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Summary

A summary of your anticipated participation with the Water Research Foundation in 2026 is given below.

- 5 staff serving on WRF planning bodies
- 18 active research projects involving MWRD Greater Chicago
 - WRF Project 05137 - Unregulated Organic Chemicals in Biosolids: Prioritization, Fate and Risk Evaluation for Land Application (Albert Cox)
 - WRF Project 05171 - Cost-Effective Approaches for Control of Multiple Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) (Albert Cox)
 - WRF Project 05173 - Feasibility of Full-Scale Implementation of LED UV Disinfection (Robert Swanson)
 - WRF Project 05176 - Integrating Climate Impacts with Wet Weather Management, Capital Improvement, and Stream Network Enhancement (Catherine O'Connor)
 - WRF Project 05178 - Preparing the Water Sector to Embrace Technology: Skillsets and Enterprise Management Approaches for the Digital Age (Thais Pluth)
 - WRF Project 05180 - Incorporating Equity and Social Dimension into Community Climate Adaptation Planning and Watershed Management
 - WRF Project 05181 - Incorporating Community Resilience Concepts into Utility Asset Management Practices (Lolita Thompson)
 - WRF Project 05186 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Best Practices for the Water Sector Workforce

Summary (Continued)

- 18 active research projects involving MWRD Greater Chicago (Cont.)
 - WRF Project 05187 - Beyond Net Zero: Advancing Interdependencies Between Utility Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions and Water-Energy-Food Nexus (Kuldip Kumar)
 - WRF Project 05188 - Establishing Industry-Wide Guidance for Water Utility Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (Joe Kozak)
 - WRF Project 05189 - Artificial Intelligence Adoption Framework for Water and Wastewater Utilities (Jonathan Grabowy)
 - WRF Project 05251 - Advancing the Understanding of Nitrous Oxide Emissions Through Enhanced Whole-Plant Monitoring and Quantification (Joe Kozak)
 - WRF Project 05252 - Advancing Anoxic Phosphorus Uptake for Highly Efficient Simultaneous Nitrogen and Phosphorus Removal (Joe Kozak)
 - WRF Project 05255 - Developing a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Library for Unit Processes by Water Utilities and Decentralized Systems (Joe Kozak)
 - WRF Project 05271 - Balancing Carbon Management, Energy Management, Energy Production Nutrient Removal and Densification (Jonathan Grabowy and Joe Kozak)
 - WRF Project 05286 - Identification and Valuation of Innovative Wastewater Residual Products Beyond Conventional Biosolids (Edward Jankun)
 - WRF Project 05288 - Tradeoffs Between Process Optimization, Greenhouse Gas Mitigation, and Energy Efficiency (Joe Kozak)
 - WRF Project 05305 - Operationalizing the Benefits of Nature-based Solutions to Inform Decisions in a Changing Climate (Ed Podczewinski)

Planning Committee Membership

2025 - 2027	Zhang, Heng	Tailored Collaboration Review Committee	Member
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Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Participation

Project Value

2025 -	Waller, Sharon	Data Centers: Understanding Economic Considerations and Opportunities for Water and Wastewater Utilities [#5367]	TBD
2025 - 2027	Zhang, Heng	Practical Considerations for the Application of Phosphorus Recovery in Biosolids Utilizing Struvite-Based Mineral Production [#5347]	\$403,060
2025 - 2027	Zhang, Heng	Process Intensification and Decarbonization via Carbon Management: Pilot-scale Demonstration of the Triple A Settler Technology in Municipal Wastewater Treatment [#5346]	\$316,000
2023 - 2026	Straka, Levi	Enhanced Aeration and Scum Recovery for Physical Removal of PFAS from Wastewater [#5212]	\$251,844