

2026 Pretreatment Workshop

Speaker Profiles



Amanda Aspatore

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

Amanda Aspatore, Chief Legal Officer at the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in Washington, DC, represents public wastewater and stormwater agencies of all sizes nationwide on legal, regulatory, and policy matters to ensure they have the tools necessary to provide affordable and sustainable clean water for all. Prior to joining NACWA, Ms. Aspatore worked as the Associate General Counsel, Litigation & Environment at the Edison Electric Institute and the Vice President, Water Law & Policy at the National Mining Association. Ms. Aspatore also served as a law clerk in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Virginia and the US Department of Transportation's Office of Hearings.

Ms. Aspatore has received certification from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Standards Academy, and is a graduate of the William and Mary School of Law, where she served on the Environmental Law and Policy Review, and Washington and Lee University. Ms. Aspatore is admitted to practice in VA.



Joshua Balentine

Senior Manager, Client Services
Brown and Caldwell
Memphis, TN
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Joshua Balentine serves as the Pretreatment Program Technical Advisor for Brown and Caldwell, supporting municipal pretreatment programs and enhanced source control initiatives across the US and Canada. He brings extensive experience in pretreatment consulting, having managed one of the largest and most complex pretreatment programs in the country, and previously served as a contractor for both the US EPA and state pretreatment programs.

Mr. Balentine holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Memphis and an Executive MBA from the University of Alabama. He is also licensed as a Grade 4 Wastewater Treatment Operator in both TN and AZ.



Kerry Britt

Co-Chair, Pretreatment & Pollution Prevention Committee

Pretreatment Manager

Narragansett Bay Commission

Providence, RI

[LinkedIn](#)

Kerry Britt is the Pretreatment Manager for the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC). She has been in this position since 2004. She is responsible for the overall operation of the Pretreatment Program which includes permitting and inspecting commercial and industrial users, emergency response and ensuring federal and state pretreatment mandates are met. The NBC Pretreatment Program is responsible for the protection of Rhode Island's two largest wastewater treatment plants which receive wastewater from ten cities and towns and overseeing the regulation of over 1,600 permitted users.

Ms. Britt joined the NBC's Pretreatment Program in 1992 and Industrial Wastewater Control Engineer and was promoted to Pretreatment Manager in 2003. Ms. Britt earned her BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rhode Island in 1986. She currently serves as the Co-Chair of NACWA's Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention Committee.



Kirsten Bshara

Environmental Compliance Coordinator

Portland Water District

Portland, ME

Kirsten Bshara is the Environmental Compliance Coordinator for the Portland Water District (PWD) and has over 18 years of experience in the environmental science field. In her current role, she manages all aspects of two industrial pretreatment programs in the Greater Portland area. Prior to her current role, Ms. Bshara worked as a Water Resources Specialist for PWD, focusing on lake and watershed protection efforts around Sebago Lake, the public water supply for the Greater Portland area.

Ms. Bshara has a BA in Biology with a Concentration in Environmental Science from Colby College in Waterville, ME and a MS in Ecology in Environmental Science from the University of Maine at Orono.



Mickey Conway
NACWA President
Chief Executive Officer
Metro Water Recovery
Denver, CO
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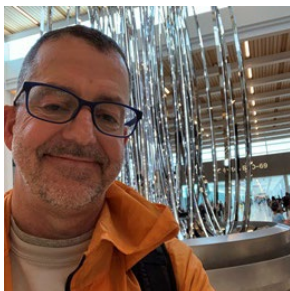
Mickey Conway was named as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Metro Water Recovery in Denver, Colorado in January 2018. He served as Metro's General Counsel for the 4 years prior to his appointment as CEO. Metro Water Recovery operates two treatment plants and collection systems that serve over 60 local 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.



Chris Desiderati
Environmental Services Supervisor
Clackamas Water Environment Services
Oregon City, OR
[LinkedIn](#)



Frank Dick
Co-Chair, Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention Committee
Wastewater Treatment Engineering Manager
City of Vancouver
Vancouver, WA
[LinkedIn](#)

Frank Dick oversees wastewater treatment engineering functions for Vancouver, including planning, capital project management, O&M contract administration and Vancouver's fully delegated pretreatment program. Vancouver's sewerage area serves a population of 250,000 and includes 13 Categorical Industrial Users, 8 other Significant Industrial Users, 6 Minor Industrial Users, and over 100 other written discharge authorizations, a Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) management program and a dental mercury reduction program.

Prior to his 18 years at Vancouver, he spent 14 years at semiconductor and electronics manufacturing facilities in the Portland-Vancouver area, in consultant and staff positions for facilities engineering and environmental compliance.

Mr. Dick currently serves as the Co-Chair of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention Committee and is active Oregon ACWA and Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association. Mr. Dick earned his BS in Chemical Engineering from Washington State University.

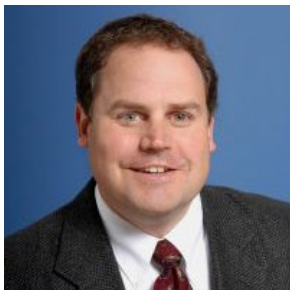


Cynthia Finley

Director, Regulatory Affairs
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Washington, DC

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Cynthia Finley is Director of Regulatory Affairs at the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), which represents the interests of 350 publicly owned wastewater utilities. She joined NACWA in 2006 and works on regulatory issues related to pretreatment and pollution prevention, wet weather management, collection systems, energy, and security and emergency preparedness. Before joining NACWA, Cynthia was an assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Missouri - Columbia. Mrs. Finley earned her PhD in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, a MS in civil engineering from the University of Washington, and a BS in civil engineering from Texas A&M University. Outside of NACWA, Ms. Finley is kept busy with her family, which consists of her husband, four kids, three cats, two dogs, a turtle, and a crested gecko.



Scott Firmin

General Manager
Portland Water District
Portland, ME

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Scott Firmin joined the Portland Water District in 2001 as an Operations Engineer in the Wastewater Services Department. After holding the position of wastewater plant and systems manager, Mr. Firmin was promoted to the Director of Wastewater Services where he is responsible for the operations of the district's collection and interception systems, pump stations, and treatment plants across six communities in the Greater Portland area.

Before joining the District, Mr. Firmin worked as a project manager for Applied Water Management in Taunton, MA. Prior to that, he spent over nine years as an engineer at one of the country's largest treatment plants in Newark, NJ.

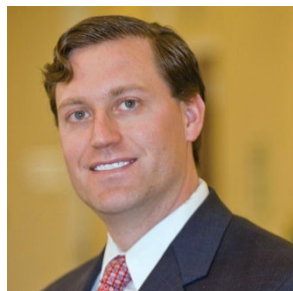
Mr. Firmin received an MBA from the University of Southern Maine and holds a master's degree in environmental engineering from the NJ Institute of Technology and a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of NH. He is a registered Professional Engineer in ME and maintains the highest level of ME wastewater licensure, Grade 5 and a Grade IV New England Water Environment Association Voluntary Collections System Certification.



Mary Kate Forkan

Lead Scientist
Carollo Engineers, Inc.
Reno, NV
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Mary Kate Forkan is a Lead Scientist and Pretreatment Lead at Carollo Engineers, Inc. Her experience in the pretreatment world covers everything from industrial waste surveys and local limits evaluations to building an enhanced source control program from scratch. She has worked with clients in multiple states to help solve their pretreatment problems. Her passion is solving novel source control issues such as helping a utility develop temperature based local limits, helping AZ utilities interpret and implement the requirements of the Advanced Water Purification rule, and developing an enhanced source control framework for potable reuse for the country of Australia as part of a Water Research Australia project. She is so excited to be here and chat about her favorite topic – enhanced source control for potable reuse.



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 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 MD and DC bars. He received his BA from Columbia University in 2001 and his JD from the University of Maryland School of Law in 2005.



Sonya Harrison

Senior Environmental Specialist

Goldie & Associates

Seneca, SC

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Sonya Harrison works as a Senior Environmental/Pretreatment Specialist with Goldie Associates in Seneca, SC. With 26 years at Goldie and a total of 36 years in Wastewater and Pretreatment, Ms. Harrison brings a wealth of experience to the table in her work with municipalities and industries. One of Ms. Harrison's strong suits is working with industries to protect the municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants, while optimizing the capabilities of the treatment plants to enhance the economic attractiveness of the community for industries.

Her work as an industrial consultant, as a municipal regulator, and as an environmental and pretreatment specialist provides her with a well-rounded knowledge with which to serve her clients.



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.



Jamie Lefowitz

Innovation Development Leader
Brown and Caldwell
South Lake Tahoe, CA
[LinkedIn](#)

Jamie Lefkowitz is a professional engineer with nearly 20 years of experience in the water/wastewater industry. During this time, she has assisted municipal utilities with solving a wide variety of problems from water supply planning to stormwater treatment. Recently she built and led Brown and Caldwell (BC)'s data science team in developing novel AI applications tailored for use in the water/wastewater industry. Ms. Lefkowitz is now BC's Innovation Development Leader, working to grow cutting edge technical solutions from ideas to reality.



Forrest Lindsey

Innovation Development Leader
Brown and Caldwell
Little Rock, AR

Forrest Lindsey serves as the National Pretreatment Team Technical Lead for Brown and Caldwell, supporting municipal pretreatment programs across the US and Canada through local limit evaluations, ordinance review, enforcement strategies, FOG program development, and industrial user support. He brings over a decade of experience in pretreatment consulting, municipal pretreatment program management, and state NPDES permit writing.

Mr. Lindsey holds a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Missouri - Rolla. He is also licensed as a Class 3 Wastewater and Industrial Wastewater Treatment Operator in AR.



Jan Pickrel

National Pretreatment Team Coordinator
US Environmental Protection Agency,
Office of Wastewater Management
Washington, DC

Jan Pickrel is EPA's National Pretreatment Program Coordinator in the Water Permits Division of the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) as well as the OWM Climate Change Coordinator. She coordinates the implementation issues regarding industrial wastewater permits and the development of technology-based effluent guidelines and categorical standards with EPA's Office of Science and Technology and other EPA offices. She has taught over 30 intensive courses and webinars on the pretreatment program across the nation with the Water Environment Federation and spoken at many other venues on the development and implementation of pretreatment programs and the regulation of industrial wastewater discharges.

Prior to coming to EPA's Office of Wastewater Management in 1997, Ms. Pickrel worked for 13 years at Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)'s Northern Virginia Regional Office, where she served as the Pretreatment Coordinator and Senior Environmental Engineer with the region's VPDES Program. During her tenure at VDEQ, she also served as the Chief Regional Geologist and has extensive experience in land application of biosolids, ground water and surface water investigations, and oil spill remediation efforts.

Ms. Pickrel received her BS in Geology from the College of William and Mary and a Masters of Engineering Administration from George Washington University.



Jennifer Schultz

Senior Associate for Policy and Programs
Product Stewardship Institute, Inc.
Boston, MA

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Jen Schultz brings 15 years of experience in legislative research, advocacy, technical assistance, and policy development to her role at Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. (PSI), where she works with diverse stakeholders to advance extended producer responsibility (EPR) policies and programs across a range of products, including paint, mattresses, packaging, textiles, and solar panels. In addition to developing detailed EPR tools and resources, she serves as PSI's legislative tracking lead and facilitates state-based policy workgroups in the Pacific Northwest, IL, MA, and MO. Prior to joining PSI, Ms. Schultz spent 11 years

as program principal for environment, energy, and transportation at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), a bipartisan organization that serves state legislators and staff in all 50 states and US territories. She led research and advised policymakers on complex issues—including environmental health and water quality—and directed NCSL’s Public-Private Partnership on Recycling initiative. Ms. Schultz holds bachelor’s degrees in International Affairs and Geography, and a JD with a focus on environmental law and policy.



Jonathan Thompson
Water/Wastewater Engineer
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Fort Worth, TX
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Jonathan Thompson is an environmental engineer with nine years of experience in wastewater. Before starting his engineering career, Mr. Thompson obtained a bachelor’s in biochemistry and a master’s in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington. In his current role with HDR Engineering, Inc., his favorite projects are wastewater design projects and pretreatment projects, helping municipalities with their treatment and industrial pretreatment needs.



Elizabeth Toot-Levy
Senior Water Resources Scientist
Geosyntec Consultants
Cleveland, OH
[LinkedIn](#)

Beth Toot-Levy is a Senior Scientist based in OH with more than 23 years of experience in environmental and regulatory compliance, specifically Clean Water Act (CWA) compliance. She leads projects related to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting and the CWA across the country for municipalities, industries, attorneys, and other consultants. She specializes in regulatory compliance related to water quality and focuses on evaluating new and existing permit requirements, rules, regulations, and legislation for scientific legitimacy, achievability, and appropriateness. Her evaluations include reviewing or setting effluent limits that are based on technology and water quality, analyzing and interpreting data, and reviewing associated NPDES permit limits to assess whether water-quality standards and waste load allocations have been properly applied. She works with municipal clients to develop or update their industrial pretreatment programs, from revising sewer-use ordinances to calculating local limits and developing industrial user permitting programs. She supports industrial clients with compliance issues regarding their discharge permits and has helped

municipalities incorporate growing industries, such as manufacturing of EV batteries and microchips, into their programs. She has been instrumental in expanding Geosyntec's industrial pretreatment practice.

Ms. Toot-Levy serves as a key technical and policy resource for clients such as the Agricultural Nutrient's Policy Council, the Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Associations, Ohio Soybean Council, and the Association of Ohio Municipal Wastewater Agencies. She is actively involved with the Ohio Water Environment Association (OWEA) and serves as the appointed chair of the OWEA's Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee, where she volunteers as a leader concentrating on nutrient issues and other emerging water-quality issues. In addition, she represents OWEA on the Water Environment Federation (WEF) Government Affairs Committee and is the WEF Government Affairs representative to the association's Technical Practice Committee. She is also active in the Northeast Section OWEA Pretreatment Committee and was awarded the section's pretreatment award in 2022. She was recently awarded the *OWEA's FH Waring Award* for her contributions to industrial pretreatment in OH. She is also a member of the National Association of Clean Water Agency's Water Quality and Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention Committees.