

2025 Utility Leadership Conference & 55th Annual Meeting

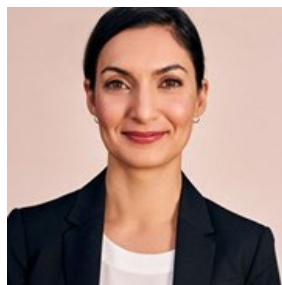
Speaker Profiles



Eddie Abisaab

Chief Operating Officer
Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Virginia Beach, VA

Eddie Abisaab joined Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) in 2008 and was named Chief Operating Officer in July 2024, following his role as Director of Operations since July 2022. In his current position, he leads a team of over 550 employees responsible for the complex operation and maintenance of HRSD's 14 treatment plants, interceptor collection systems, pump stations, and electrical and instrumentation infrastructure. He also oversees various support services, including fleet management, infrastructure assessment, carpentry, and a machine shop. In his previous roles as Chief of Design and Construction and as a Design and Construction Project Manager, Mr. Abisaab was responsible for executing HRSD's Capital Improvement and Operational Infrastructure programs. Before joining HRSD, he worked as a design engineer and project manager in both the public and private sectors. Eddie holds a BS in Civil Engineering from West Virginia University and a MS in Engineering Management from Marshall University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer (PE), a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), and an Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) through the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI). He is actively involved with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and served for four years on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Water Environment Association (VWEA), including as President from 2016 to 2017. He currently continues to serve on the VWEA Board as Secretary/Treasurer.



Cristina Ahmadpour

President
Isle Utilities
Palo Alto, CA

Cristina Ahmadpour is a consultancy executive with deep expertise in emerging technologies, strategy, and change management within the water sector. Ms. Ahmadpour is President of Isle's US operations and serves on Isle's global executive team.

Facilitating an assessment of needs, identifying solutions that respond to top priorities, and building a culture of innovation are integral parts of how she works with water utility leaders today. She also directs the Water and Wastewater Forums, fostering leadership development and peer-to-peer connections among C-level executives in finance, IT, and capital planning. Ms. Ahmadpour is a graduate of the Water Environment Federation's Water Leadership Institute and has been recognized by the Water and Wastewater Digest in 2016 and 2018 as a top water professional.

under the age of 40. In 2023, Ms. Ahmadpour was one of 25 business school graduates honored by AACSB International as part of the 2023 Class of Influential Leaders.



Amanda Berger
National PFAS Lead
Arcadis
Cary, NC



Mack Bradley
President
StandPoint Public Affairs
St. Louis, MO

Mack Bradley has built a reputation as a thoughtful strategic partner who can help envision and defend one's StandPoint. He focuses on strategic communications, crisis management, public affairs and media relations, and he's a broadly trusted ally and sounding board to clients and colleagues alike. He's worked for corporate clients large and small, local and regional government agencies, charitable foundations, not-for-profits and religious institutions. His expertise ranges from billion-dollar real estate development projects to large festivals (keep an eye out for him at Mardi Gras!), to complex public policy issues.

A frequent trainer and speaker, Mr. Bradley has conducted media and/or crisis training for hundreds of participants in North America and Europe in various industries, including emergency risk communications training related to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear threats. Part of this curriculum, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, focuses on the psychology of risk communications in a public crisis.

Mr. Bradley is an active member of the community. He currently serves on the St. Patrick Center Board of Trustees and is president of the Mardi Gras Foundation. He is past president of AmeriCorps St. Louis, and a past member of Mid-America Transplant Services Board, the Cardinal Glennon Foundation Development Board and the Mayor's Commission on Violent Crime. He has served as an adjunct professor in the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University, teaching a graduate-level course on Social, Economic and Political Environment.

Mr. Bradley earned a BA in Political Science from Illinois Wesleyan University and an MA in International Affairs from Washington University in St. Louis. He was a National Security Forum participant at the Air War College, and a Coro Public Affairs Fellow.



Tim Braun
Founder
BluTerra, LLC
Cassopolis, MI

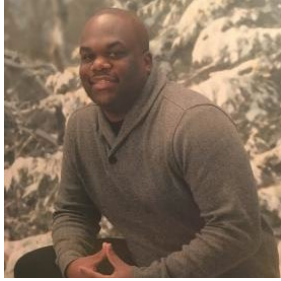
Tim Braun, Founder of BluTerra, is a clean water and cleantech leader with a strong track record in scaling innovation. He began in responsible investing, moved into clean tech and venture capital, and later led growth at EmNet, a smart sewer company acquired by Xylem. As a Vice President at Xylem, he advanced enterprise solutions – connecting digital with Xylem’s legacy offerings. Now at BluTerra, Mr. Braun helps innovative companies tackle critical water challenges and build resilient communities.



Laura Briefer
NACWA Treasurer 2025-2026
Director of Public Utilities
Salt Lake City Corporation
Salt Lake City, UT

Laura Briefer is the Director of Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLCDPU). She has served as Director of SLCDPU since 2016. Ms. Briefer has worked at SLCDPU for 17 years in various areas of the organization and has devoted a 30-year career to natural resource, environmental, and public policy professions in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Utah. Ms. Briefer additionally serves as an Adjunct Instructor in the Division of Public Affairs at the University of Utah. Ms. Briefer was recognized with the *Distinguished Service Award* for an Appointed Official by the UT Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration in 2024.

Ms. Briefer is a co-author of several peer-reviewed published papers alongside UT’s academic institutions, focused on water resources, climate change, and watershed management. She serves on local and national boards, including the Jordan River and Utah Watershed Councils, the Utah Water Task Force, the Provo River Water Users Association, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (<https://www.nacwa.org/>), and the national Water Research Foundation, (<https://www.waterrf.org/>).



Emanuel Briggs

Co-Chair, Environmental Justice Committee
Director, Community Affairs
DC Water
Washington, DC

Emanuel Briggs serves the Authority as Director, Community Affairs, working in the Office of Marketing and Communications. Mr. Briggs initially joined DC Water in September 2010 as Construction Outreach Coordinator and was promoted in July 2012 to the role of Manager, Community Outreach.

As Director, Community Affairs, Mr. Briggs manages the Authority's relationships with its customers and the groups that represent them, such as the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, District Councilmembers, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, Civic Associations, Business Improvement Districts, environmental and other public interest groups.

Additionally, Mr. Briggs directs DC Water's participation in roughly 200 hosted and/or attended in-person and virtual public outreach events and meetings each year. Leading the Outreach team, Mr. Briggs is tasked with overseeing construction outreach and children's education programs and supervises more than 90 Authority employees who serve as Outreach Ambassadors at outreach events.

A highly decorated employee, Mr. Briggs received the *General Manager's Award* for Outstanding Performance in 2015 and was the runner-up for both the *Manager of the Year Award* and the *Community Service Professional of the Year Award* in 2019.

Prior to joining the Authority, Mr. Briggs had already completed seven years of service in community outreach and stakeholder engagement through roles with both the DC Council and the District Department of Transportation.

Mr. Briggs holds a master's degree in Community Planning, with a specialty in Urban Design, and a bachelor's degree in Behavioral and Social Sciences, both from the University of Maryland at College Park.



Peggy Browne

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Water
US Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC



Laura Cabrera
Professor
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY

Laura Cabrera is Board Chair and Professor at the Systems Thinking Standards Institute (STSI)[™], where she leads the development of global standards for systems thinking practice, education, and research. She is also Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer at Cabrera Research Lab.

She teaches Systems Thinking and Modeling and Systems Leadership at Cornell University at the Brooks School of Public Policy, and serves as Program Director for Cornell's Graduate Certification Program in Systems Thinking, Modeling, and Leadership (STML). Dr. Cabrera also serves as faculty for the SC Johnson College of Business, where she delivers Executive Education Programs to leadership teams in systems thinking and systems leadership. Over the past decade, Dr. Cabrera has applied her expertise in research methods and translational research to increase public understanding and practical application of systems science and systems thinking models.

She was invited by eCornell to deliver the online certificate course in Systems Thinking and Leadership and teaches in their Executive MPA Program. She previously served as Acting Executive Director of ThinkWater, a USDA-funded initiative to implement systems thinking nationwide in water-based research, extension, and education. In both 2018 and 2024, she was awarded the National Science Foundation SBIR grant for her work in cognition.

With over 25 years of teaching and research experience at Cornell, she has held roles including: teaching in the Department of Human Development; Senior Research Associate at the Center for Translational Research; Principal Evaluator for the Eat Smart New York Program; Project Director for an NSF Systems Evaluation Capacity Grant for STEM education; and Co-PI for Cornell's Parenting in Context Initiative.

Prior to Cornell, she conducted research at the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine, the US Department of Health and Human Services, and the US Department of Justice. Cabrera is the co-author of six books—including *Connect the Dots: The 4 Habits of Mental Fitness to Think Clearly, Adapt with Grace and Grit and Thrive in Complexity*, *Systems Thinking Made Simple: New Hope for Solving Wicked Problems*, *Thinking at Every Desk*, and *Flock Not Clock*—and is currently co-editor of the Journal of Systems Thinking. Her work in K-12 education was featured in the full-length documentary RE:Thinking. She is also a member of the US Military Academy at West Point's Systems Engineering Advisory Board.

Dr. Cabrera holds a PhD in Policy Analysis and Management, an MPA, and a BS, all from Cornell University. She specializes in translating learning science into practical tools for change in schools, government, business, and parenting. She lives in Ithaca, NY, with her husband, Derek Cabrera, their children, and their three dogs.



Liam Cavanaugh

Deputy Chief Executive Officer/Chief Operating Officer
Metro Water Recovery
Denver, CO

Liam Cavanaugh is the Director of Operations for Metro Wastewater Reclamation District in Denver, CO, overseeing the treatment operations at both the Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility and the Northern Treatment Plant. Mr. Cavanaugh has a BS in Environmental Engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder, is currently pursuing advanced engineering degrees from Colorado School of Mines and has worked in treatment operations at multiple utilities since 2009. Mr. Cavanaugh's main interests lie in sustainable wastewater treatment technologies and resource recovery opportunities. A native of CO, he enjoys hiking, skiing, fishing, and other activities that take advantage of our most precious natural resource; water.



Mickey Conway

NACWA President
Chief Executive Officer
Metro Water Recovery
Denver, CO

Mickey Conway was named as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Metro Water Recovery in Denver, Colorado in January 2018. He served as Metro's General Counsel for the 4 years prior to his appointment as CEO. Metro Water Recovery operates two treatment plants and collection systems that serve over 60 local governments and special districts comprising of approximately 2 million people in the Denver Metro Area.

Prior to working at Metro Water Recovery, Mr. Conway represented wastewater and public entities for nearly twenty years as an attorney. He holds a BA from Southern Methodist University and a JD from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Mr. Conway currently serves as President on NACWA's Board of Directors.



Hampik Dekermenjian

Vice President
Hazen and Sawyer
Los Angeles, CA

Hampik Dekermenjian serves as Hazen's West Region Client Service Leader and Operations Manager for the Los Angeles

office. He has decades of experience in water resources, drinking water, recycled water, wastewater, and conveyance. His specialty is stormwater management and integrated resource planning throughout California. Mr. Dekermenjian has a wide variety of experience in large project execution, stakeholder collaboration, and stormwater management strategies.



Heidi Dexheimer
Deputy Director
City of Henderson
Henderson, NV

Heidi Dexheimer serves as the Deputy Director of Engineering and Operations for the Department of Utility Services at the City of Henderson, where she brings over 30 years of experience in the water industry across both public and private sectors. A licensed Professional Engineer and Water Rights Surveyor, Ms. Dexheimer has led comprehensive efforts in water and wastewater facility planning, design, and operations throughout her distinguished career.

In her current role, Ms. Dexheimer oversees engineering and operations for the City's potable water, reclaimed water, and wastewater systems, serving more than 115,000 customer accounts and a population of 360,000 residents. The City of Henderson has been recognized nationally for its commitment to excellence, recently being named one of only five national recipients of the *Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award*—the nation's highest honor for performance excellence—and a 20-year recipient of the *NACWA Peak Performance Award*.

Prior to joining the City, Ms. Dexheimer was Executive Vice President and a Board Director at a 150-person engineering and surveying consulting firm in Southern Nevada. There, she led major public works initiatives, spearheaded business development efforts, and managed complex infrastructure projects, including a \$300 million water resource project for the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Ms. Dexheimer's passion for the water industry began as a student intern with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California while attending the University of Southern California. Today, she continues to be a respected leader and advocate for sustainable, high-quality utility services.



Pam Elardo
Vice President of Strategic Services
Brown and Caldwell
Seattle, WA

As the Vice President of Strategic Services at Brown and Caldwell (BC), **Pam Elardo** engages with clients to implement

water solutions for the environment and for communities. Ms. Elardo is known for developing solutions to help utilities navigate challenges, optimize business practices, and build resilient systems.

Ms. Elardo began her career in environmental engineering in the public sector in 1983, working in Nepal on community water and sanitation systems. Before joining BC, she was the Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment in NYC DEP, overseeing operations for 9 million people and managing a \$1 billion budget and 1,800 staff.

Previously, Ms. Elardo directed the King County Wastewater Treatment Division in Seattle and worked at the Washington State Department of Ecology. She is passionate about water and equity and has been involved with international and non-profit organizations.

Ms. Elardo is a licensed professional engineer in WA and NY, a licensed Grade 4 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, and holds a master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Northwestern University.



Calvin Farr, Jr.

NACWA Secretary 2025-2026

General Manager/Chief Executive Officer

Prince William Water

Woodbridge, VA

Calvin D. Farr, Jr. was appointed as Prince William Water's General Manager/Chief Executive Officer in 2021. Prince William Water is the largest combined water and wastewater authority in the Commonwealth of VA and serves more than 380,000 people in Prince William County, one of the fastest-growing and most diverse communities in the DC Metropolitan Area. Mr. Farr leads an award-winning organization and a nationally recognized model for performance excellence and industry best practices, including workplace culture, operational optimization, infrastructure investments and financial viability.

During his tenure, Mr. Farr led a refresh of the organization's Mission and Vision and a collaborative creation of its 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. Prince William Water's strategic Areas of Excellence focus on delivery of an exceptional customer experience, being a workplace of choice, demonstrating environmental leadership and community engagement, providing sustainable operations, practicing sound financial stewardship, and striving to continuously improve and be innovative. Through customer, stakeholder, and workforce input, technology enhancements and a rebranding effort were initiated to further enhance the customer experience. An organizational name change to Prince William Water, plus a new logo and tagline – "Your Water, Your Environment, Our Mission" – reinforces the organization's role as an environmental leader and its commitment to the community.

Mr. Farr has extensive leadership experience in the water and wastewater industry and serves on several national industry boards, focused on legislative and regulatory policy advocacy and One Water strategies. Mr. Farr holds an Executive Master of Public Management from the University of Maryland, a Master of Environmental Engineering from the Johns Hopkins University and a BA in Civil Engineering from the Old Dominion University. Mr. Farr is also a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) in VA, MD and DC.

Kurt Fremont

Co-Chair, Biosolids Management Committee
Division Manager, Business Operations
City of Tacoma, Environmental Services Department
Tacoma, WA



Devon Goodrich

Co-Chair, Legal Affairs Committee
Senior Counsel, Environmental Law Division
New York City Department of Law
New York, NY

Devon Goodrich has been an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Environmental Law Division of the New York City Law Department since 2011. She practices environmental and municipal law, working on a variety of issues relating to New York City's drinking water supply, wastewater collection and treatment systems, parks, and solid waste management.

From the beginning of Ms. Goodrich's career at the Law Department, her work has included counseling and litigation involving the City's wastewater management. She has counseled the City on Clean Water Act compliance, from meeting the requirements of the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for the City's 14 wastewater treatment plants, which treat approximately 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater per day, to development and implementation of long-term control plans to reduce combined sewer discharges to New York City's water bodies.

She has also regularly counseled and litigated on behalf of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to enforce the City's Watershed Regulations and protect the City's water supply system – which supplies approximately 1.1 billion gallons a day of high quality, affordable drinking water to over nine million people.

Ms. Goodrich received a JD from Harvard Law School and a BA with highest honors in English from Cornell University.

**Martin Griffin**

Co-Chair, Water Quality Committee
Director of Ecosystem Services
Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
Madison, WI

Martye Griffin has always been about the 'WE' in 'WATER' and how human decisions impact water quality.

Mr. Griffin received his bachelor's degree from Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. He then received a graduate degree in biology from the Marine Biological Laboratory in MA, examining the impacts of excess nutrients on coastal ecosystems. He has over 20 years of experience working in the public and private sectors looking holistically at the interaction between human land use and water quality. With increasing societal and regulatory pressure to produce cleaner water than ever, it costs more to clean water after it is polluted than preventing the pollution in the first place.

In his role, Mr. Griffin focuses on solving problems adaptively to move at the speed of trust. Working in communities focusing on pollution prevention is just the way we must do business.

**Kamuron Gurol**

NACWA Board Member
Division Director
King County Wastewater Treatment Division
Seattle, WA

Kamuron Gurol has served as the Director of the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks since April 2021. He manages WTD's 800+ employees in five sections, an operating budget of approximately \$200+ million, and an annual capital budget of \$350 million.

Prior to WTD, he served as the North Corridor Director for Sound Transit, and oversaw a portfolio of light rail transit expansion, new bus rapid transit service and enhanced commuter rail projects – with projects up to \$4 billion.

Before then, he was the city manager for Burien, director of community development at Sammamish, corridor planning director at WSDOT, and director of Community Development at Kitsap County. He also managed long range planning at Snohomish County and held senior planning roles for King County.

Mr. Gurol has an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School and a BS in Geological Sciences from the University of Washington.

**George Hawkins**

Founder and President
Moonshot Missions
Bethesda, MD

George Hawkins is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Moonshot Missions. He was the General Manager of DC Water, where he served for eleven years, including several as a Board member. During his tenure, he became well known across the water sector for transforming DC Water into an innovative, customer-driven enterprise, while tripling its investment in clean water. DC Water's innovations ranged from award winning Green Infrastructure and a \$500 million investment in clean energy, to creative social media campaigns and patents for new treatment technologies that require less energy and chemicals but achieve better results. DC Water issued the nation's first century bond, world's first environmental impact bond, and spearheaded programs to support low-income customers and provide meaningful job opportunities for District residents.

**Jamie Heisig-Mitchell**

Co-Chair, Water Quality Committee
Chief of Water Quality
Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Virginia Beach, VA

Jamie Heisig-Mitchell became Director of Water Quality in November of 2022, overseeing the Central Environmental Laboratory (CEL), Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention (P3), and the Technical Service Division (TSD). In her previous position as Chief of TSD, she managed staff involvement in environmental and wastewater monitoring and research as well as assuming responsibility for HRSD's permit negotiations and oversight of regulatory compliance with Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act programs. Mrs. Heisig-Mitchell serves on the board of the Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (VAMWA) and the University of Colorado Boulder's Water Reuse Advisory Board, is Chair of VAMWA's Water Quality Committee, Co-Chair of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Biosolids Committee, Past-President of the Virginia Biosolids Council, member of the Eastern Virginia Medical School's Institutional Biosafety Committee, and has served on numerous VA Department of Environmental Quality Advisory Panels and Subcommittees. Mrs. Heisig-Mitchell received her MS from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA.

**Brent Herring**

Co-Chair, Biosolids Management Committee
Deputy Director
KC Water
Kansas City, MO

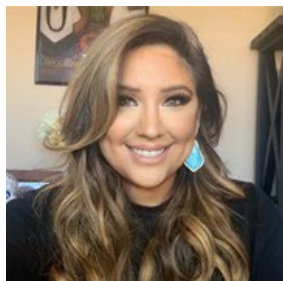
**Sharise Horne**

Co-Chair, Environmental Justice Committee
Chief of Equity & Community Partnerships
Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District
Louisville, KY

Sharise Horne is a well-seasoned veteran in the public utility arena. She currently serves as the Director of Community Benefits & Partnerships for Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD), responsible for overseeing inclusive and comprehensive programs that foster partnerships with communities within MSD's service area. She previously managed the Procurement Department where she worked for over 10 years overseeing the procurement process, ensuring agency compliance with procurement regulations and state policies, as well as directing, managing, and supervising staff. She has worked in various departments and roles within the agency during her 20 plus year tenure.

As an advocate for social justice and economic stimulation amongst underserved communities, Ms. Horne outfits programs to create job creation through workforce tools. She is currently one of approximately 10,000 nationally Certified Professional Public Buyers. Ms. Horne holds two undergraduate degrees from Indiana Wesleyan University, both Magna Cum Laude. Who's Who Louisville, Louisville Black Achievers, and Indiana Wesleyan University have recognized her for her success and leadership.

Ms. Horne currently serves on Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer's Equity in Contracting & Procurement Taskforce, the US Water Alliance Water Equity & Affordability Taskforce, and various national and local taskforce and committees. She is a member of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, Water Environment Federation, and Water Agency Leaders Alliance.

**Judith Ibarra-Bianchetta**

Vice President
TetraTech, Inc.
Pasadena, CA



Emily Jackson

Co-Chair, Legal Affairs Committee
Chief Legal Officer
Metro Water Recovery
Denver, CO

Emily Jackson is the Chief Legal Officer for the Metro Water Recovery in Denver, CO. Metro operates two wastewater treatment plants, a fifty-five-thousand-acre farm and extensive collection systems that serve over 60 local governments and special districts comprising of over 2 million people in the Denver Metro Area. Prior to taking the position at Metro, Ms. Jackson worked for the Colorado Attorney General's Office and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ms. Jackson sits as Co-Chair of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' Legal Affairs Committee. She holds a BA from the University of Colorado and a JD from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary. Ms. Jackson is a member of the Colorado bar.



Anthony Kane

President and Chief Executive Officer
Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure
Washington, DC

As the President & Chief Executive Officer of Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure, **Anthony Kane** oversees the organization's overall operations and leads the development of the Envision framework for sustainable infrastructure. Mr. Kane was formerly a research director at the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, a research associate with the Materials, Processes, and Systems Group at Harvard University, and an instructor at the Boston Architectural College. He holds a bachelor's in architecture (Summa Cum Laude) from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in design studies from Harvard University. Mr. Kane is a co-author of Ceramic Material Systems in Architecture and Interior Design and a contributing author of Infrastructure Sustainability and Design.



Charlotte Katzenmoyer

NACWA Board Member
Chief Executive Officer
Capital Region Water
Harrisburg, PA

Charlotte Katzenmoyer has 30 years of experience in the water industry including private sector consulting and public utility

experience. Ms. Katzenmoyer is the Chief Executive Officer of Capital Region Water where she oversees a 145-employee utility that serves the City of Harrisburg and surrounding communities with drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services. In a previous role, she served as Director of Public Works for the City of Lancaster where she oversaw the modernization of its water and sewer infrastructure and developed a nationally recognized green stormwater infrastructure program.



Jeff Kray
Partner
Marten Law LLP
Seattle, WA

Jeff Kray is an accomplished, first-chair environment litigator with over 26 years of experience in water quality, water resources, and complex environmental litigation, with particular expertise in Clean Water Act permitting and regulatory compliance, CERCLA (Superfund) site remediation, and emerging contaminants.

Mr. Kray regularly advises businesses and local government in water quality permit compliance and defense matters, responding to emerging contaminants (including PFAS) in water supplies, stormwater pollution prevention, hazardous waste spill prevention and cleanup, and cost recovery litigation. He also frequently consults with water right owners and purchasers on preserving, acquiring, and transferring water rights. He has assisted a broad range of clients, including water suppliers, irrigation districts, municipalities, developers, manufacturers, commercial and timber landowners, interstate transporters, lumber mills, and ports.

Mr. Kray is a frequent speaker and writer on water law and policy, particularly on the intersection between water rights and water quality. He has lectured extensively on the Clean Water Act, state water quality laws, and state and federal water rights. He has held leadership positions in the Water Resources and Water Quality and Wetlands Committees of the American Bar Association's Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources.



Mahesh Lunani
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
AquaSight
Troy, MI

Mahesh Lunani is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Aquasight, A Real-Time Digital Artificial Intelligence and Technology Company for the entire water cycle. Prior to starting Aquasight, he was a business leader holding 25 years of experience in consulting and venture capital, and brings a broad perspective in solving problems. Additionally, Mr. Lunani has incubated and built next generation products and businesses at Cognizant;

a NASDAQ listed company. Moreover, his core expertise as it pertains to water is the ability to ideate and develop intelligent water solutions across the entire life cycle of water.

Mr. Lunani has experience working in many areas outside the US including United Kingdom, Germany, Korea, China, Japan, and Mexico. Furthermore, he has completed The General Manager Program at Harvard Business School and holds degrees in Mechanical, Manufacturing, and Industrial Engineering.



John McCarthy

President, Water Business Line
Arcadis
New York, NY



Bess McCoy

Co-Chair, Communications & Public Affairs Committee
Manager of Public Affairs
Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
St. Louis, MO

Bess McCoy serves as the Manager of Public Affairs at MSD Project Clear in St. Louis, MO, where she leads communication and outreach initiatives to protect our most vital resource – water. With a focus on strategic communication, stakeholder engagement, and media relations, Bess effectively engages over 1,000 employees and 1.3 million customers in MSD's clean water initiatives. As a dedicated advocate for clean water, she is honored to be the Co-Chair of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies Communications and Public Affairs Committee.

Before joining MSD, Bess was the Public Information Officer for the City of Creve Coeur in St. Louis County. She also spent four years in the advertising industry, specializing in online marketing and strategic research. In addition to her professional roles, Bess actively contributes to her community as the public relations lead and spokesperson for St. Louis Mardi Gras. A proud St. Louis native, Bess earned a BA in Communication from Saint Louis University.



Somer Mese

Chief Operations Officer
Colorado Springs Utilities
Colorado Springs, CO

Somer Mese is the Chief Operations Officer (COO) for Colorado Springs Utilities, bringing over 20 years of industry experience, including more than a decade of dedicated service with the organization. As COO, Ms. Mese is responsible for ensuring the reliable delivery of essential services—including electricity, water, and gas—to the community, as well as overseeing the effective treatment of wastewater. She leads a team of approximately 1,300 employees, driving operational excellence, regulatory compliance, and customer satisfaction across all utility services.

Ms. Mese brings a wealth of utilities expertise and a strong track record of leading high-performing, collaborative teams. As the former General Manager of the Plants Department, she led 255 employees and was responsible for the operation and maintenance of electrical generation facilities, three wastewater treatment plants, six potable water treatment plants, and laboratory services. She also played a key role in the decommissioning of the Drake Power Plant.

Before joining Colorado Springs Utilities, Ms. Mese spent 11 years with Xcel Energy in Pueblo, where she held several leadership roles, including lead environmental analyst, engineering and support manager, and capital budget lead.

Ms. Mese holds both a MBA and a MS from Colorado State University.



Susan Moisia

Senior Vice President and Global Water Director
Jacobs
Reno, NV

As Jacobs Global Water Market Director, **Susan Moisia** leads our team of more than 9,000 visionaries and does to develop innovative, sustainable and comprehensive solutions for tomorrow. She is an advocate for the OneWater approach, with no new water on Earth, communities cannot afford to waste this precious resource.

Ms. Moisia and the team of technologists she leads are committed to providing clients world-leading technical and environmental expertise to address complex challenges across drinking water, wastewater, desalination, conveyance and flood control challenges with Jacobs' OneWater approach to water management.

Named one of the top 40 influencers in the water industry and one of 2025's most powerful women in water by Global Water Intelligence (GWI), Ms. Moisia is also the go-

to person for wet weather and conveyance solutions. She works tirelessly to share her expertise as a mentor within Jacobs as well as by giving back to the water industry.



Daven Oswalt

Executive Vice President

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/daven-oswalt-b6762317/>

GFT, Inc.

Pittsburgh, PA

A high-energy and performance-driven leader, **Daven Oswalt** oversees the Water Business Group (BG). In this role, he leads more than 850 professionals focused on delivering technical excellence in water resources, including dams, hydraulics, and water/wastewater; environmental; regulatory and compliance; power and energy; valuation and rates; and technology solutions.

He is responsible for: driving the strategic growth and geographic expansion of services in Water markets, enhancing the BG's operational efficiencies, and sustaining client satisfaction by delivering innovative projects and superior results.

With a dynamic career spanning 30+ years, Mr. Oswalt has extensive experience in comprehensive infrastructure initiatives across North America, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. However, his ability to galvanize independent teams to deliver holistic solutions is what really sets him apart.

Before joining the firm in 2023, Mr. Oswalt held executive leadership positions at global engineering firms, including AECOM, Parsons, and MWH Americas (now Stantec), where he led critical growth initiatives for the firms' water, environmental, and federal sectors. He oversaw significant projects with broad regional impacts, such as the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Sewer System Improvement Program and HRSD's Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT).



Tony Parrott

NACWA Board Member

Executive Director

Louisville & Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District

Louisville, KY

Tony Parrott has been in the public utility business for thirty years. He joined the Butler County Department of Environmental Services as Executive Director from 1995 through 2004.

In 2005, he became Executive Director of the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) of Greater Cincinnati—bringing wastewater services to 1,200,000 residents of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and southwestern OH residents. While at Cincinnati MSD,

Mr. Parrott successfully negotiated a federal Consent Decree with the US Department of Justice and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which the federal court approved in August 2010. In 2013, Mr. Parrott was appointed the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati Water Works.

Under Mr. Parrott's leadership, the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati won the *2014 US Water Prize* from the US Urban Water Sustainability Council, a division of the US Water Alliance. Cincinnati MSD also received the *Platinum Award for Excellence* in Management from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in 2015.

In 2015, he was appointed the Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District's Executive Director, serving residents in Louisville Metro, Oldham, and Bullitt counties. At Louisville MSD, Mr. Parrott oversees a federal Consent Decree and an annual capital budget of \$300M to bring safe, clean waterways to the community and improve the value of water as a community resource. He serves on the Board of Directors for NACWA, representing Region 4, and is the Water Agency Leaders Alliance President. In 2011, Mr. Parrott was honored as a *WEF Fellow* by the Water Environment Federation, and in February 2014, he was recognized by NACWA with a *National Environment Achievement Award*. His expertise was further acknowledged in 2017, when he was appointed to the US EPA's Environmental Financial Advisory Board. In 2021, Mr. Parrott's contributions were recognized by his appointment to the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) Board of Directors. He was awarded the *NACWA President Award* in 2022; in 2023, MSD was awarded the *NACWA Utility of the Future Award*. In 2024, Mr. Parrott was appointed to the U.S. Water Alliance Board of Directors and in November 2024 he received the Owner of the Year Award from the Design Build Institute of America (DBIA).

In 2025, he was awarded the *National Environmental Achievement Award (NEAA)* for Utility Leadership.



David Persinger

General Manager
Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility
Anchorage, AK

David A. Persinger is the General Manager of the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) in Anchorage, Alaska, where he oversees all aspects of utility operations. With over 20 years of experience in water and wastewater utility management, Mr. Persinger started his career at AWWU as an Engineering Intern. He has progressed through multiple leadership roles, including oversight of treatment operations, maintenance operations, and environmental permitting. A licensed Professional Engineer and recipient of the George Warren Fuller Award, he is a committed advocate for sustainable infrastructure, collaborative leadership, and environmental stewardship.

Mr. Persinger brings a strong record of utility governance, public service, and technical expertise to the clean water sector.



Nathan Qualls

Co-Chair, Utility & Resource Management Committee
Executive Director
NEW Water
Green Bay, WI

Nathan Qualls has been with NEW Water since 2008. Prior to his role as Executive Director, he worked as the Director of Technical Services and Staff Engineer in NEW Water's Engineering Department. He has a wealth of experience in the wastewater sector, including industrial wastewater treatment prior to his work with NEW Water. Mr. Qualls has a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a registered Professional Engineer in WI.



Timothy Ruggaber

Founder and Principal
HydroDigital
South Bend, IN

Tim Ruggaber is a founder and a Principal with HydroDigital. He has worked in the Digital Water arena since 2004 and has developed a number of tools for Real Time Control, Real Time Decision Support Systems, and Real Time Monitoring Systems. He has extensive experience in managing multidisciplinary teams that involve hydraulic and hydrological modeling, real-time control development and implementation, and complex computing platforms. Mr. Ruggaber has worked in providing solutions for wastewater collection systems for over 40 wastewater utilities in North America and Europe, reducing the amount of untreated wastewater overflows by more than 20 billion gallons and reducing new infrastructure needs by more than \$4 billion.



Andrew Sawyers

Director, Office of Wastewater Management
US Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC

Andrew Sawyers is the Director of the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) at US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Prior to joining OWM, Mr. Sawyers was the Deputy Director of the EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. Prior to joining EPA, Mr. Sawyer was the Program Administrator for the MD Water Quality Financing Administration, managing MD's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

and MD's Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. Mr. Sawyers has a PhD from Johns Hopkins University in Geography and Environmental Engineering.



Kevin Shafer

Executive Director
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
Milwaukee, WI

Kevin Shafer has served as the Executive Director of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) since 2002. Mr. Shafer is responsible for the overall management, administration, leadership and direction for MMSD in meeting short- and long-term goals and objectives; coordinates the establishment of strategic goals and objectives and their approval by the Commission; oversees the development of policies and operating plans; and represents MMSD to its customers, bond rating agencies, and the public.

Prior to joining the District, Mr. Shafer spent 10 years in private industry with an international engineering firm in Chicago and Milwaukee, and six years with the US Army Corps of Engineers in Fort Worth, TX. He holds a bachelor's degree in science and civil engineering with a specialty in water resources from the University of Illinois and a master's in science and civil engineering from the University of Texas. He is a past president of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. He currently serves as the Chair of the US Water Alliance Board of Directors and is the Co-Chair of the Water Research Foundation (WRF) Board of Directors. He is a past member of the EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee.



Jean E. Smith

Co-Chair, Communications & Public Affairs Committee
Director of Administration & External Affairs
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Cleveland, OH

Jeannie Smith joined the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (Cleveland, OH) in 2006 as a Public Information Specialist. She currently serves as Director of Administration and External Affairs, and is responsible for internal and external communications, public outreach and education as well as media relations. She serves as the Co-Chair of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' Communications and Public Affairs Committee.

Prior to the Sewer District, Ms. Smith worked for the American Red Cross Northern Ohio Blood Services Region handling communications and media relations for 19

counties. She worked for Clear Channel Communications, including as Promotions Director for 96.5 Kiss FM and Mix 106.5.

A native of Columbus, OH, she holds a Bachelors degree from Baldwin Wallace University and a MPA Degree and a MBA Degree from Cleveland State University (CSU).

Ms. Smith lives in Lakewood, which sits on the beautiful Lake Erie, with her husband Brad, daughter Harper, son Declan, and pups, Jack, Cooper and Nola.



Beverley Stinson

Executive Vice President
Global Water Business Line Leader
AECOM
Chelmsford, MA

Bev Stinson is the executive vice president of AECOM's global water business. Widely recognized as a technical expert and champion for applied research and innovation, Ms. Stinson has focused her career on developing cutting-edge technologies and identifying novel solutions to address emerging issues including advanced wastewater treatment / water reuse, energy neutrality and green energy transition, PFAS treatment and destruction, and climate resilience and mitigation. She has led numerous large-scale master planning programs for clients globally and has conducted extensive research, resulting in several patents.

Ms. Stinson supports several industry organizations including serving on the Water Research Foundation and the Water Reuse boards, while also serving on the Water For People Council. She is committed to upholding the highest standards of practice in engineering planning, design and management, including a diverse workforce and actively promoting the engagement of young professionals.



Trent Stober

Senior Vice President
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Columbia, MO

Trent Stober is the Senior Vice President with experience in water quality assessment and regulatory projects that have shaped major municipal infrastructure programs across the nation. He has managed projects that include wastewater and stormwater utility planning, discharge permitting, assessment of receiving water-beneficial uses and their attainability, and watershed monitoring and management.

Mr. Stober is passionate about collaboration between regulators, utilities and other stakeholders to address community priorities related to the Clean Water Act and other infrastructure needs. In his role as director, he manages a diverse staff in technical areas such as integrated municipal planning, regulatory and enforcement action support, program and project management, asset management, and utility operations. He is a regulatory specialist with a history of applying his experiences, knowledge and practical approaches to solve challenging problems.

Mr. Stober is proud of being a trusted advisor for many communities as they address more stringent regulatory requirements, including some of the most complicated quality issues in Missouri and Environmental Protection Agency Region 7. He has testified quarterly on water quality and permitting issues for over 10 years before the Missouri Clean Water Commission, which is appointed by the Governor to oversee the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Water Protection Program.

He holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri and was recently inducted as a member of the University's Civil Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni.



Bill Teichmiller

Chief Executive Officer
EJ Water Cooperative, Inc.
Dieteric, IL

Bill Teichmiller is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of EJ Water Cooperative. With his passion for strategic planning and effective utility management, he brings cutting-edge technology to the rural communities that EJ Water helps.

He speaks nationally on leadership strategies, creating and advocating for culture in the workforce, rural community relations and regionalization. When Mr. Teichmiller started working at EJ Water, they were serving about 3,300 meters, 4,500 members, and managed a team of 9 employees. Today, Mr. Teichmiller's leadership has drastically grown EJ Water to 11,200+ meters, 10,400+ members, and manages a team of 38 employees. In addition to increasing EJ Water's members, Mr. Teichmiller's visionary leadership has expanded EJ Water's service area by adding Management Services to more than 22 communities, as well as providing water to 14 wholesalers.

Based on EJ Water's mission of growing rural communities and providing economic development, Mr. Teichmiller directed EJ Water into a joint venture with Wabash Communications, Illinois Fiber Connect. Illinois Fiber Connect provides fiber internet with speeds up to 1Gbps to rural communities in ILL, which Mr. Teichmiller envisions will be crucial in the growth for rural communities in Illinois. In addition to being the CEO at EJ Water Coop, Mr. Teichmiller has served two years as the President of Association of Regional Water Organization. Furthermore, he's been invited to speak

at the White House on the importance of regionalization and the positive impact it has on the rural communities EJ Water serves.



Leisa Thompson

NACWA Board Member

General Manager

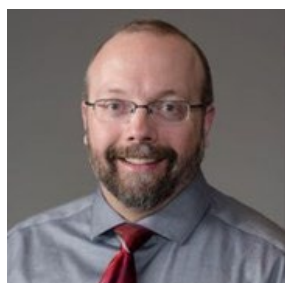
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

Saint Paul, MN

Leisa Thompson is the General Manager of Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (ES), overseeing nearly 700 employees.

ES is responsible for operating and maintaining the wastewater collection and treatment system across the seven-county Twin Cities metro region. The organization works with numerous partners to monitor water quality in local lakes, streams, and rivers, and leads regional water supply planning. The ES system includes nine treatment plants that process approximately 250 million gallons of wastewater daily, serving nearly 3 million residents across 111 communities. Wastewater is conveyed to treatment facilities through over 600 miles of large interceptor sewer pipes that collect flow from municipal sewers.

With more than 35 years of experience at ES, Ms. Thompson has held various positions, beginning as a manager of the laboratory and advancing through key roles in operations. She currently serves on the Board of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and chairs its Nominating Committee. Ms. Thompson holds an MBA from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, and a BS in Medical Technology (Clinical Science) from Winona State University in Winona, MN.



Pieter Van Ry

NACWA Board Member

Director

South Platte Renew

Englewood, CO

Pieter Van Ry, PE, MBA has over 25 years of experience in civil engineering and related fields and has held several leadership positions in public utilities during that time. He is currently the Director of both South Platte Renew (Colorado's third largest wastewater treatment facility serving 300,000 customers in the Denver metro area) and the City of Englewood drinking water utility. He has his undergraduate degree in engineering and is a licensed professional engineer in Colorado. Mr. Van Ry received his Executive MBA from the Daniels College of Business in August of 2019. He frequently presents on leadership and organizational culture topics at local and national water industry conferences, and he

is a lead faculty in multiple Leadership Development Programs of Daniels Executive Education.



Beate Wright

Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Wright for You, LLC
Conifer, CO

Beate Wright has over 33 years' experience in the water sector as a professional engineer, leader, and coach. She has a unique perspective, having worked in the federal, private, public and non-profit space in a technical field, progressing from technical roles to strategic leadership. She has served active duty in the Medical Service Corps of the Army, as Director of Operations for Loudoun Water (in VA), as Executive Director of the Water Research Foundation's DC Office, and as a leader in national consulting firms.

She's currently Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Wright For You, LLC, providing executive coaching and facilitation services for water leaders across the country and in Canada. Ms. Wright is passionate about fostering leaders' professional and personal growth to the fullest. The common thread of Ms. Wright's entire career has been her focus on people, their growth and development, and helping them reach their goals to live at their fullest potential. Ms. Wright is a sought-after executive coach and facilitator, having coached over 80 leaders and facilitating strategic planning efforts, workshops, and leadership retreats for clients such as Las Vegas Valley Water District/Southern Nevada Water Authority, Newport News Waterworks, Hampton Roads Sanitation District, Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, Jacobs Engineering, Burns & McDonnell, EMA, Inc, and others.

She values family, authenticity, and collaboration. She also has a talent for relationship building, loves people, connection, and having fun. She's gone by the mantra, "work hard, play hard," since her collage days.