

# Karen Dettmer

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## CREDENTIALS

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Licensed Professional Engineer, Wisconsin #40129-06

## EDUCATION

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**Milwaukee School of Engineering**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

*Master of Science in Environmental Engineering*

**Milwaukee School of Engineering**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

*Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Milwaukee Water Works, Department of Public Works, City of Milwaukee**

Superintendent

February 2019 – Present

- Oversees all aspects of the largest public utility operation in Wisconsin.
- Leads over 350 professionals in Business, Distribution, Engineering, Plants, and Water Quality Divisions.
- Manages annual budget over \$100 million, with annual revenues of \$97 million, and net utility plant in service of \$645 million.
- Negotiates wholesale customer agreements for new water service to expand utility customers.
- Leads the utility through implementation of Asset Management Program to inform Capital Improvement Planning.
- Informs development of and implements policies affecting consumers.

**Department of Public Works, City of Milwaukee**

Coordination Manager

June 2016 – February 2019

- Managed and coordinated all engineering and related services and activities required by Public Works Divisions needed to successfully plan and complete major development projects.
- Served as the Department's point of contact for Common Council members, developers, Public Works personnel, community groups, the public, and all others regarding projects and programs. Initiates planning meetings and consultations with all interested and affected parties. Represents the Commissioner of Public Works at these and other meetings.
- Served as Department's ADA contact overseeing compliance with the 2016 Department of Justice Settlement Agreement.
- Investigated, reviewed, and solved complex and/or politically sensitive issues and problems regarding the planning and implementation of projects and programs; prepares reports and implements directives regarding issues; represents the Commissioner of Public Works before the Common Council, the Board of Zoning Appeals, the City Plan Commission, and other official bodies.
- Served as transportation planning liaison with outside agencies such as DCD, BIDs, and various, city, county, state and regional planning agencies.
- Provided administration and coordination services between the City and land developers for out-of-program sewer, water, and paving improvements.
- Supervised the processing and approval of DPW permits, building permits, special event permits, special privileges, subterranean and airspace leases, outdoor cafes, and parklets.

## **Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee**

Senior Environmental Project Engineer

April 2011 – June 2016

- Managed complex environmental projects, including building demolition, stormwater planning, closed landfill management, and infrastructure projects
- Interfaced with local, state and federal officials and community stakeholders as well as other city departments to advise on environmental and development projects
- Managed grant funding from various private, state, and federal sources
- Coordinated and manage environmental consultant contracts to ensure technical competence, institute cost management practices, and review compliance with regulatory requirements
- Managed tax foreclosure deferral process for environmentally impacted property
- Managed financial incentive programs for brownfield assessment and redevelopment
- Maintained compliance with environmental health and safety training for various department staff

## **Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee**

Senior Environmental Project Coordinator

January 2007 – April 2011

- Facilitated environmental planning and development activities for various city departments and agencies
- Conducted environmental impact assessments and Phase I environmental site assessments
- Managed Phase II environmental activities and remediation projects with consultant contracts
- Prepared federal and state grant applications and manage grant compliance

## **GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.**

Architectural/Environmental Engineer

July 2003 – January 2007

- Conducted environmental site assessments to assist clients with due diligence, including remediation design feasibility studies
- Conducted property condition assessment and prepare building maintenance schedules and plans
- Evaluated industrial work places for environmental health and safety compliance and prepare worker safety manuals
- Conducted toxicological assessments and provide litigation support
- Evaluated indoor air quality and heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) design performance
- Investigated microbial contamination and provide litigation support

## **AWARDS**

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### **Gertie Award**

2019 Milwaukee Riverwalk Inc.

### **Pride Award, Ally**

2019 Milwaukee Pridefest

### **Recognition and Award for Service**

2018 Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee

### **Project of the Year, Lakefront Gateway by WTS Wisconsin**

2018 Women in Transportation Services (WTS) Wisconsin

### **Partnership Award**

2017 Milwaukee Downtown Inc.

**The Water Council Board of Directors**

February 2020 - present

**Menomonee Valley Partners Board of Directors**

October 2018 - present

**US Water Alliance**

One Water Council Member, Member since 2019

**American Water Works Association**

Member since 2019

**Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies**

Member since 2019

**American Public Works Association**

Member since 2016

**Special Deputy Commissioner of Public Works, City of Milwaukee**

June 2016 – present

Appointed by Ghassan Korban, former Commissioner of Public Works

**Wisconsin Brownfield Study Group**

2015 – present

Chair, Technical Subcommittee for the 2015 Brownfield Study Group Report - Investing in Wisconsin

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, City of Milwaukee**

June 2017 – February 2020

Appointed by Mayor Tom Barrett

**Standards and Appeals Commission, City of Milwaukee**

June 2016 – January 2019

Appointed by Ghassan Korban, former Commissioner of Public Works

## TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

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- What's Keeping You Up at Night? Legal and Policy Issues on the Minds of Water Utility Leaders***  
American Water Works Association Legal Workshop, Chicago, IL December 5, 2019
- The Resilient Water Utility of the Future***  
Smart Cities Week, Washington, D.C. October 2, 2019
- Step Up and Speak Out for the Great Lakes***  
International Joint Commission, Milwaukee, WI June 18, 2019
- Milwaukee Bucks Arena Development, The Public Works Perspective***  
American Public Works Association Wisconsin Conference, Green Bay, WI May 3, 2018  
Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers, Milwaukee, WI March 22, 2017
- Lakefront Gateway, Project of the Year***  
WTS (Advancing Women in Transportation) Annual Award Event, Pewaukee, WI February 22, 2018
- Reconstruction of South 5<sup>th</sup> Street as a Complete Street***  
American Planning Association Wisconsin Conference, Milwaukee, WI October 27, 2017
- Fly with the Eagles Industry Panel***  
Society for Marketing Professional Services Wisconsin Chapter, Pewaukee, WI November 17, 2016
- Transform Stigma into Opportunity: Partnerships to Spur Redevelopment***  
National Brownfields Training Conference, Chicago, IL September 4, 2015
- Public Financing Strategies***  
Conference on Sustainable Property Transactions and  
National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals  
Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA October 8, 2014
- 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Law Update***  
State Bar of Wisconsin/Pinnacle, Madison, WI September 17, 2014
- Understanding the Demolition and Decommissioning Process***  
Federation of Environmental Technologists, Kimberly, WI September 18, 2014  
Federation of Environmental Technologists Demolition Seminar, Brookfield, WI December 12, 2013
- Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee Revolving Loan Program***  
National Brownfield Conference, Philadelphia, PA April 5, 2011
- Strategies for Bringing Green Jobs to Older Urban Centers***  
National Brownfield Conference, Philadelphia, PA April 4, 2011  
New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, Charlotte, NC February 5, 2011
- Activating Vacant Land***  
Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference, Cleveland, OH October 15, 2010
- Policy Making for the Prevention of Brownfields***  
National Brownfield Conference, New Orleans, LA November 18, 2009