

Virtual Workshop - Navigating Partnerships with Data Centers: Strategies Every Utility Leader Needs

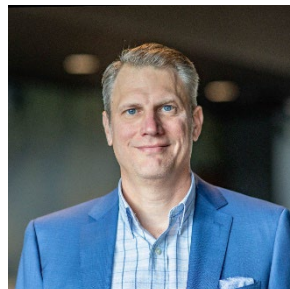
Speaker Profiles



Kristen Atha
NACWA Board Member
Executive Director
Columbus Water & Power
Columbus, OH
[LinkedIn](#)

Kristen Atha serves as the Director, Department of Public Utilities (DPU), for the Columbus Water & Power. 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 OH, 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 Columbus Water & Power, 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 (MORPC)'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.

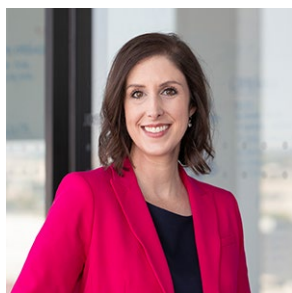


Brian Bakke
Global Wastewater Market Sector Director and Senior Vice President
HDR, Inc.
Columbia, MO
[LinkedIn](#)

Brian Bakke brings more than 25 years of industry experience to the role of wastewater director. He enjoys developing relationships and strategic partnerships with wastewater clients and collaborating with project teams to meet our clients' needs.

His technical expertise includes optimizing the use of biogas at wastewater treatment plants. This involves assessing facilities utilizing cogeneration systems, evaluating other biogas uses, and optimizing system function for maximum efficiency. Brian is also considered an expert with BioWin and other modeling programs, and has assisted both municipal and industrial clients in identifying cost-effective solutions.

Active in the industry's professional organizations, he has authored or co-authored articles for the Water Environment Research Foundation and Industrial Wastewater magazine and has presented numerous papers at the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibit.



Lauren Barbir

Associate Vice President, Business Development Director, Data Centers
HDR, Inc.
Southampton, PA
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Lauren Barbir is an Associate Vice President and Business Development Director for HDR's Tech, Media, & Telecom (TMT) sector. She leads data center client development across HDR's portfolio of engineering, architecture, and environmental design and consulting services and provides executive oversight for water project delivery. Ms. Barbir serves on the Water-AI Nexus Center of Excellence Advisory Council, 7x24 Exchange Greater Philadelphia Board of Directors, and iMasons Climate Accord Water Working Group. She holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame and MBA from Pennsylvania State University.



Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells

NACWA President
Chief Executive Officer
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Cleveland, OH
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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, Mrs. 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.

Mrs. Dreyfuss-Wells graduated Summa Cum Laude from The Ohio State University with a BS 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.

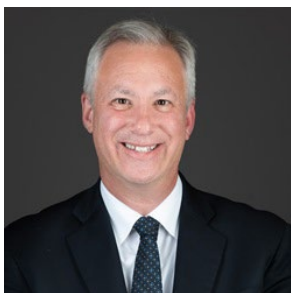


Calvin Farr, Jr.
NACWA Treasurer
General Manager/Chief Executive Officer
Prince William Water
Woodbridge, VA
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Calvin Farr, Jr. is the General Manager/Chief Executive Officer of Prince William Water, one of VA's highest-performing water and wastewater authorities. He leads an award-winning organization recognized nationally for excellence in sustainability, reliability, financial stewardship, and customer service. Prince William Water consistently delivers top-quartile performance across industry benchmarks, including 100% regulatory compliance, exceptional service reliability, and consecutive AAA bond ratings. The utility continues to earn major honors such as *NACWA's Platinum Peak Performance Award*, the *GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting*, and the *NACWA National Environmental Achievement Award*.

Mr. Farr has guided the largest digital modernization in the organization's history by implementing a unified strategy that includes ERP deployment, SCADA modernization, and a comprehensive digital workflow and analytics platform. His leadership reinforces a people-first culture through expanded workforce development pipelines, strengthened recruiting partnerships, and enhanced professional learning opportunities that elevate employee engagement and support a high-performing workforce.

Prince William Water has also broadened community education and outreach programs—including Water Academy, H2Go Kids, and regional environmental partnerships—that deepen collaboration with schools, nonprofits, and environmental organizations. Mr. Farr holds engineering and public management degrees from Old Dominion University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Maryland and is a licensed Professional Engineer in VA, MD, and DC.



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.

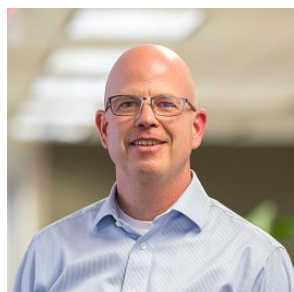


Bruno Pigott
Executive Director
WaterReuse Association
Alexandria, VA
[LinkedIn](#)



Chris Pomeroy
President
AquaLaw PLC
Richmond, VA
[LinkedIn](#)

Chris Pomeroy is President and Co-Founder of AquaLaw and a nationally recognized water lawyer and frequent speaker on water and environmental law. He has 30 years of experience handling complex permitting, compliance counseling, enforcement, and litigation under the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and other federal and state environmental laws. Mr. Pomeroy advises and represents owners, operators, and developers of major water-related facilities and infrastructure, including water supplies and reservoirs, water and wastewater systems, treatment facilities, pipelines, and stormwater systems. His substantive expertise includes water rights and withdrawals, wastewater discharges, PFAS issues, water reuse, biosolids recycling, nutrient control and trading, and environmental remediation. He also has extensive experience with legislative drafting and lobbying, regulatory negotiation, water and wastewater contracts, utility rates, and environmental mitigation markets.



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

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

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

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



Gilbert Trejo

Vice President, Engineering, Operations & Technical Services
El Paso Water
El Paso, TX
[LinkedIn](#)

Gilbert Trejo has over 20 years of engineering, business development and utility management experience in the water sector. While at El Paso Water he has served as the Chief Technical Officer leading engineering and planning and as Chief Operations Officer for all treatment and water production facilities. He currently serves as the Vice President of Operations and Technical Services.

He has served on the board of directors for the WaterReuse Association and Water Research Foundation, including a two year term as President of the WaterReuse Association.

Mr. Trejo earned a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso and a MS in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering from the University of Texas, Austin. He is a registered Professional Engineering, Board Certified Environmental Engineer, and a Certified Flood Plain Manager.



Angela Yuan

Senior Manager, Environmental Policy
Data Center Coalition
Leesburg, VA
[LinkedIn](#)

Angela Yuan is the Senior Manager of Environmental Policy at the Data Center Coalition (DCC). In this role, Ms. Yuan leads DCC's environmental policy and sustainability efforts, with a primary focus on water resource management.

Ms. Yuan's environmental experience spans the grassroots, state, federal, and international levels. Before joining DCC, she worked as a Project Manager at the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, collaborating with bipartisan US legislators on water, sustainable agriculture, and environmental justice solutions. Earlier in her career, she worked on the Flint Water Crisis and PFAS litigation, co-developed a US EPA award-winning watershed plan, worked at the US Forest Service, and founded a clean water project on Mfangano Island, Kenya, supporting thousands of people daily.

As a Schwarzman Scholar in China, Ms. Yuan became focused on leveraging private-sector innovation, speed, and capital to advance public environmental goals. She has since worked with the United Nations on a sustainable business project, with Walmart on a carbon-reduction consultancy, and co-authored both a Japanese government-sponsored international data center sustainability roadmap and a Google-sponsored Columbia Center on Global Energy Policy data center policy report.

Ms. Yuan holds a Master of Philosophy in Environmental Policy from the University of Cambridge, a Master of Management in Global Affairs from Tsinghua University, and a BS in Environmental Studies from Michigan State University. Outside of work, Angela loves to travel, paint, and spend time in nature.