

Steve VanderMeer

Executive Consultant

Steve VanderMeer is a recently retired industry professional and executive consultant with over 35 years of experience working in and around Public Power.

After earning his Master's in Public Administration from the University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government, he began work with the City of Fort Collins (Colorado) as an assistant to the city manager, working closely with policymakers and managing community outreach, public participation programs, and continuous improvement efforts. Then he moved over to the municipal utility as the director of marketing and energy services, overseeing utility branding, market research, green power, and energy conservation programs.



In 1998, he joined Hometown Connections, where he served for 22 years, providing consulting, facilitation, and training support to hundreds of public power utilities, joint action agencies, and their governing boards. Steve has worked with a wide range of utilities, municipal governments, and non-profit organizations in support of governance, organizational assessments, strategic planning, public participation, market research and customer service.

He is the author of two APPA publications, "[Policymakers' Handbook: A Nuts and Bolts Guide to Governance in Public Power](#)" and "[Customer Service: Building a Strong Infrastructure for your Utility](#)." In addition to his publications, he is a frequent speaker at industry events, leads a number of training courses for APPA, and facilitates governing board retreats and strategic planning sessions.

Steve holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Michigan in Psychology, and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of the APPA *Executive Development Program*, completed the *Policy Governance* training conducted by John and Miriam Carver, completed additional online governance coursework through SUNY on *Improving Effectiveness of Board of Directors of Nonprofit Organizations*, and completed the three-year Boettcher Foundation *Cultural Leadership Program* for Colorado nonprofit organizations.

He has also served on numerous governing and advisory boards. He was a founding board member and vice-president of the Friends of Philadelphia Parks (known today as the Philadelphia Parks Alliance) and remains an active supporter and advocate of the city's park system. For 13 years Steve served on the board of directors of the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, with six years as board president. During this time, Steve facilitated an historic public-private partnership with the City of Fort Collins, culminating with the building of a \$29 million state of the art, LEED Platinum museum.