



# National Water Policy Fly-In



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## SPEAKER PROFILES

The Hilton Washington DC National Mall The Wharf

April 25 – 26, 2023



**Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Northeast Ohio 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 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.

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**The Honorable Radhika Fox**  
Assistant Administrator, Office of Water  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC

**Radhika Fox** is the Assistant Administrator for the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Water.

Prior to joining EPA, Ms. Fox served as Chief Executive Officer for the US Water Alliance, where she established herself as a widely recognized national thought leader on complex water issues, from equitable water management to investing in our nation's water infrastructure. She has more than 20 years of experience in developing policies, programs, and issue-based advocacy campaigns. Her work has helped address the most salient water issues facing the nation—including climate change, affordability, equity, governance, innovative finance, and the evolution of the One Water movement.

Ms. Fox previously directed the policy and government affairs agenda for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which is responsible for providing 24/7 water, wastewater, and municipal power services to 2.6 million Bay Area residents. She also served as the Federal Policy Director at PolicyLink, where she coordinated the organization's policy agenda on a wide range of issues, including infrastructure investment, transportation, sustainable communities, economic inclusion, and workforce development.

Ms. Fox holds a BA from Columbia University and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley where she was a HUD Community Development Fellow.



### The Honorable Bill Johnson (R-OH)

Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, & Critical Materials

US House Energy and Commerce Committee

Since first being elected in 2010, **Congressman Bill Johnson** has been fighting to create jobs in rural Ohio, improve services to our nation's heroes - our veterans, and to make our federal government more effective, efficient, and accountable to the American people. He's working hard to ensure that our children and grandchildren are blessed with the same opportunities of previous generations.

Johnson has led the effort in the House of Representatives to defend the oil, natural gas and coal industries -- and the millions of jobs, and affordable energy they provide -- from executive and bureaucratic overreach, and to secure American energy independence. He's also leading the effort to close the digital divide and push for high-speed internet access across rural America. 23 bills authored by him have been signed into law.

In November of 2022, he was elected to a seventh term to serve the people of Eastern OH. He retained his seat on the powerful House Energy & Commerce Committee that is charged with providing a key role in developing America's energy, healthcare, and telecommunications policies (among others), while providing oversight on the Administration's implementation of these laws. In January of 2023, he was selected by his Republican colleagues to lead the Environment, Manufacturing & Critical Materials Subcommittee.



### Russell Kaiser

Acting Director, Oceans, Wetlands and Communities Division

Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds

Office of Water

US Environmental Protection Agency

**Russ Kaiser** is the Acting Director for the Oceans, Wetlands and Communities Division (OWCD).

Prior to his new assignment, he was the Chief of the Program Development and Jurisdiction Branch, the Freshwater and Marine Regulatory Branch, and the Wetlands and Aquatic Resources Regulatory Branch. He also served as the acting Deputy Director for the Oceans and Coastal Protection Division.

Prior to joining the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Team, Mr. Kaiser was the Chief of the Regulatory Division for the Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers. Before his assignment in the Savannah District, he worked in the Headquarters Office in Washington, DC, as a policy specialist. While at the Corps, he also served in several other positions. Russ has more than 30 years of experience in the Regulatory/Environmental Sector, working at the federal, state, and private-sector level.

Mr. Kaiser has a BS in Zoology, with an emphasis in freshwater ecology from the University of Wisconsin—Madison and an MS in Oceanography/Coastal Zone Management from the Florida Institute of Technology.



**Oluwole "OJ" McFoy**  
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 US Water Alliance, Water Agency Leaders' Alliance, and New York Water and Environment Association. He is currently the Vice President on the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' Board of Directors. 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.



**Jennifer McLain**  
Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water  
Office of Water  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC

**Jennifer McLain** is the Director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water and has 20 years of experience at the Environmental Protection Agency both in the Office of Water and in the Office of Pesticide Programs. She joined the EPA after earning a BS degree from the University of Notre Dame and a PhD in Chemistry from Princeton University.



**Deborah Nagle**  
Director, Office of Science and Technology  
Office of Water  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC

**Deborah Nagle** has worked in a variety of Water Programs at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 1989 as an environmental engineer and later as a senior manager. She currently serves as the Acting Director of the Office of Science and Technology in the Office of Water, a position she has held since September 2017. In her role as Acting Director, Ms. Nagle oversees the promulgation of best available treatment technology permit limits for industries; the development of aquatic life and human health water quality criteria under the *Clean Water Act*; deriving maximum contaminant level goals and health advisories under the *Safe Drinking Water Act*; and approving/disapproving state water quality standards. Prior to her current role, Ms. Nagle served as the Director of the Water Permits Division in EPA's Office of Wastewater Management, where she was responsible for implementing the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program under the Clean Water Act. Prior to working at the EPA, Ms. Nagle served seven years with the US Army Corps of Engineers. She is a 1982 graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point with a degree in engineering.

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**Sharon Nappier**  
National Program Leader for Water Reuse  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC

**Dr. Sharon Nappier** is the National Program Leader for Water Reuse in the Office of Water at the US Environmental Protection Agency. Her program is currently leading the implementation of the National Water Reuse Action Plan (WRAP), a collaborative of >115+ partner organizations working together to advance appropriate water reuse practices in the United States and internationally.

Dr. Nappier holds a BS degree in Biology and Environmental Science from The George Washington University; an MSPH degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Environmental Sciences and Engineering; and a PhD from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Environmental Health Engineering.

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**The Honorable Sean O'Donnell**  
Inspector General  
US Environmental Protection Agency

**The Honorable Sean O'Donnell** is the Inspector General of the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. For nearly three years during his tenure, he also served as the acting Inspector General of the US Department of Defense. Prior to becoming the Inspector General, he spent 15 years at the US Department of Justice, most recently as a prosecutor in the Criminal Division's Money Laundering and Asset Recovery



Section. Over his government career, he has earned numerous awards and honors, including the *Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service* and the *Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service*. Early in his career, he clerked for the federal court of appeals and the federal district court. He also spent time in private practice. Sean has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Texas A&M University, a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the University of Washington, and a Master's degree in Economics and a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

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**David Palumbo**  
Deputy Commissioner  
US Bureau of Reclamation  
Department of Interior

**David Palumbo** is the Bureau of Reclamation's Deputy Commissioner of Operations. He oversees operations in Reclamation's five regions, the Native American and International Affairs Office, and Technical Resources, which includes the Technical Service Center, Hydropower Office, Dam Safety Officer/Design, Estimating, Construction, and Research & Development.

Prior to this appointment in 2015, Mr. Palumbo served Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region, where he became the Deputy Regional Director in 2012. In this position, he oversaw complex water and power programs in the region, including Hoover Dam operations. He also managed and led Native American activities, including those related to negotiating and implementing Indian water rights settlements. He has built strong, collaborative relationships with customers and stakeholders throughout the Colorado River basin, including those with Tribal nations and the country of Mexico.

He joined Reclamation in 2005 as a project manager where he led the construction project of the Brock Reservoir Project in Southern California's Imperial Valley. This \$172 million project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. The facility provides enhanced storage capacity to improve management and conservation of Colorado River water.

In addition to his work for Reclamation in the Southwest, Palumbo worked in the private sector for Kerr-McGee Corporation for ten years. For four of those years he partnered with Canada's Hydro-Quebec, managing engineering and operations for manufacturing, water, energy, and research and development programs.

Mr. Palumbo holds a BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and a BA in English Literature from Notre Dame. He also has Masters degrees in both Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics from Columbia University and in English Literature from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is a licensed Civil Engineer in CA and a certified project manager.



### **The Honorable David Rouzer (R-NC)**

Chairman, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment  
US House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

**Congressman David Rouzer** proudly represents North Carolina's 7th Congressional District, stretching from the beautiful coastline of Southeastern North Carolina west to the small-town, agricultural communities around Lumberton and Fayetteville. Elected to the United States Congress in 2014, he is beginning his 5th term in the US House of Representatives.

He serves on the House Agriculture Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where he currently serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. He has served as a ranking member or chairman of a subcommittee on both since his first day in office, which has enabled him to better address the unique needs of his district and state. He is a member of a number of caucuses in Congress including as a founding member of the Primary Care Caucus and the Supply Chain Caucus, as well as co-chairing the United Kingdom Caucus.

Prior to Congress, he formed his own business doing consulting and sales work, predominately in the agricultural arena. His public service includes two terms in the North Carolina Senate representing Johnston and Wayne counties (2009-2012) where he was consistently ranked as one of the most effective pro-business legislators. David also served as assistant to the dean and director of commodity relations for the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences at NC State University in between two stints with US Senator Jesse Helms, where he started out as a legislative assistant and later served as senior policy advisor. He was also senior advisor for US Senator Elizabeth Dole. In 2005, he took a senior level appointment at USDA Rural Development and helped manage a program level budget of more than \$1.2 billion and a loan portfolio of more than \$5 billion in investments in rural America. David has garnered a number of awards during his career for his work in each of these capacities as well as a Member of Congress.



### **Andrew Sawyers**

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

**Andrew Sawyers** is the Director of the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, DC. He oversees the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, the Clean Water Act's mechanism for the permitting of municipal and industrial discharge into surface waters of the US. As the Director of OWM, Mr. Sawyers is also responsible for multiple technical and financial assistance tools for the development and maintenance of the country's wastewater infrastructure, including WIFIA, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and EPA's Water Finance Center.

He previously worked for the Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration where he managed the state's Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs and the Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. Mr. Sawyers has a PhD from Johns Hopkins University in Geography and Environmental Engineering.



**Tom Sigmund**  
Executive Director  
NEW Water  
Green Bay, WI

**Tom Sigmund** is the Executive Director of NEW Water, the brand of the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, where he has been since 2007. NEW Water is a regional clean water utility providing wholesale conveyance and treatment services to 238,000 people in 15 municipalities. NEW Water has 101 employees and an annual budget of \$45 million. NEW Water expresses its attitude of viewing the material sent to its facilities as a valuable resource to be recovered and reused and a commitment to continued improvement in the watershed.

Mr. Sigmund is a Professional Engineer in WI and OH. He serves as President of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) 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. Mr. Sigmund was a member of the Utility Advisory Group that 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 is a WEF Fellow, received the *WEF William D. Hatfield Award*, and the *WEF Schroeffer Innovative Facility Design Medal*. He also received the *NACWA President's Award*.

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



**The Honorable Paul Tonko**  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment,  
Manufacturing, & Critical Materials  
US House Energy and Commerce Committee

**Congressman Paul Tonko** represents New York's 20th Congressional District, including the communities of Albany, Schenectady, Troy, and Saratoga Springs. He represents all of Albany and Schenectady Counties and parts of Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties.

He is serving his eighth term, after first being sworn into Congress in 2009.

He serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee, the oldest standing committee in the House, created in December of 1795. He is the Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, & Critical Materials. In addition to serving on the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security, and Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations, he is also a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. He has previously served on the Natural Resources Committee, the Education and Labor Committee, and the Budget Committee.





**Karen Woodrich**  
Deputy Chief for Programs  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
US Department of Agriculture

**Karen Woodrich** began her professional career with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as a Soil Conservationist in 1998 in Portage, MI. She spent several years in MI and WI working directly with farmers and forester owners as a Soil Conservationist and District Conservationist covering diverse types of agriculture, both large and small, along with a wide range of conservation resource concerns.

Ms. Woodrich went on to lead water quality and performance efforts in north central Iowa and managed partnerships, business planning, quality assurance and performance metrics in Illinois. She served as the State Conservationist in KY and then in KS until 2022. Over her 25 years with USDA, she has worked on several projects to further streamlining efforts in program and technical service delivery, while promoting diversity and inclusion of services and staff. She has served in multiple national capacities at the NRCS National Office as Acting Regional Conservationist, Acting Ecological Sciences Division Director and as an Acting Senior Policy Advisor to the Undersecretary at the US Department of Agriculture. She is a 2020 graduate of the USDA Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program.

As the Deputy Chief for Programs, Ms. Woodrich manages the Agency's robust conservation planning efforts along with the delivery and implementation of the voluntary conservation programs of the Title II of the Farm Bill which include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs (ACEP), the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Watershed programs (PL-566), the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP), and most recently opportunities through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Ms. Woodrich is a native of central WI, with a background in dairy and Christmas tree farming. She holds a BS degree in Soil Science, from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point.



**Shannon Zaret**  
Management & Program Analyst  
Office of State and Community Energy Programs  
US Department of Energy

**Shannon Zaret** is a Management & Program Analyst at the US Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of State and Community Energy Programs (or SCEP). At DOE, she manages the Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure of the Future (SWIFT) Initiative, which works with water utilities to help them improve energy efficiency and implement advanced energy technologies. She also manages the State and Local Planning for Energy Platform and the Low-Income Energy Affordability Data Tool which collectively integrate and deliver data on energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transportation, and energy burden into an easy-to-access online platform to enable data-driven state and local energy planning.