

Virtual Workshop: Ensuring a Stable Revenue Future for Your Utility

Speaker Profiles



Silvia Amparano

Deputy Director
Tucson Water
Tucson, AZ
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Silvia Amparano has more than 25 years of public sector experience to her role as Deputy Director of Tucson Water. She leads a dedicated team responsible for delivering reliable, high-quality potable and reclaimed water to 750,000 residents in southern AZ, affordably and sustainably. Ms. Amparano’s expertise in financial planning, risk management, and organizational development supports Tucson Water’s financial stability and operational excellence.



Josh Auxier

Project Manager/Engineer III
Greater Peoria Sanitary District
Peoria, IL

Josh Auxier, PE, MBA, LEED AP, is a Project Manager and Engineer III with the Greater Peoria Sanitary District (GPSD), a public wastewater utility serving the Greater Peoria region. In this role, he manages capital improvement projects and supports the integration of engineering, operations, and data systems across treatment and collection system infrastructure. Mr. Auxier’s background includes over a decade in consulting, with a focus on computational hydraulics and municipal infrastructure design. His work has included hydraulic system design, permitting, and delivery of complex public works projects across sewer, stormwater, and riverine systems. At GPSD, Mr. Auxier is actively involved in developing and implementing a structured digital transformation strategy, including the deployment of a CMMS platform designed to integrate asset management, GIS data, and operational workflows. His work focuses on establishing the structured data, workflows, and system architecture required to support scalable data analytics and future AI integration. Mr. Auxier holds a BS in Civil Engineering from Bradley University and an MBA from Northern Illinois University. He also serves as an Adjunct Faculty member in Bradley University’s Civil Engineering Department, supporting capstone course development and instruction.



Charles Bott

Chief Technology Officer
Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Virginia Beach, VA

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Dr. Charles B. Bott joined Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) in 2009 and is the Chief Technology Officer. He manages technology innovation, research, and development for HRSD's wastewater treatment plants and interceptor system. Dr. Bott is also an Adjunct Professor in the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) and Old Dominion University. He was formerly an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Virginia Military Institute and a consulting engineer with Parsons Engineering Science. Dr. Bott 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. He is a fellow of the Water Environment Federation (WEF), a member of the Science and Technology Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council, a former member of the Virginia Board of Health, and a former member of the National Science Foundation Engineering Directorate Advisory Committee. Dr. Bott is a licensed Professional Engineer in VA, a Board Certified Environmental Engineer, and a licensed wastewater treatment plant operator – VA Class I. He is a three-time winner of the WEF Harrison Prescott Eddy Medal for outstanding contribution to wastewater principles/processes research, and he was a previous member of the WEF Board of Trustees. Dr. Bott's technical interests include municipal and industrial wastewater treatment process engineering, as well as renewable energy generation and resource efficiency. He has specific expertise in the areas of potable and nonpotable reuse, 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.



Justin Carl

Chief Executive Officer
AlexRenew
Alexandria, VA

Justin Carl, PE, serves as General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of AlexRenew, leading a team of 140 professionals delivering wastewater treatment services for Alexandria and parts of Fairfax County, VA.

Mr. Carl has dedicated his career to engineering cleaner waterways and resilient, sustainable infrastructure across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. He has led more than \$2.5 billion in planning, design, procurement, and construction of wastewater-focused capital projects in the region. Before joining AlexRenew in 2023, Justin oversaw critical portions of combined sewer programs in DC and was the Program Manager for RiverRenew, the \$615 million tunnel program designed to prevent millions of gallons of combined sewage from reaching the Potomac River.

Mr. Carl is a licensed Professional Engineer in Virginia and the District of Columbia. He holds a Master of Engineering degree in Environmental Engineering from Manhattan College.



David Cheatwood
Managing Director
First Tryon Advisors
Charlotte, NC
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David Cheatwood provides financial advisory services to clients primarily located in NC, SC, and GA. He assists issuers with a wide range of services including evaluating debt capacity, structuring bond issues, monitoring refunding/restructuring opportunities, obtaining credit ratings and coordinating the bond issuance process.

Mr. Cheatwood holds an undergraduate and law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to joining First Tryon Advisors, Mr. Cheatwood practiced corporate law at Kilpatrick Stockton LLP and worked in the public finance investment banking groups at Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Wells Fargo Securities. He holds the Municipal Advisor Representative license (Series 50).



Suzanne Coffey
NACWA Board Member
Chief Executive Officer
Great Lakes Water Authority
Detroit, MI
[LinkedIn](#)

Suzanne Coffey is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA). Before being named CEO on June 22, 2022, Ms. Coffey served in the role of Interim CEO for nearly one year. Prior to that, she was the Chief Planning Officer for GLWA, a position she held at the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department from August 24, 2015, to December 31, 2015.

In her capacity as a Chief Planning Officer, Ms. Coffey championed GLWA's efforts to bolster the Authority's asset management capacities, capital improvement program execution, analytics, as well as lead long-term planning efforts such as the Wastewater Master Plan.

Ms. Coffey became very familiar with GLWA through her role as a manager in the Oakland County's Water Resources Commissioner's office where she worked for 12 years, and she was an integral part of the DWSD-GLWA transition efforts.

Under the leadership of Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash, Ms. Coffey was responsible for supervising engineers, field staff members, administrative and technical support personnel and supporting operations and maintenance of wastewater interceptor systems, local municipal wastewater conveyance systems, drains and lake level control structures, as well as oversight of staff members who perform construction project management and construction inspection.

Ms. Coffey is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of MI. She graduated *Cum Laude* from Lawrence Technological University with a BS in Civil Engineering and was named *Young Engineer of the Year* by the Northern Chapter of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers.



Mickey Conway
NACWA President
Chief Executive Officer
Metro Water Recovery
Denver, CO
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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.



Joe Crea
Vice President
Raftelis
Cincinnati, OH
[LinkedIn](#)

Joe Crea has spent more than 17 years working with water and wastewater utilities and has developed a thorough understanding of, and solutions to, the challenges they face. Mr. Crea leads Raftelis' Cincinnati Office. He works with municipal water and wastewater agencies across the country to develop rate and financial planning studies, cost-of-service studies, interjurisdictional agreements, bond feasibility engagements, and customer affordability analyses. He works with staff, leadership, and governing bodies for municipal utilities to find solutions to financial and managerial issues that can arise in providing sustainable and effective service delivery. Mr. Crea has published several articles on customer affordability and customer assistance programs, as well as on maintaining a financially resilient utility. He is actively involved in AWWA and WEF, serving on the AWWA's Rates and Charges Committee and presenting at numerous national conferences. Mr. Crea created and is Chair for the Ohio Section of AWWA's Utility Management Committee. He also authored a chapter entitled, "Identification of Revenue Requirements," for the Fourth Edition of the industry guidebook, *Water and Wastewater Finance and Pricing: The Changing Landscape*. Mr. Crea graduated from Clemson University in 2005 with a BS in Mathematical Sciences.



Nick Dailey
Chief Engineer – Design
City of Dayton Department of Water
Dayton, OH
[LinkedIn](#)

Nick Dailey graduated from the University of Dayton in 2005. He has worked at the City of Dayton for entire 21-year career. He is a licensed Professional Engineer, Class II Water Supply Operator, and Class III Wastewater Treatment Operator in the State of OH. Mr. Dailey has served in various engineering focused roles throughout career. Currently, he serve as the Chief Engineer overseeing Planning, Design, and GIS staff. Mr. Dailey is responsible for the planning and execution of the City of Dayton, Department of Water's Capital Improvement Program for the last 7 years.



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.



Adam Krantz

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

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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.

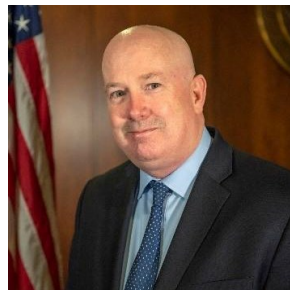
Prior to his position at NACWA, Mr. Krantz was an associate editor/reporter at Inside Washington Publishers where his work focused on covering the US Environmental Protection Agency's, Congress's and the federal court system's national water quality initiatives. Before entering the environmental arena, 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.



John Mastracchio
Executive Vice President
Raftelis
Niskayuna, NY
[LinkedIn](#)

John Mastracchio is a Vice President with Raftelis with more than 30 years of experience as a financial and management consultant. He holds an MBA from Cornell University and a Masters Degree from Clarkson University. He has assisted NACWA publish several reports and whitepapers, including the recent whitepaper titled “Resilience Strategies for Public Clean Water Utilities in a Shifting Financial Landscape”.



John Murray
Executive Director
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Chicago, IL

John Murray was appointed as Executive Director for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) in November 2025. He previously served as MWRD's Director of Maintenance and Operations for 9 years prior to his appointment as Executive Director. MWRD collects and treats approximately 450 billion gallons of wastewater annually by maintaining and operating seven wastewater treatment plants, a 554-mile network of intercepting sewers, and three tunnel and reservoir systems comprising 109 miles of deep tunnels and three reservoirs with a total capacity of 11 billion gallons. Mr. Murray has extensive experience in stormwater management, including development of watershed plans, capital projects, and a countywide regulatory ordinance. Mr. Murray holds a BS from Purdue University and a Master of Public Works from the Illinois Institute of Technology.



Sharon Peters

President and Chief Executive Officer
EMA, Inc.
Saint Paul, MN

[LinkedIn](#)

Sharon Peters is President of EMA, Inc. who works with utilities to build their management capabilities. She helps them develop organizational and workforce plans to improve quality and reliability, create staffing strategies and employee development programs, and prepare for a more technology and data-driven future.

Ms. Peters is also a Board member and Executive Director for the Water Customer Care Forum (WCCF), an unaffiliated, self-funded, not-for-profit organization for water and wastewater utility customer care leaders. Prior to joining EMA, Ms. Peters worked in operations management and engineering for 11 years with Metro Vancouver, a regional water and wastewater utility serving 1.4 million customers.

Ms. Peters is a Registered Professional Engineer who has worked in utility operations and environmental management for 29 years. Ms. Peters holds an MS in Civil Engineering and a BS in Geological Engineering from Queen's University in Ontario, Canada.



Nathan Qualls

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

[LinkedIn](#)

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.



Christina Romero

Acting Assistant Director, Financial Services

Austin Water

Austin, TX

[LinkedIn](#)

Christina Romero is currently the Acting Assistant Director of Financial Services at Austin Water. The organization was honored with the Government Finance Officers Association Award for Excellence in 2021 for its effective debt management strategies, which aim to provide affordable water services. Ms. Romero holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a major in Accounting, as well as a MS in Accountancy.

Ms. Romero brings a wealth of expertise in accounting, auditing, banking, and finance, cultivated through years of experience in both public and private sectors. Over the past 12 years, she has committed her professional journey to Austin Water, where she oversees Asset Management, Budget and Accounting, Financial Management, and Supply Chain Divisions.



Kristina Surfus

Managing Director, Government Affairs

National Association of Clean Water Agencies

Washington, DC

[LinkedIn](#)

Kristina Surfus joined the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in 2015 and now serves as Managing Director, Government Affairs. In this role, Mrs. Surfus leads NACWA's federal legislative and regulatory teams to support the work of public clean water agencies. Prior to joining NACWA, Mrs. Surfus worked on Capitol Hill and as a municipal environmental and economic consultant. Mrs. Surfus earned a Masters of Freshwater Science and Policy from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee and BS in Environmental Analysis & Policy and International Relations from Boston University.



Brandon Vatter

Senior Manager

Raftelis

Kansas City, MO

[LinkedIn](#)

With a strong technical, operations, and project management background with water, wastewater and stormwater utilities, **Brandon Vatter** regularly provides guidance on necessary capital investments, Best in

Class capital delivery and throughput improvements, Best in Class asset management program development and improvements, Operations staffing and efficiencies, NPDES permit compliance and EPA regulatory compliance to meet the obligations, goals, and asset management needs of clients.

Mr. Vatter has over 30 years of experience working directly with multiple public and private clients on the regulatory, consulting, water, wastewater and stormwater utility sides to deliver capital, operations, and asset management programs on-time, at or under budget, and in compliance with necessary regulatory obligations and affordability. Mr. Vatter brings practical hands-on experience with capital improvement program development and delivery, asset management program development and implementation, planning & implementation of integrated watershed management plans, green and gray infrastructure projects for wet weather and consent decree compliance, hydraulic modeling, water, sewer and storm sewer design, wastewater collection and treatment facilities, solids processing facilities, master planning, and field construction and inspection.

Mr. Vatter is a Licensed Professional Engineer and a member of the Water Environment Federation (WEF)'s Capital Planning & Delivery committee. He has authored manuals of practice including the WEF Guide For Municipal Wet Weather Strategies and utility industry papers on asset management and capital delivery best practices, including a technical paper titled, Capital Delivery Optimization and Best Practices and Asset Management Made Easy – Applying Best Business Practices to Develop Practical Asset Management.