

## Unleashing the Power of Technology and AI Virtual Workshop Speaker Profiles



**Kristen Atha**

*NACWA Board Member*  
Director of Public Utilities  
City of Columbus  
Columbus, OH  
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**Kristen Atha** serves as the Director, Department of Public Utilities (DPU), for the City of Columbus. In this role, she leads the organization, which includes nearly 1200 employees, including the Division of Water, Division of Sewerage and Drainage and the Division of Power. The Department provides safe, reliable drinking water and wastewater services for over 1.3 million residents in central Ohio, and electric utilities to approximately 17,000 customers within the City of Columbus. While the Department of Public Utilities is part of the City of Columbus, we provide water and wastewater services to 26 suburban partners, serving in a regional capacity to support the growth and prosperity of the Central Ohio region. Kristen holds Bachelor's degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Cincinnati, and Business Administration from Miami University.

Ms. Atha has spent over 30-years building her career as an environmental engineer focused on working with municipal water and wastewater utilities. Prior to her appointment in 2022 as Director at the City of Columbus, she served as a Vice President and Regional Market Sector Leader for AECOM's water business line in the Midwest. Kristen also recently served as the Chair of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Sustaining Scioto Board. The Board guides the Sustaining Scioto Implementation Plan to help the Central Ohio region adapt to climate change and ensure access to clean and abundant water for the growing Central Ohio region. Following her term as Chair, MORPC invited Kristen to serve on the Commission's Executive Committee, providing strategic direction on goals, objectives, policy and budgetary issues that impact the region.



**Jay Bernas**

*NACWA Board Member*  
General Manager  
Hampton Roads Sanitation District  
Virginia Beach, VA  
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**Jay Bernas**, PE has more than 30 years of experience in engineering, financial strategy, and utility management. As the General Manager/Chief

Executive Officer of the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD), the 14th largest wastewater utility in the US, Mr. Bernas leads a large workforce of dedicated wastewater professionals with a people-first philosophy, manages a \$518 million annual budget, and oversees a \$3.4 billion ten-year capital improvement program. Previously, as HRSD's Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, Mr. Bernas was pivotal in building innovative financial models and securing \$1.05 billion in Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding, positioning HRSD as a leader in water sector infrastructure investment. Mr. Bernas holds a Professional Engineer license and earned his MBA from William & Mary.

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**Alex Bond**

Executive Director of Legal & Clean Energy Policy  
Edison Electric Institute  
Washington, DC

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**Alex Bond** is the Executive Director of Legal & Clean Energy Policy for the Edison Electric Institute (EEL) in DC. EEL is the trade association that represents all US investor-owned electric companies. Mr. Bond directs EEL's Environment Department, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission team, clean technology development and deployment work, and Institute-wide legal support. In his role, he helps to coordinate strategic clean energy engagement across the federal government and with key stakeholders. Mr. Bond joined EEL in 2017 and most recently served as Executive Director, Clean Energy & Environment. He previously worked in EEL's Office of the General Counsel, where he focused on ensuring that federal climate and environmental policies and regulations support EEL member companies' ongoing clean energy transitions. Before joining EEL, Mr. Bond worked in the US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of General Counsel in the Air & Radiation Law Office. Prior to that, he worked on air and climate issues at EEL and the National Mining Association. Mr. Bond began his career working on stationary source issues for the Ozone Transport Commission, which represents the Northeastern states. Alex received a BA in political science from Swarthmore College and a JD from the University of Maryland School of Law.

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**Charles Bott**

Director of Water Technology and Research  
Hampton Roads Sanitation District  
Virginia Beach, VA

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**Charles Botts**, PhD, PE, BCEE, joined Hampton Road Sanitation District (HRSD) in 2009 and is the Chief Technology Officer. He manages technology innovation and research and development for HRSD's

wastewater treatment plants and interceptor system. Dr. Botts is also an Adjunct Professor in the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech and Old Dominion University and in the Department of Civil and Water Engineering at Université Laval (Quebec, Canada). Charles has a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Virginia Military Institute, a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from the Johns Hopkins University, and a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Virginia Tech. Dr. Botts has specific expertise in the areas of advanced water treatment technologies, chemical and biological phosphorus removal, nitrification/denitrification, nutrient recovery, deammonification/anammox, biological treatment process modeling and design, and biogas conditioning. Important areas of focus include mainstream shortcut nitrogen removal, processes for biological treatment intensification, and technologies for potable reuse.

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**Liam Cavanaugh**

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

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**Liam Cavanaugh** is the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Metro Water Recovery, overseeing the Operations, Maintenance, and Resource Recovery and Reuse functions for an organization serving a population of 2.2 million in the Denver metropolitan region. Liam has a BS in Environmental Engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder and an MS in Environmental Engineering and Science from Colorado School of Mines. Mr. Cavanaugh has worked in utility leadership, engineering, and operations at public utilities since 2009, and is a licensed Professional Engineer and Class A Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. His main interests lie in sustainable wastewater treatment approaches and resource recovery opportunities. A native of CO, Mr. Cavanaugh enjoys hiking, skiing, fishing, and other activities that take advantage of our most precious natural resource; water.

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**Prabhu Chandrasekeran**

Vice President, Intelligent Water National Practice Leader  
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**Prabhu Chandrasekeran** is the Intelligent Water National Practice Leader for Arcadis US Inc. Mr. Chandrasekeran brings 20 years of engineering and consulting experience in the water industry and specializing in capital programs management and delivery as well as utility management consulting for digital transformation and AI Adoption.



**Mickey Conway**

NACWA President  
Chief Executive Officer  
Metro Water Recovery  
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**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.

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**Amy Corriveau**

President  
Trinnex  
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With over two decades of experience in water and infrastructure, **Amy Corriveau** has seen firsthand the challenges that organizations like yours face as they work to join the digital future. Throughout her career, she's worked with cities, towns, utilities, and companies to achieve efficiency, invest wisely, and communicate more effectively. One partnership at a time, she's empowering teams like yours to achieve success.

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**Paula Crowell**

Chief Information Officer  
Los Angeles County Sanitation District  
Whittier, CA

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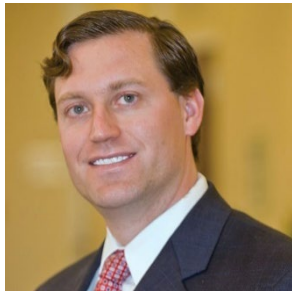
**Paula Crowell** is an accomplished technology executive with over 20 years of experience leading IT strategy, operations, and

innovation in the public sector. As the Chief Information Officer for the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, she oversees enterprise-wide technology initiatives that support critical infrastructure, environmental compliance, and digital transformation.

Ms. Crowell is recognized for building high-performing teams, modernizing legacy systems, and championing cybersecurity and data governance programs. She has led initiatives that introduced cloud-based platforms, expanded remote work capabilities, and improved service delivery across multiple departments.

A strong advocate for workforce development, Ms. Crowell actively mentors emerging IT leaders and promotes inclusive talent strategies. Her leadership style emphasizes transparency, accountability, and collaboration to align technology with mission-driven goals.

Ms. Crowell holds industry certifications in project management and IT service management and frequently contributes to regional and statewide discussions on public sector innovation, cybersecurity, and digital equity.



**Nathan Gardner-Andrews**

Chief Advocacy & Policy Officer  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
Washington, DC

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**Nathan Gardner-Andrews** serves as the Chief Advocacy & Policy Officer for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in Washington, DC, where he has worked since 2006. In his role, he is responsible for coordinating all NACWA's advocacy initiatives and integrating the Association's legislative, regulatory, and legal advocacy work. He has written articles and spoken nationally on a wide range of clean water issues.

Mr. Gardner-Andrews previously served as NACWA's General Counsel, advising the Association and its municipal clean water utility members on a variety of legal matters and managing NACWA's litigation portfolio.

Prior to joining NACWA, Mr. Gardner-Andrews served as a law clerk for the Hon. Michael E. Loney of the Maryland Circuit Court.

Mr. Gardner-Andrews is a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia bars. He received his BA from Columbia University in 2001 and his JD from the University of Maryland School of Law in 2005.

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**Nitin Goel**

Operations Optimization Division Manager  
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
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After building a strong technical foundation as a consulting engineering for close to a decade, **Nitin Goel** moved to Central San, first focusing on planning work, then transitioning to Asset Management and pre-design of Treatment Plant Projects. Currently, serving as Optimization Manager with broad responsibilities for all Districtwide optimization efforts. Mr. Goel has a passion for helping my team grow and evolve professionally and collaborating with workgroups all over the organization to provide better work products.

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**Katie Hall**

Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Claira.ai  
Grand Rapids, MI

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**Katie Hall** is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Claira. She is a proud midwesterner and former volleyballer, and her mission is to create a world where all people can contribute to work.

She started this company because she can't accept inequity or inefficiency. Ms. Hall has worked in many types of jobs - cleaning hotel rooms, making sandwiches, and assembling windows on a factory line. Everyone in the world has competencies that they use to contribute to work, everywhere, every day.

Imagine a world where creating a job description took 30 seconds, matching people to work required asking one question and unlocking invisible talent made your people stay. This is what she has built.

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**Bradford Hoglund**

Chief Information Officer  
Boston Water & Sewer Commission  
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**Reese Johnson**

Deputy Director And Chief Engineer  
Metropolitan Sewer District of Great Cincinnati  
Cincinnati, OH

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**Reese Johnson** was promoted to Deputy Director in July 2024 and oversees the Wastewater Engineering Division as Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD)'s Chief Engineer. He previously served as Superintendent of MSD's Compliance Services Division since 2019. Mr. Johnson joined MSD in 2017 as a Principal Engineer, managing MSD's Operational Optimization program (Smart Sewers).

Prior to joining MSD, Mr. Johnson worked for CH2M HILL (now Jacobs Engineering), the American Youth Foundation, and served on active duty in the US Coast Guard. Mr. Johnson has a BS in civil engineering from the US Coast Guard Academy and a ME in civil and environmental engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of OH and the Commonwealth of KY and is a certified Project Management Professional through the Project Management Institute. Mr. Johnson currently serves as the Chair of the Water Environment Federation's Intelligent Water Technology Community.

In his current role, Mr. Johnson is responsible for overseeing the majority of MSD's Wastewater Engineering Division. This includes Capital Planning (asset management & watershed planning, development services, and modeling), Core Project Delivery (design and construction management of non-consent decree stipulated projects), and Capital Program Controls (ROW, finance, and administrative support services).

**Adam Krantz**

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

**Adam Krantz** is currently Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), where he has served in a number of positions since May 2001. Mr. Krantz directs an unparalleled team in DC, that advocates on behalf of the nation's public clean water agencies on an array of regulatory, legislative, legal and communication initiatives. NACWA's goal is to maximize the influence of the nation's public clean water agencies and to broaden the awareness of the vital role they serve in ensuring clean and safe water for all.

Prior to his position at NACWA, Mr. Krantz was an associate editor/reporter at Inside Washington Publishers where his work focused on covering the US Environmental

Protection Agency's, Congress's and the federal court system's national water quality initiatives. Before entering the environmental arena, Mr. Krantz worked as an attorney in the DC law firm, Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Oshinsky on litigation matters.

Mr. Krantz served 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 US Water Alliance). Mr. Krantz also serves on the Board of WFX (the Water Finance Exchange) and has degrees from Columbia University in New York City, the American University's Washington College of Law in DC, and the University of Chicago. He is a member of both the DC and MD Bar Associations.

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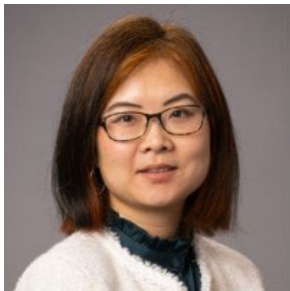


**James Livermore**

Director, Information Security  
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**Ting Lu**

*Co-Chair, Climate & Resiliency Committee*  
Interim Director  
City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services  
Portland, OR

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**Ting Lu** joined Environmental Services in 2023. Ms. Lu has diverse technical, management, and business skills, including co-creating visions, developing business and organization strategies, fostering innovation, building high-performing teams, and driving digital transformation. Ms. Lu is dedicated to learning and teaching for continuous improvement and growth. Ms. Lu is focused on moving Environmental Services' strategic priorities forward, including increasing investments in our people and assets, strengthening business practices and processes, and focusing on the Bureau's professional and leadership development.

Previously, Ms. Lu has served in various positions at Clean Water Services, including principal engineer, regulatory affairs; digital solutions; business practice leader, research and innovation. Before Clean Water Services, Ms. Lu worked for Black & Veatch and held roles in business development, project and program management, and engineering design. She was also with the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati for three years, performing multiple roles there, including capital

improvement program manager and planner, process engineer for process improvement and troubleshooting, research manager for technology evaluation, and strategic planning. She received her PhD at the University of Cincinnati.

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**Mahesh Lunani**

Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Aquasight  
Troy, MI

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**Mahesh Lunani**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AQUASIGHT, leverages real-time Analytics, AI and Agentic technology to revolutionize water & Wastewater management. AQUASIGHT's suite, including ATLAS, AURA, ACE, APOLLO, AMP, and AQSYNC, is widely recognized for its impact across 120+ communities.

Host of the 21st Century Water podcast, Mr. Lunani discusses water infrastructure, leadership, and community building with the top utility CEO's across the nation. With over 25 years in leadership roles at Cognizant, IBM, and Roland Berger, Mr. Lunani blends strategic thinking with hands-on execution, fostering innovative solutions in mature industries. His global experience spans multiple countries, enriching his leadership and business-building acumen.

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**Josh Mahan**

Director, Government and Industry Relations  
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**Peter Martin**

Digital Solutions Consultant  
Trinnex  
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**Peter Martin** has been helping water & wastewater utilities and their consultants solve problems with digital water and asset management software for 25 years. He currently is a Digital Solutions Consultant with Trinnex. Mr. Martin's expertise includes capital asset performance, digital twins,

hydraulic modeling, geographic information systems, smart water meters and radio read systems, energy management, optimization, machine learning, and engineering consulting.

Mr. Martin is an active member in industry associations and has presented at American Water Works Association (AWWA) Annual Conference & Expo, Esri User Conference, California Water Environment Association, California Nevada AWWA, Arizona Water, and Water Environment Federation Collection Systems.

He holds a BS degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering from the University of Rhode Island, and currently lives in Roseville, CA.

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**Matthew McKenna**

Director of Government Affairs  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
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**Luis Montestruque**

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HydroDigital  
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**Michele Nellenbach**

Director, Government Affairs & Public Policy  
Steptoe  
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**Michele Nellenbach** advises clients on federal legislative strategies, focusing on technology, energy, infrastructure, corporate governance, workforce, and small businesses.

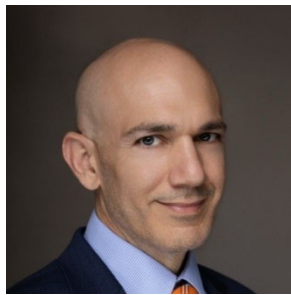
Ms. Nellenbach served nearly 13 years on Capitol Hill, including working for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for over six years. Ms. Nellenbach was the lead staffer on the Committee for Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and

Waters of the US Issues, including the intersection with Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and pesticides. She began her Hill career in the office of former Senator Frank Murkowski and then on the staff of former Representative Nancy Johnson.

Prior to joining Steptoe, Ms. Nellenbach was the vice president of Bipartisan Policy Center's (BPC) strategic initiatives, where she launched BPC's technology/AI and corporate governance projects. Further, she oversaw several policy teams of over 40 staff members, including housing, energy, tech, infrastructure, and democracy. Before being promoted to vice president, Ms. Nellenbach advocated for energy innovation as a member of BPC Action, co-directed the Commission on Political Reform, and managed BPC's Former Governors Council.

Ms. Nellenbach earned a master's degree in political science from the American University in DC, and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Connecticut. She served as a Stennis Fellow during the 109th Congress.

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**Jason Sciandra**

Assistant Director of Public Utilities

City of Fort Myers

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**Jason Sciandra** serves as the Assistant Director of the Utilities Department for the City of Fort Myers. He joined the City in November 2022, bringing with him over two decades of experience following a successful career in the consulting industry. In his current role, Mr. Sciandra oversees water and wastewater operations, leads the implementation of the City's Capital Improvement Program, and drives the department's adoption of innovative technologies and digital transformation initiatives.

Mr. Sciandra holds both a BS and a MS in Civil Engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo, as well as a MBA from Florida Gulf Coast University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of FL and has extensive expertise in the planning, design, permitting, and construction of complex utility projects. Before joining the City, he served as Principal in Charge at CDM Smith, a leading utilities consulting firm.

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**Sanjiv Sinha**

Chief Executive Officer

CIS Solutions

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**Sanjiv Sinha**, PhD, serves as the Chief Executive Officer and a Member of the Board of Directors of Corvias Infrastructure Solutions, LLC (CIS), the nation's urban greening programs leader. His leadership is distinguished by deep expertise in public-private partnerships, climate adaptation, and sustainable infrastructure finance. Dr. Sinha also serves on the board of NSF International Holdings Inc., a global public health organization operating in over 100 countries, and on the Board of Directors of The Water Council, a globally recognized nonprofit that is a hub for water innovation.

Previously, he served on the board of an A/E/C consulting company ECT, where he chaired the Governance Committee. In the nonprofit sector, he has also held board positions with the Delta Institute and the Alliance for the Great Lakes, concluding both terms as Board Chair.

Finally, from 2022-2025, he served on the US Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Finance Advisory Board, whose goal is to shape national policy and financial strategies to advance sustainable infrastructure.

Since 1997, Dr. Sinha and his family have lived in Ann Arbor, MI.

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**Kendra Sveum**

Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance

Loudoun Water

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**Kendra Sveum** is an accomplished Executive Director of Operations and Maintenance at Loudoun Water, bringing over 15 years of extensive experience in environmental engineering and project management. With a strong background in wastewater treatment and water reclamation, she has successfully led various initiatives to optimize water resources. Ms. Sveum holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering and a Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology. Her leadership is underscored by her recognition as an Outstanding Young Professional. Ms. Sveum is also an active contributor to industry publications, serving as chair and author for several influential works in the field. Her expertise in AutoCAD and water treatment processes makes her a key player in advancing sustainable water management practices. She is passionate

about leveraging emerging technologies to improve operational efficiency and environmental outcomes.

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**Pieter Van Ry**

*NACWA Board Member*

Director

South Platte Renew & Englewood Utilities

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**Pieter Van Ry** 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.

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**Travis Wagner**

Vice President, Digital Consulting

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**Travis Wagner** is a water sector thought and business leader with over 20 years of experience. He is passionate about helping customers optimize infrastructure decisions using a combination of hardware, software, and professional services. His experience encompasses asset integrity and management, operations, planning, data science, software/solutions development, hardware/technology expertise, and design. He has a successful track record driving business growth, internal and client digital transformation, product and professional service innovation, and scalable solutions that deliver lasting and practical outcomes to optimally manage infrastructure.

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**Timothy Wall**

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

CDM Smith

Boston, MA

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**Greta Zornes**

Water Reuse Global Practice Leader

CDM Smith

Boston, MA

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**Greta Zornes**, PhD, CDM Smith's practice leader for water reuse and industrial treatment, is motivated by seeking sustainable resolutions to complex problems. Her focus area, water reuse, brings together water, wastewater, stormwater, groundwater management and other disciplines to find more holistic, sustainable water supply solutions.

She leads CDM Smith's water reuse practice, drawing upon over 20 years of experience in engineering and project management for planning, design, and commissioning of water reuse and treatment facilities. She is also a former Board Member of both the WaterReuse Research Foundation (2012–15) and the WaterReuse Association, Australia.

Ms. Zornes' most notable project introduced a new water-reuse technique to a client in Australia. She was the environmental/regulatory lead working on the commissioning of the Gippsland Water Factory in Victoria, which is both a municipal recycled water facility and an industrial wastewater treatment facility. Working closely with the regulators and their team, she led validation of the reverse osmosis system using a Rhodamine Dye technique that was new to Australia at the time.

After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Zornes became very involved in CDM Smith's wastewater epidemiology program and was part of the team that launched this new area of practice. It's a natural link to her main area of expertise, because understanding pathogens in wastewater is critical to design and operation of advanced water reuse treatment systems.