredible Board of Directors for each of the nonprofits under The Water Tower, many of which recently joined. These esteemed individuals dedicating their time to our initiative speaks to the incredible opportunity that The Water Tower has to make an impact on both our local community and the water community.

By this time next year, we will be in our new building. We hope that you will join us on campus to:

- Access our living lab for multiple water quality flows and utility data
- Access our state-of-the-art lab and testing equipment
- See the latest innovative technologies for water utilities, both physical and digital
- Participate in cutting edge research to protect our source waters
- Move onto the campus and actively participate in the water ecosystem
- Join our workforce development training programs
- Participate in conferences, workshops, and retreats on campus
- Learn about water and why it is essential

Our small but mighty staff are ready to partner with you to create symbiotic relationships that further the water industry.

Stay tuned for more from The Water Tower!



Nick Masino
Board Chair,
The Water Tower



Melissa L. Meeker
Chief Executive Officer,
The Water Tower

THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDING PARTNERS



TWT 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed campus design and commenced campus construction.
- Expanded strategic partnerships with utilities, technology companies, local businesses, and other organizations.
- Executed critical agreements with Gwinnett County, including the Marketing & Administration and Lease agreements.
- Developed the first Lake Lanier Watershed 5-Year Research Plan”
- Performed first technology demonstration with Olea Edge Analytics.
- Conducted our first annual “Watering Hole” golf tournament fundraiser that brought together 129 attendees, 24 golf teams, and 16 sponsors.
- Held first slate of training classes in partnership with GWWI.
- Convened networking events including Women, Water & Wine, virtual book clubs, and the virtual women's panel.
- Engaged with the community through school job fairs, student design competitions, shadow days, and collaboration with teachers.
- Established TWT brand through social media, media relations, and our website.

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Water Tower is pleased to present our Board of Directors for each of the two organizations that comprise The Water Tower. Together, the Directors of The Water Tower at Gwinnett and The Water Tower Institute will strive to ensure our campus and ecosystem are a success.

THE WATER TOWER AT GWINNETT 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Water Tower at Gwinnett, a 501(c)4, is focused on the infrastructure of the innovation hub, overseeing real estate development, and tenant management on campus.



1. Melvin Everson, Vice President of Economic Development, Gwinnett Technical College

2. Jennifer Fennell, Business Development Manager, Jackson EMC

3. Jann Joseph, Ph.D., President, Georgia Gwinnett College

4. Nick Masino, President and CEO of Gwinnett Chamber and Partnership Gwinnett

5. Daniel R. Sosebee III, CPA, Associate Member in Audit, Advisory and Director of Business Development, Moore Stephens Tiller

6. John D. Stephens, Owner, JDS Holdings LLC

7. Maurice Thompson II, Partner, Consultuoso Business Consulting

8. Jessica Rantamaki, Business Development Specialist, Geo-Hydro Engineers, Inc.

THE WATER TOWER INSTITUTE 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Water Tower Institute, a 501(c)3, oversees programming in the areas of applied research, technology innovation, workforce development, and community engagement.



1. Paul T. Bowen, Ph.D., Retired Director of Sustainable Operations, The Coca-Cola Company

2. Glen T. Daigger, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, NAE, President, One Water Solutions

3. Terrell S. Gibbs, Ph.D., P.E., Environmental Department Manager, Corporate Environmental Risk Management (CERM)

4. Chris Impellitteri, Ph.D., Associate National Program Director, EPA Office of Research and Development

5. Linda MacGregor, Director, Gainesville Department of Water Resources

6. Nick Masino, President and CEO of Gwinnett Chamber and Partnership Gwinnett

7. Andrew D. Morris, J.D., Natural Resources Counsel and Water Policy Officer, Atlanta Regional Commission & Water Policy Officer, Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District

8. Eileen O'Neill, Ph.D., Founding Partner, Water Principles LLC



T H E Y E A R O F

FIRSTS



1. FIRST WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

The Water Tower began training the next generation of water professionals by supplementing classroom learning with hand-on-training in six socially distanced classes. Through partnerships with GWWI and other vendors, our training programs augment an already robust program by helping prospective and currently practicing operators gain necessary “on the job” training. The training in our courses allows operators to apply skills learned in certification courses.

2. FIRST AGREEMENT WITH GWINNETT COUNTY

The Water Tower entered into a Marketing and Administration Agreement and a Foundation Master Lease with Gwinnett County and Gwinnett Water & Sewerage Authority in April 2020 and November 2020, respectively. These agreements allow TWT to market the campus, provide Gwinnett County support of TWT over a 5-year period, and allow for operations and maintenance of Phase I of the TWT Campus.



3. FIRST FUNDRAISER

Our first annual TWT “Watering Hole” Golf Tournament was held on October 20, 2020. It was an extreme success with many local companies, professionals, and members of the community coming together for a beautiful day of fun and networking in the name of water innovation. The generous contributions received by our wonderful sponsors, donors, attendees, and volunteers greatly benefited The Water Tower Institute programming.

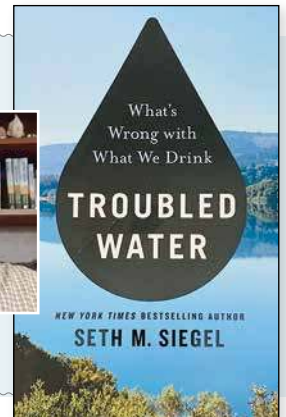


4. FIRST NETWORKING EVENT

The Water Tower hosted our first networking series, Women, Water & Wine, to bring together women leaders in the water industry. Women from top water, infrastructure, project management, planning, engineering, and construction companies participated in themed networking events to mingle and offer helpful insights into their particular industry.

5. FIRST BOOK CLUB

Water professionals from across the U.S. virtually gathered for The Water Tower's first Virtual Book Club to discuss "Troubled Water: What's Wrong with What We Drink" by Seth Siegel. Siegel was online to answer questions from participants. "Troubled Water" sparked many thought-provoking conversations regarding various challenges in the water industry and due to the success of the first book club, TWT holds now holds regular book clubs throughout the year.



6. FIRST RESEARCH PLAN

The Lake Lanier Watershed 5-Year Research Plan was developed by a team led by The Water Tower, Constantine Engineering, and Carollo Engineers and funded by Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources. The Research Plan, developed with input from local stakeholders and technical experts, provides a multi-year roadmap of project concepts aimed to improve and protect the watershed. Thirty-two applied research project concepts were developed under the plan to address high priority challenges facing the Lake Lanier Watershed.

7. FIRST TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION

A technology developed by Olea Edge Analytics and demonstrated at The Water Tower aimed to explore a unique and novel solution to monitor the health of its large commercial meter population. These meters are often difficult to maintain or replace and inaccurate meter readings from these high-volume meters could substantially affect revenues. Olea's Meter Health Analytics provides an advanced asset management tool for the water utility's highest revenue meters and continuously monitors and diagnoses needed corrective actions to maintain the accuracy of each meter.



8. FIRST RESEARCH PROJECT

A large portion of underwater wireless communication has been attributed to the use of acoustic frequencies due to the significantly lower absorption than radio frequencies. Ongoing advances in using light for communication through the concept of visible light communication make optical wireless relevant to advancing the state-of-the-art in underwater wireless communication systems. This research project, led by Georgia State University, takes a transformative approach and explores photo-acoustic hybrid communication in which acoustic and optical wireless communication modes co-exist and complement each other.





THE WATER TOWER CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION



THE WATER TOWER BUILDING:

- 55,000+ SF
- The Water Tower organization offices
- Single-Tenant, long-term leasable office space
- Incubator/co-working space
- Experimental, microbiology, and analytical labs available
- Auditorium/Classroom space
- Access to live water quality flows for demonstrations
- Master Control Room for visualizing smart technology
- Outdoor classroom space

1

FIRST FLOOR— Lab & Classroom Space

- Multiple classrooms seating 25-50
- Catering preparation area
- 4,500 SF Multipurpose room
- Lab space available for rent, membership

2

SECOND FLOOR— Co-Working Space

- Monthly floating memberships/ desks available
- Multiple conference rooms for use/rent
- Private offices available for rent
- Use of lab, classroom space on first floor available

3

THIRD FLOOR— Single Tenant Office Space

- Approximately 14,000 SF available for multiple offices suites
- Access to building amenities:
 - Lab space (1st floor)
 - Classrooms/multipurpose rooms (1st floor)



Estimated completion date is January 2022.

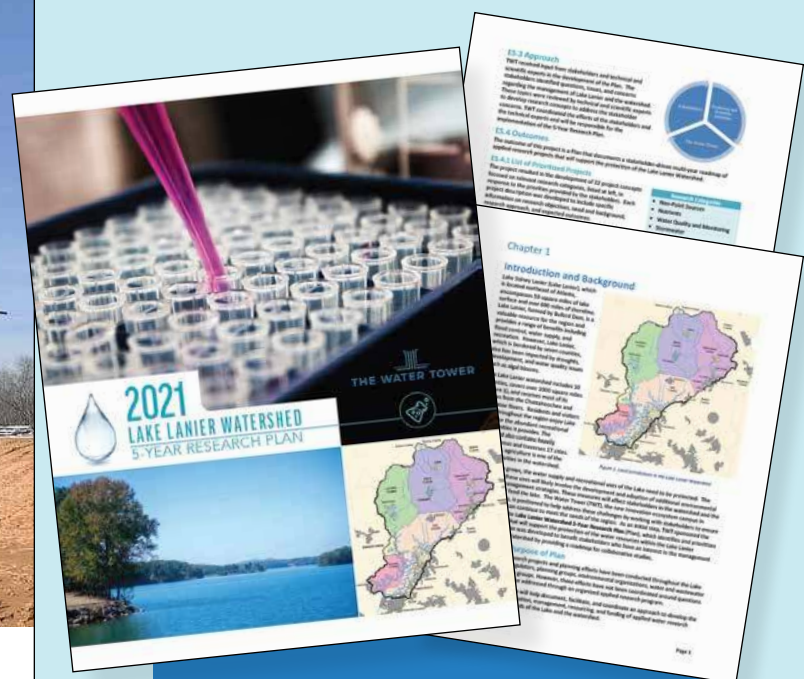


BUILD-TO-SUIT SITES

- Available for water-related businesses
- Land to be structured as a long-term ground lease
- Businesses will have access to lab space and lab services provided by The Water Tower
- Access to and involvement in the active workforce pipeline on the campus, including interns, fellowships, and workforce training programs.

RESEARCH PLAN

- The Water Tower's Lake Lanier Watershed 5-Year Research Plan covers topics including non-point sources, nutrients, water quality and monitoring, stormwater, land use, outreach, policy, and water reclamation.
- Applied research projects under the plan will be competitively funded, overseen by a third party advisory committee of technical and scientific experts, and managed by The Water Tower.
- The Research Plan is a "living document" and we welcome your input on any aspect of the plan. To provide feedback, express interest in funding a project, or volunteer on a Project Advisory Committee, please enter the link below into your browser or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.



AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD:

<https://theh2otower.org/five-year-research-plan>



**Five Year Research Plan
Feedback Survey**

www.surveymonkey.com/r/XNR8VLY

JOIN US FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL WATERING HOLE GOLF TOURNAMENT



October 21, 2021
Lanier Islands Legacy Golf Course

Thank you to our 2020 Tournament Sponsors

Reeves Young, Gresham Smith, Consolidated Pipe & Supply Company, Tetra Tech, DaVinci Collaborative, Siemens, Arcadis, Tesco Controls, Dean Electric Company, Constantine Engineering, an Ardurra Company, King Steel, Shumate Mechanical, Brown and Caldwell, Olea Edge Analytics, Crowder USA, JDS Holdings, Office Creations, Freese and Nichols



THE WATER TOWER

OUR MISSION

To be a thriving ecosystem of water innovation fueled by imagination, informed by research, and powered by pioneers.

OUR OBJECTIVE

Create a campus and an ecosystem to reimagine the future of water—with the public and private sectors of the water industry—via applied research, technology innovation, workforce development, and community engagement.

OUR VISION

To be the go-to organization for all things water innovation and help water and wastewater become more progressive.

THANK YOU TO OUR INNOVATION PARTNERS

Constantine Engineering, an Ardurra Company, Tetra Tech, Georgia Association of Water Professionals, Georgia State University, AdEdge Water Technologies, GoHub by Global Onmium, Georgia Water and Wastewater Institute, Georgia Gwinnett College, Gwinnett County Public Schools, ResilientH2O Partners, Global Water Works, Virginia Tech, Georgia Center for Opportunity



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**For more information on The Water Tower,
visit www.theh2otower.org**