

WWEMA 44th Washington Forum

Speaker Bios

Cristina Ahmadpour



As President of Isle, Cristina Ahmadpour is driven to accelerate positive change through the engagement of technology innovation and best practices via collaboration, validation, and engagement of key stakeholders. Her time in the industry has been focused on supporting the commercialization of qualified technologies by working with water utilities, clusters, regulators, investors, technology developers, contractors, sales representatives, and other salient players critical to the innovation ecosystem framework.

Ms. Ahmadpour graduated from Vermont Law School with a Masters in Environmental Law, emphasis in Energy, and received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, emphasis in Global Business Management, from California State University. In May 2016, she was identified as one of the top 14 new faces to guarantee great things for the water industry under the age of 40 by Water and Wastes Digest. She was selected for the Water Environment Federation's (WEF) Water Leadership Institute class of 2015. She is a volunteer member on several WEF national and regional committees.

Julia Anastasio



Julia Anastasio joined the Association of Clean Water Administrators in May 2014 as the new Executive Director and General Counsel. Ms. Anastasio has over 15 years of experience in government law and policy. Earlier in her career she worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as an Executive Policy Specialist and then she returned to Washington, DC to work for the American Public Works Association (APWA). While at APWA, she focused on environmental, sustainability, and infrastructure development at the local, state, and federal levels and has extensive experience with federal advocacy and administrative law before Congress and the Executive branch agencies. Ms. Anastasio earned her B.A. from Franklin Marshall College, her Masters in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School, and her J.D. from American University.

Ahmed Badruddin



Ahmed Badruddin is the CEO of WatrHub Inc., a fast-growing Big Data company that has introduced a novel, analytics-driven approach for water industry firms to pinpoint prospective utilities. Ahmed is a recognized water data pioneer and is regularly invited to speak at national water conferences. Prior to WatrHub, Ahmed worked in various technology leadership roles at Microsoft, where he incubated novel data systems to improve team workflows and knowledge sharing. Ahmed has a Bachelor's of Applied Science from the University of Toronto in Electrical Engineering.

Rick Farrell

Rick Farrell is Executive Director of the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities, the national organization of state managers of the State Revolving Fund Programs. Mr. Farrell was Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency during the Clinton Administration, heading the Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, the principal policy and economics advisory group for the Agency. Prior to his Federal appointment, he was a member of Governor Lawton Chiles' Cabinet in Florida as Secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the primary regulatory and consumer protection agency in the state. He served as Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Senator Chiles for much of his tenure in the U.S. Senate. Mr. Farrell worked in the private sector as Vice President of Syntex Corporation, a

worldwide pharmaceutical and medical device company, directing the government affairs program. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Florida State University and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Emily Feenstra



Emily Feenstra is a Deputy Director at the U.S. Water Alliance. In this capacity she oversees a diverse portfolio of projects and manages partnerships with Alliance members and supporters to advance one water management in America. Prior to joining the U.S. Water Alliance, Emily was the Director of Infrastructure Initiatives and Public Affairs at the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). In that role she led policy and advocacy initiatives for the ASCE, including ASCE's *Report Card for America's Infrastructure*, the *Failure to Act* economic study series, and other reports designed to influence infrastructure policy. She also directed the media relations team for the 145,000-member Society. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Duke University and a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Washington.

Aaron Fisher



Aaron Fisher joined the LIFT program as the Technology and Innovation Collaboration Manager helping to accelerate the deployment of new water resource recovery technologies. He was most recently a contractor with Energetics to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), working with the Bioenergy Technologies Office, the Office of Technology Transitions, and the Advanced Manufacturing Office. He served as a member of the DOE Wet Waste-to-Energy Team, where he was lead author for the reports from the Energy-Positive Water Resource Recovery Workshop, the Waste-to-Energy Workshop, and the Hydrogen, Hydrocarbons and Bioproduct Precursors Workshop. Aaron received his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Maryland, and a B.S. in Chemistry from Duke University.

Peter Grevatt



Peter Grevatt is the Director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW). The OGWDW, in collaboration with states, tribes, and its many stakeholders, is responsible for safeguarding America's drinking water. Dr. Grevatt is responsible for the development and implementation of national drinking water standards, oversight and funding of state drinking water programs, and the implementation of source water protection and underground injection control programs to protect public health nationwide.

Prior to joining the OGWDW in October of 2012, Grevatt served as the Director of the Office of Children's Health Protection and served as the Senior Advisor to EPA's Administrator for Children's Environmental Health. Peter has held leadership roles in EPA's national hazardous waste and water quality programs.


Mike Lunn



Mike Lunn is Environmental Service Department Manager for the City of Grand Rapids. He has been with the City of Grand Rapids for 18 years. Prior to joining the City he worked in Flint, Michigan for 20 years. Over his 38 years of service, he has lead numerous energy efficiency projects and been a champion of Low Impact Development.

Mr. Lunn was the City of Grand Rapids lead in a partnership with Milwaukee, American Rivers, the Center for Neighborhood Technology, and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative that worked on an EPA-funded project to create a system that would allow cities to steadily plan and implement decentralized storm water management controls (known as Green Infrastructure) over an extended time period. The result was the Green Infrastructure Portfolio Handbook, which can be used by other communities.

Most recently under Mr. Lunn's leadership, Grand Rapids was proclaimed a 2016 recipient of the prestigious *Utility of the Future Today* designation. The Grand Rapids Environmental Services



Department is among only 61 public and private utilities from across the U.S., Canada, and Denmark selected for recognition by a peer committee of utility leaders based on exceptional performance in promoting energy efficiency and environmental stewardship.

Carolina Mederos



Carolina Mederos is Co-chair of Squire Patton Boggs' Transportation, Infrastructure & Local Government Public Policy Practice. She counsels corporations, local governments, and trade associations on congressional and executive branch policy, legislative, and regulatory matters, with an emphasis on creative federal funding and infrastructure development. She regularly assists major corporations in removing outmoded and costly legislative, regulatory, and policy barriers, expanding market access and increasing competition. She has obtained billions of dollars for major public sector clients through legislation, grants, and innovative financing. Carolina's substantive, comprehensive, and creative strategies have consistently increased federal funding for public agencies and local governments. To achieve maximum benefit, she has developed and proposed new programs, changes in eligibility requirements and funding formulas, and succeeded in getting them enacted into law. Carolina worked with the American Water Works Association to develop, draft, and advocate for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

Carolina served for over 13 years in senior career positions in the Office of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), including as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, where she oversaw the Department's safety and security programs, and as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs. She also served as Director of Programs and Evaluation, where she was responsible for developing and defending the Department's authorizing and appropriations legislation before the Office of Management and Budget and Congress. She received the President of the United States Award for Meritorious Executive, the Secretary of Transportation Award for Outstanding Achievement (Gold Medal) the Department's highest honor, the Secretary of Transportation Award for Meritorious Achievement, and the Department of Transportation Award for Superior Achievement.

Karen Pallansch



Ms. Pallansch currently serves as CEO for Alexandria Renew Enterprises, previously known as the Alexandria Sanitation Authority. She has served as CEO for eleven years, during which time she led a rebranding effort that incorporated a successful public – developer partnership. Prior to her work with Alexandria Renew, Ms. Pallansch worked for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality as a Senior Engineer and as a General Engineer with the Department of the Army, charged with rehabilitating army ammunition bases and managing associated munitions research.

Ms. Pallansch has a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master's Degree in Business Management from Texas A&M University, Texarkana. She is a registered Engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia, has a Class I wastewater license, is a Water Environment Federation Fellow and is a Diplomate with the American Academy of Environmental Engineers.

She volunteers with several organizations, including the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) where she serves as a Board member. She is a Board member of the Virginia Municipal League Insurance Pool. She was previously chair of the Water Environment Research Foundation Research Council and served as an ex-officio member of the WERF Board.

Alan Roberson



Alan Roberson is currently the Executive Director of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA). ASDWA's members are co-regulators with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Alan and his staff work closely with EPA and the state and territorial drinking water agencies in the development and implementation of drinking water regulations. Prior to his position at ASDWA, he worked for Corona Environmental Consulting as their Director of Policy and retired after 25 years as Director of Federal Relations at the American Water Works Association (AWWA) in their Washington, DC Office.

Andrew Sawyers



Andrew Sawyers is the Director of the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, DC, where he oversees the management of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the Clean Water Act's mechanism for the permitting of municipal and industrial discharge into surface waters of the U.S. In his role as the Director of OWM, Andrew is also responsible for multiple technical and financial assistance tools for the development and maintenance of the country's wastewater infrastructure, including WIFIA, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and EPA's Water Finance Center.

Previously at EPA, Andrew was the Deputy Director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. In that capacity, he worked with the Director to manage the implementation of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Prior to EPA, he worked for the Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration, managing the State's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. Andrew has a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in Geography and Environmental Engineering.

Ken Simonson



Ken Simonson has been the Chief Economist of the Associated General Contractors of America, the leading trade association for the construction industry, since 2001. His weekly summary of economic news relevant to construction, *The Data DICEst*, goes to 447,000 subscribers. He is a Fellow and past president of the National Association for Business Economics, the professional organization for individuals who use economics in their work. Currently, he serves as an appointed member of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Data Users Advisory Committee. Ken has 40 years of experience analyzing, advocating, and communicating about economic and tax issues. He received a B.A. in economics from the University of Chicago and an M.A. in economics from Northwestern University.

Betsy Southerland



Elizabeth (Betsy) Southerland earned a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1981 and is presently the Director of the Office of Science and Technology (OST) in the Office of Water (OW).

Her primary CWA responsibilities are to: 1) develop national water quality criteria that identify pollutant concentrations which cannot be exceeded in rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastal waters in order to protect aquatic life, fishing, and swimming; 2) approve state water quality criteria or replace disapproved state criteria with legally enforceable federal criteria; and 3) establish national pollution control requirements for every industry discharging wastewater to waters of the U.S. Her primary SDWA responsibilities are to: 1) develop drinking water advisories recommending pollutant concentrations which should not be exceeded in order to prevent adverse human health impacts; and 2) establish public health goals for national drinking water standards required to be met by all public water utilities.