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

Speaker Profiles



Brian Bakke
Senior Vice President, Global Wastewater Market Sector Director
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
LinkedIn

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.



Brian Carnes
General Manager
Loudoun Water
Ashburn, VA
LinkedIn

Brian Carnes joined Loudoun Water in 2007. An experienced leader in the utility sector, he currently serves as Deputy General Manager of Finance, where he leads the Finance, Technology Services, and Employee Services & Risk Management Divisions. Mr. Carnes received his BS in Business Administration from James Madison University and MBA from Frostburg State University.



Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells
NACWA President
Chief Executive Officer
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
Cleveland, OH
LinkedIn

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
LinkedIn

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.



Anthony Giovannone
Manager of Water Supply & Infrastructure
Google, LLC
LinkedIn

Anthony Giovannone is a Professional Engineer who serves as the Lead for Google's Water Supply and Infrastructure team Globally. He specializes in the management of hyperscale data center technical infrastructure and the development of strategic water utility partnerships. Throughout a career spanning more than 15 years, Mr. Giovannone has directed diverse projects within the water sector on a global scale, overseeing initiatives from initial conceptualization through to operational execution.

He collaborates extensively with utility partners to design, secure, and implement scalable, risk-adjusted, and sustainable infrastructure for Google data centers and their surrounding communities. Mr. Giovannone has led the development of several innovative utility programs, including large-scale water reuse initiatives. While he and his team maintain a global presence, they remain dedicated to addressing local water impacts and fostering community-engaged water infrastructure development.



Usman Khan
Principal – Water Strategy
Amazon Web Services
Alexandria, VA
LinkedIn

Usman Khan is the Principal of Water Strategy at AWS. He has 15 years of experience in the water industry. He holds a PhD in Environmental Engineering from McGill University in Canada and an MBA from Northwestern University.



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

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 Newsome
Administrator, Division of Water
Columbus Water & Power
Columbus, OH
LinkedIn

Newsome is the Administrator of the Division of Water for the City of Columbus. His purview includes the City's water plants, reservoirs, wells, tanks, booster stations and distribution network. The Division has an approximate strength of 500 employees and provides service to 26 entities in Central OH. He also serves as a national board member for the Water Reuse Association and is the past president of the Ohio Water Reuse Chapter. Prior to joining the Division of Water, Mr. Newsome served as the Administrator for the Division of Sewerage and Drainage, now the Division of Water Reclamation, with the City of Columbus.



Bruno Pigott
Executive Director
WateReuse Association
Alexandria, VA
LinkedIn

Bruno Pigott is the Executive Director of the WateReuse Association, the nation's only trade association solely dedicated to advancing laws, policy, funding, and public acceptance of recycled water.

Prior to joining WateReuse, Mr. Pigott served as the Acting Assistant Administrator for the US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water, where he oversaw all safe drinking water, wastewater, and surface water programs, as well as the National Water Reuse Action Plan. Mr. Pigott's three decades of federal, state, and local service also include leading the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.



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.



Jeff Sparks
Director of Digital Water
Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Virginia Beach, VA
LinkedIn

Jeff Sparks is a licensed Professional Engineer with 17 years of experience in design, operations, process control, and utility management. He holds a bachelor's degree from Virginia Military Institute, a master's degree from Virginia Tech, and a PhD from Université Laval. As the Director of Digital Water at Hampton Roads Sanitation District, Mr. Sparks leads efforts to digitalize operations, including deploying Digital Twins, integrating AI, and optimizing processes.



Trent Stober
Senior Vice President, Advisory Program Director
HDR, Inc.
Columbia, MO
LinkedIn

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 WateReuse Association and Water Research Foundation, including a two year term as President of the WateReuse 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.