



Utility Leadership Virtual Event

SPEAKER PROFILES

National Association of Clean Water Agencies

July 20 – 21, 2021



Crystal Davis

Vice President of Policy and Strategic Engagement
Alliance for the Great Lakes
Cleveland, OH

Crystal Davis is a respected professional with a career in government affairs that bloomed in Columbus, OH and Washington DC. Ms. Davis is currently with the Alliance for the Great Lakes as its Vice President of Policy & Strategic Engagement, leading the organization’s efforts related to Lake Erie, drinking water policy advocacy and relationship building across the region. To return to Greater Cleveland, she left a position in DC as the Federal Relations Director for Kent State University (KSU), where she established KSU’s federal office and policy agenda on Capitol Hill. Her previous experience includes stints with the Ohio House of Representatives, the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Ms. Davis is a graduate of Kent State University, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., an Ohio Lake Erie Commissioner, Environmental Commissioner and member of the JEDI Committee for the City of Twinsburg, OH, 2018 Crain’s Cleveland Business 40 under 40 Honoree and winner of the 2015 *Ohio Trio Trailblazer Award*. She is an Akron, OH native and now lives in Northeast OH with her husband and their two young children.



Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells

NACWA Board Member
Chief Executive Officer
Northeast Regional Sewer District
Cleveland, OH

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District in February 2017. During her previous eight years at the Sewer District, Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells coordinated the District’s watershed management efforts across District programs, including the Regional Stormwater Management Program and the application of stormwater control measures to reduce combined sewer overflows under the District’s Green Infrastructure Policy. She is Region 5 representative on the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Board of Trustees, and Chair of the District One Natural Resources Assistance Council for the Ohio Public

Works Commission’s Clean Ohio Conservation Program.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells graduated Summa Cum Laude from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. She earned a Master’s degrees with honors in both Public Affairs and Environmental Science at Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Samoa. Before joining the District, she was Director of the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc.



Maggie Frye
 Founder & Principal Consultant
 Core Consulting Group
 Cincinnati, OH

Maggie Frye founded Core in 2014, which, looking back, was a natural step in a career focused on organizational development, strategy, and communications. Her passion is building strong, capable leaders and effective business practices, and that passion shines through in Core's purpose and values.

Before founding Core, Ms. Frye served as the Global Communication & Talent Development Manager at Hobsons, an education technology solutions provider, supporting a global workforce in the areas of leadership development, internal communications, and employee engagement. She also has extensive experience in the public sector with a particular focus on clean water utilities.



Victoria Johnson
 Social Value/Equity Practice Leader, Americas
 Jacobs
 Atlanta, GA

Victoria Johnson leads a Social Value Solutions practice within Jacobs providing expertise in Strategic Planning, Program/Project Management, Capital Improvement Planning and Urban Economic Development in conjunction with large infrastructure programs nationwide.

Ms. Johnson is a highly accomplished practice leader with 18 years of experience in the architecture, engineering, and construction (A/E/C) industry and a Multi-functional Equity Expert with demonstrated expertise in developing strategic partnerships with stakeholders, including municipal, state, and federal agencies, businesses and community-based organizations to champion economic vitality and drive inclusive growth across diverse geographies in the US.

As a social value leader in Jacobs' Global Strategic Consulting practice, Ms. Johnson leads strategic planning, economic inclusion, and social, racial, and environmental justice techniques for government agencies, providing program management and executive advisory services for infrastructure-focused equity initiatives. These include strategic planning, capital improvement, social procurement and supplier diversity, and inclusive federal and state legislation advocacy. She is adept at developing and implementing national, regional, and local strategic initiatives addressing economic development needs, including workforce development, green infrastructure, and social justice to produce more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economies.

Ms. Johnson received a BA in Communications and English from Purdue University. She is based in Jacobs' Atlanta office and a proud native of Orange County, CA. She has been instrumental in building Jacobs' social value capabilities and portfolio of work since 2017. She is a proven equity champion and executive advisor to infrastructure leaders, stewarding a solid portfolio of work demonstrating how Jacobs delivers innovative multi-discipline social value solutions. She is an infrastructure and equity champion, committed to positively impacting the diverse communities we live and work in.



Ghassan Korban
Executive Director
Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans
New Orleans, LA

Ghassan Korban is the Executive Director of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO). Prior to becoming the executive director of SWBNO in September of 2018, Mr. Korban served the Department of Public Works for 31 years. During his last eight years, he served as the commissioner of Public Works. As the commissioner, he was responsible for four divisions: Milwaukee Water Works, Operations, Parking, and Infrastructure, which included transportation, sanitary, and storm water management.

In his current role as Executive Director, he oversees the provision of clean drinking water, treatment of wastewater, and drainage operations for the city of New Orleans. His primary mission is to overhaul the agency's antiquated equipment and infrastructure, creating a modern utility capable of meeting the needs of its customers.

Some of Mr. Korban's key accomplishments include the planning, design, and construction of the first modern streetcar system in the city of Milwaukee, and coordination of the construction of the entire infrastructure needed to support the new Milwaukee Bucks' basketball arena.

Mr. Korban received a BSc in Civil Engineering and an MSc in Construction management from Marquette University.



Adam Krantz
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Washington, DC

Adam Krantz became Chief Executive Officer of National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) on July 20, 2015. Before that Mr. Krantz was Managing Director of Government & Public Affairs at the NACWA, where he has worked since May 2001. Mr. Krantz manages an unparalleled team in Washington, DC, that advocates on behalf of the nation's public clean water agencies on an array of regulatory, legislative, and legal issues geared toward ensuring sustainable clean water agencies and a move toward the Utility of the Future. Prior to NACWA, Mr. Krantz was an associate editor/reporter at Inside Washington Publishers where his work focused on covering the US Environmental Protection Agency's and Congress's national water quality initiatives. Before entering the environmental arena, Mr. Krantz worked as an attorney in the Washington, D.C. law firm, Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Oshinsky on litigation matters.

Mr. Krantz served three years as the President of the Federal Water Quality Association and also served as the first Vice President of the Clean Water America Alliance (now the U.S. Water Alliance). Mr. Krantz is currently a Board Member of the U.S. Water Alliance. Mr. Krantz has degrees from Columbia University in New York City, the American University's Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C., and the University of Chicago. He is a member of both the District of Columbia and Maryland bar.



Cynthia Lane
 General Manager
 Platte Canyon Water & Sanitation District
 Southwest Metropolitan Water & Sanitation District
 Littleton, CO

Cynthia Lane was named as the General Manager of the jointly operated Platte Canyon Water & Sanitation District and Southwest Metropolitan Water & Sanitation District on June 1, 2021. Prior to that appointment, Ms. Lane served as the Assistant Manager of these districts since she was hired in April 2017.

Combined, these Platte Canyon and Southwest Metro serve approximately 25,000 water and sewer connections in the southwest Denver metro area.

These districts also provide contract management/operations services to three smaller water/wastewater districts with an additional 3,500 water and/or sewer connections.

Ms. Lane was previously the Director of Engineering & Technical Services for the American Water Works Association (AWWA), which is an international, nonprofit, scientific and educational society dedicated to ensuring the effective management of water. Prior to that, she worked in the Washington, DC office of AWWA as a Policy Analyst for four years. Ms. Lane also worked in the private sector for eight years as an environmental engineer.

She is active in water policy issues at the federal and state levels, and currently serves as the Chair of the Colorado Water Utility Council and is a member of the AWWA Water Utility Council.

Ms. Lane holds a BS in Civil Engineering from Penn State University (University Park, PA) and a Masters of Environmental Engineering from Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD). She is a registered Professional Engineer with a license in MD.



Charles Lee
 Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Environmental Justice
 US Environmental Protection Agency
 Washington DC

Charles Lee is currently the Senior Policy Advisor for Environmental Justice at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He led the development and implementation of EPA's agency-wide environmental justice strategic plans, e.g., Plan EJ 2014 and EJ 2020. He has served in multiple capacities, ranging from creating the United Church of Christ's environmental justice program to directing EPA's environmental justice office. He was a charter member of the NEJAC, where he chaired its Waste and Facility Siting committee, and served on the National Academy of Science/Institute of Medicine Committee on Environmental Justice as well as numerous other panels. In these capacities, he led efforts to incorporate environmental justice into EPA's rulemaking process, develop models for collaborative problem-

solving, transform brownfields redevelopment into a community revitalization paradigm, advance approaches to address cumulative risks and impacts, lay a strong science foundation for integrating environmental justice into decision-making, and advancing environmental justice at the state level.

Mr. Lee has authored numerous papers, reports, journals, and articles on environmental justice over the past four decades, most recently on “Confronting Disproportionate Impacts and Systemic Racism in Environmental Policy” (*Environmental Law Reporter*, vol. 51, no. 3, March 2021). He has taught or presented at numerous schools and conferences, including the seminal academic conference on “Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards” at the University of Michigan. He is the recipient of many awards for his work, including the American Public Health Association’s first Damu Smith Environmental Achievement Award. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy presented to him the EJ Pioneer Award on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 12898. In February 2017, the 122nd Session of the South Carolina House of Representatives passed Resolution H*3732 to honor his lifetime of accomplishments in environmental justice and contributions to bettering the lives of communities in that state.



Terry Leeds
NACWA President
 Director
 KC Water
 Kansas City, MO

Terry Leeds is a Civil Engineer with over 28 years' experience in the water industry and started his engineering career with Black & Veatch. He worked on water/wastewater projects as a design engineer and project engineer. In 1995, he began working for the Water Services Department of Kansas City. He has held several different positions in the City having worked in the Facilities Engineering Division, the Stormwater Engineering Division, and the Capital Improvements Management Office. In 2005, Mr. Leeds became the Manager of Kansas City’s Overflow Control Program. Working with a consultant program team in the Water Services Offices, he

was responsible for the development of the Overflow Control Plan for Kansas City. In 2009, Mr. Leeds began overseeing the Stormwater Utility Activities in addition to managing the Overflow Control Program. He has served as the Director of Kansas City Water Services since January of 2012. Mr. Leeds earned a BS in Civil Engineering at the University of Missouri-Rolla.

Mr. Leeds is currently the President on the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' Board of Directors.



Sue McCormick
NACWA Board Member
 Chief Executive Officer
 Great Lakes Water Authority
 Detroit, MI

Sue McCormick is the Chief Executive Officer of the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), a regional water and wastewater authority that services nearly 40 percent of the water customers (3.8 million people), and nearly 30 percent of the wastewater customers (2.8 million people) in the state of MI.

With nearly 40 years of experience in the water service sector, Ms. McCormick was honored in 2018 by the Southeast Council of Governments with the *Regional Ambassador Award*.

She is active in the American Water Works Association (AWWA), having served as an AWWA-Michigan Director, an association Vice President, and on the Water Quality Board of the International Joint Commission.

She is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), as well as the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). She is currently chair of the state of Michigan's Water Asset Management Council and serves on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Infrastructure Council.



Oluwole McFoy
NACWA Board Member
 General Manager
 Buffalo Sewer Authority
 Buffalo, NY

OJ McFoy is a passionate public servant and water sector executive with over two decades of leadership in advancing innovative strategies, delivering large scale multi-million-dollar comprehensive plans and capital projects, and expanding equitable public health policies. A native of Buffalo, NY, Mr. McFoy was educated in the Buffalo Public School system and is a 1993 graduate of Hutchinson Central Technical High School. He earned a BS in Civil Engineering from Clarkson University and a Certificate in Executive Management from the University at Buffalo. He is also a licensed Professional Engineer registered in the State of NY.

Since 2007, Mr. McFoy has served as Chairman of the Buffalo Water Board, championing regional water quality initiatives, and overseeing a recently negotiated \$75M 10-year public-private partnership to provide reliable and professional delivery of drinking water for the city. In his role, he has initiated major programs such as Replace Old Lead Lines (ROLL) to combat lead poisoning, and the City's Residential Affordable Water Program – focused on ensuring that water services are equitably delivered and are affordable for all residents.

Serving in several C-Suite roles at the Authority since 2006 and receiving appointment as Buffalo Sewer's General Manager in 2015, Mr. McFoy brings a commitment to diversifying the workforce and stimulating the local economy. He facilitated producing the City's National Award-winning Raincheck 2.0 Green Infrastructure Plan, that details nature-based solutions to the regional flooding and stormwater challenges due to climate change, while reimagining Buffalo's resiliency efforts through an equity lens.

Mr. McFoy serves on National, State, and Regional Boards dedicated to promoting the value of water and changing the culture of the water sector, including the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, US Water Alliance, Water Agency Leaders' Alliance, and New York Water and Environment Association.

In addition, he holds board positions locally with Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation and the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, while being an active member of several organizations.



Thomas Sigmund
 NACWA Treasurer
 Executive Director
 NEW Water
 Green Bay, WI

Tom Sigmund is a Professional Engineer in WI, IL and OH. He is the Treasurer on the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' (NACWA) Board of Directors and was Chair of the NACWA Utility and Resource Management Committee. He served as Chair of the Water Resources Utility of the Future Task Force that developed the Water Resources Utility of the Future Blueprint for Action document in 2013. Mr. Sigmund is a member of the Utility Advisory Group that has developed numerous publications on Effective Utility Management including the Effective Utility management Primer for Water and Wastewater Utilities and the Sustainable and Effective Practices Roadmap, jointly prepared by NACWA, the Water Environment Federation (WEF), and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. Sigmund received the *Schroepfer Innovative Facility Design Medal* from WEF in 2007 and the NACWA President's Award in 2013.

Mr. Sigmund has an MS and BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin.



Nathaniel Smith
 Founder & Chief Equity Officer
 Partnership for Southern Equity – Together We Prosper
 Atlanta, GA

Nathaniel Smith serves as Founder and Chief Equity Officer of the Partnership for Southern Equity (PSE), which *advances policies and institutional actions that promote racial equity and shared prosperity for all in the growth of metropolitan Atlanta and the American South*. Among PSE's notable accomplishments was the creation the American South's first equity mapping and framing tool, the Metro Atlanta Equity Atlas, and co-authoring numerous reports including: "Growing the Future: The Case for Economic Inclusion in Metropolitan Atlanta", and "Employment Equity: Putting Georgia on the Path to Inclusive Prosperity". PSE also led a coalition of diverse stakeholders to support a \$13 million transit referendum that expanded Atlanta's metropolitan transit system into a new county for the first time in 45 years.

Mr. Smith's advocacy activities were instrumental in the ratification of a 15 percent set aside of Atlanta Beltline Tax Allocation District (TAD) dollars for the development and maintenance of affordable workforce housing within the Atlanta BeltLine Planning Area - \$250 million dollars over the 25-year lifespan of the Atlanta BeltLine TAD.

A child of Civil Rights Movement and Atlanta native, Mr. Smith holds a BA in Urban Studies from Morehouse College and an MS from the New School.

Among his many accomplishments, *The Huffington Post* honored Mr. Smith as one of the eight "Up and Coming Black Leaders in the Climate Movement" in 2017. He was also named to the Grist 50 by *Grist Magazine* in 2018 and the Atlanta 500 by *Atlanta Magazine* in 2019 and 2020 and designated one of the 100 "Most Influential Georgians" by *Georgia Trend* magazine in 2018, 2019 and 2020. His work was also featured in the *US News and World Report*, *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, *Nonprofit Quarterly*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Atlanta Voice* and others.