

WWEMA 46th Washington Forum – Speakers

Kiri Anderer, P.E.



Kiri Anderer, P.E. is a Senior Environmental Engineer on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Team at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) headquarters in Washington, DC. She has spent much of her 10 years with EPA working on the American Iron and Steel/Buy American requirements. Prior to EPA, Kiri spent 11 years working as a consulting engineer in the Baltimore and then Phoenix metropolitan areas, assisting large and small communities with integrated water resource master planning. She is a registered Professional Engineer in Maryland. Kiri has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University, and a Master of Public Policy from The George Washington University.

Rudd Coffey



Rudd Coffey, for decades, has been supporting U.S. EPA and states across the country in designing and implementing drinking water and clean water protection programs as a consultant at Northbridge, TetraTech, and The Cadmus Group. Rudd helped launch and implement EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), WIFIA, Capacity Development, and numerous drinking water rules (including Stage 1 DBPR, Stage 2 DBPR, LT2ESWTR, and the Ground Water Rule). He also led research projects for EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center on how communities finance stormwater infrastructure and how utilities create rate assistance programs to make water services affordable for residents. He led the support of EPA's SRFs during ARRA, including the implementation of Buy American, and was a contributor to several EPA Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Surveys. He is currently focusing on assisting states with improving the pace, efficiency, and flexibility of their SRF programs, as well as serving as a lead SRF trainer for EPA and state staff. He was born and raised in Oklahoma, graduated from Harvard College with a degree in Environmental Science and Public Policy, and lives and works in the suburbs West of Boston.

Richard Galen



Richard Galen has been press secretary to Congressmen and U.S. Senator, Dan Quayle, and Republican Whip, Newt Gingrich and later the communications director for Speaker Gingrich. He also has extensive non-U.S. business and political experience. At the time of the dissolution of the Communist governments in Eastern Europe, he was one of a select number of Americans sent to help build a democratic political infrastructure in the region. In 1992, while at Electronic Data Systems, he managed a staff which was located on three continents, in four time zones, covering three work weeks, and which spoke four languages. He established operations in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Turkey, Israel, and Egypt. In 2003, at the request of the White House, Rich did a six-month tour of duty in Iraq. He was responsible for bringing the message of the positive aspects of what the coalition was doing back to Middle America. Since 1998, he has written an on-line political column, Mullings.com, which reaches over 300,000 people per month and is read by senior reporters and political operatives of both parties. Also, with the International Republican Institute, Legacy International, and the ONE Campaign, he has been involved in developing world missions in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. In Washington, DC, he is an often quoted source for major American and European news outlets, as well as a frequent guest on MSNBC and CNN.

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Laura Johnson, Ph.D.



Laura Johnson, Ph.D., is director of the National Center for Water Quality Research (NCWQR) at Heidelberg University where she works on watershed sediment and nutrient export. Prior to joining the NCWQR in 2013, Laura received her Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame in 2008 and was a postdoc at Indiana University in Bloomington. Aside from working with the long-term Heidelberg dataset, her recent research also focuses on examining the influence of agricultural nutrient management on nutrient export, identifying sources of nutrients within watersheds, and contributing to the seasonal harmful algal bloom forecast for western Lake Erie.

Amy Kreps



Amy Kreps is an Environmental Technology Trade Specialist in the Industry & Analysis Office of Energy and Environmental Industries at the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration. Her portfolio includes the air pollution control and monitoring industries as well as the waste and recycling sectors. In her current capacity, she also coordinates the U.S. side of the U.S.-China Environmental Technology Working Group, the U.S.-China Environmental Industries Forum, and the environmental technologies work stream under the U.S.-Brazil Commercial Dialogue. Amy has served at the International Trade Administration since 2012, when she began covering market access and policy issues across a variety of sectors, including environmental technologies, as part of the Office of China and Mongolia. She holds a B.A. in Asian Studies from Carleton College, a graduate certificate in Chinese and American Studies from the Hopkins-Nanjing Center, and an M.A. in International Relations focusing on China and Southeast Asia from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Brian Lapointe, Ph.D.



Brian Lapointe, Ph.D., is internationally renowned for his research on water quality and harmful algal blooms in tropical and subtropical seagrass and coral reef ecosystems. Brian obtained a B.A. in Biology from Boston University (1973), a M.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Florida (1979), and a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of South Florida (1982). He has worked at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, and is currently a Research Professor in the Marine Ecosystem Health Program at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) -

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) in Ft. Pierce, FL. Since 1974, Dr. Lapointe has assessed nutrient pollution and harmful algal blooms in coastal waters of South Florida and the Caribbean region. Although his current work focuses on the declining health of the Indian River Lagoon and the *Sargassum* influx to the Caribbean region, he has led numerous research expeditions in Bermuda, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Jamaica, Martinique, Trinidad & Tobago, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Lucia, Barbados, and the Great Barrier Reef, Australia. Dr. Lapointe pioneered the use of ecological nutrient threshold concentrations that initiate algal blooms, as well as the use of stable nitrogen isotopes to “fingerprint” the source(s) of nitrogen enrichment. He established the longest low-level nutrient record for a coral reef anywhere in the world at Looe Key reef in the lower Florida Keys. Dr. Lapointe has published over 120 scientific papers, four book chapters, and was a contributing author of the book *Clean Coastal Waters: Understanding and Reducing Nutrient Pollution* published by the National Academy of Sciences. He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Sigma Xi Outstanding Research Award, a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Award, and inclusion in *Who's Who in Scuba Diving and Underwater Research* and *Who's Who in America, Science and Engineering, the Millennium Edition.* He served on the Editorial Board of *Harmful Algae* for 13 years and as a National Fellow in the Explorer's Club.

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Jennifer McLain, Ph.D.



Jennifer McLain, Ph.D., is the Acting Office Director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water and has 20 years of experience at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) both in the Office of Water and in the Office of Pesticide Programs. Jennifer joined EPA after earning a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Princeton University.

Deborah Nagle



Deborah Nagle has worked in a variety of water programs at the U.S. EPA since 1989 as an environmental engineer and later as a senior executive. She currently serves as the Acting Director of the Office of Science and Technology. Some of the key program areas for which Ms. Nagle is responsible include developing national aquatic and human health criteria; drinking water health advisories; policy and guidance for water quality standards and human health protection programs; and performance standards to address water pollution from industry, based on the best available technology economically achievable. She also is responsible for developing, reviewing, and approving methods for the analysis of pollutants in water and wastewater. Prior to this assignment, Ms. Nagle was the Director of the Water Permits Division where she served for six years as the National Program Manager responsible for implementing the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program under the Clean Water Act. Prior to working at the EPA, Ms. Nagle served seven years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She is a 1982 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a degree in engineering.

Brian Perlberg



Brian Perlberg serves as the Executive Director & Senior Counsel for ConsensusDocs, a coalition of 40 leading construction organizations. Mr. Perlberg is on the ABA Forum on the Construction Law Steering Committee for the Contract Documents, the Executive Committee for the National Construction Dispute Resolution Committee (NCDRC) of the Arbitration Association of America (AAA), and the Advisory Board for Construction SuperConference Board. He has been recognized as a top legal voice by Engineering News Record (ENR), and featured in Who's Who Legal, Construction. Mr. Perlberg, also serves as AGC of America's lead counsel on construction law matters. Previously, he served as General Counsel for the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA).

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Patricia Reyes



Patricia Reyes has been the Director of the Interstate Technology Regulatory Council (ITRC) since October, 2015. She is a recognized leader in environment and energy issues with experience at the federal, state, and congressional levels targeting technology transfer, stakeholder outreach, and policy development. Previously, she was a senior environmental manager at USEPA, DOE, and DoD focused on regulatory development, communications, and risk and program management. She was also a Presidential appointee and senior advisor to the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environmental Security providing policy recommendations and strategic advice on environment, safety, and occupational health issues. Her career has also included working for Congress as an environmental analyst at the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, and leading state cleanup programs at the National Governors' Association. She holds an MPA degree in Environmental Systems from the American University, Washington, D.C.

Andrew Sawyers, Ph.D.



Andrew Sawyers, Ph.D., 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), 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 EPA's 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 chief economist for the Associated General Contractors of America, the leading trade association for the construction industry, since 2001. He provides insight into the economy and what it implies for construction and related industries through frequent media interviews, presentations, and the Data DIGest, his weekly one-page e-newsletter that goes to 43,000 subscribers.

Ken has more than 40 years of experience analyzing, advocating, and communicating about economic and tax issues. He currently serves on the Census Bureau's Scientific Advisory Committee. He is a Fellow and past president of the National Association for Business Economics, and he is co-director of the Tax Economists Forum, a professional meeting group he co-founded in 1982. Ken has a B.A. in economics from the University of Chicago, and an M.A. in economics from Northwestern University.

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Alison Winters



Alison Winters is a Senior Fellow at Americans for Prosperity focusing on economic policies including fiscal policy and trade. Winters' prior experience includes a senior research fellow at the Charles Koch Institute, the Director of Economic Policy Studies at the Heritage Foundation, and Deputy Finance Director and Director of Research for Governor Frank Keating of Oklahoma. Winters has testified before Congress, and appeared on television including CNN, Fox News, Fox Business, CNBC, Bloomberg, and PBS and on numerous radio outlets from NPR to talk radio. She has authored several articles and been cited in outlets such as the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Morning Consult, Philadelphia Inquirer, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, New York Post, Washington Times, Politico, and the Hill.

Beate Wright, P.E.



Beate Wright, P.E., has been with The Water Research Foundation (WRF) since 2016. She serves as Executive Director, leading the Foundation's Development and Outreach and Communication and Marketing teams providing tactical direction on strategic partnerships and funding opportunities, and increasing engagement with stakeholders. She is responsible for developing and cultivating The Water Research Foundation's congressional and government agency relationships to increase WRF subscriber value through elevating awareness of WRF's resources and strategic vision and identifying and addressing national and regional water research priorities. Previously, she was the Director of Operations for Loudoun Water in Virginia where she ensured the effective operation of Loudoun Water's 18 million gallons per day (mgd) drinking water facility, 11 mgd water reclamation and reuse facility, and informed the design of their new 20 mgd drinking water treatment facility. She also worked for Hazen and Sawyer, Parsons Engineering Science, Inc., and served as a Captain and sanitary engineer in the US Army Medical Service Corps. Beate is a Professional Engineer with a B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Clarkson University, NY, and a Masters in Engineering from Manhattan College, NY.