

2023 WEF FELLOWS

BIOGRAPHIES

Created to celebrate outstanding contributions to the global water sector by long-time Water Environment Federation (WEF) members, the WEF Fellows Recognition Program each year recognizes the professional achievement, stature, and contributions of WEF members to the preservation and enhancement of the global water environment.

The following 15 WEF members have been selected fellows in 2023 for their lasting difference for public health and the environment.



SOMNATH BASU, PHD, P.E.

Water Environment Association of Texas

Dr. Somnath Basu has over 35 years of experience in process engineering for the chemical, energy and water and wastewater treatment sectors. He leads technology and product development activities at his current firm and at his previous affiliations. A few of his career highlights are:

- Headworks Intl. in Collaboration with Rice University, Black & Veatch and City of Houston: Leading a pilot research project sponsored by NSF "GOALI: Collaborative Research: Advancing wastewater treatment resiliency and sustainability goals in the face of climate change," BlueTech Research, Cork, Ireland.
- Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA): Deer Island Treatment Plant, Boston: Program Manager of Process Engineering: played a leadership role from pilot to design to startup and commissioning of new 1200 mgd wastewater treatment plant for the City of Boston, which won the 1998 Excellence in Design Award from the MWRA.
- US Filter/Veolia/Siemens Water Technologies: Manager of Municipal Wastewater R&D of the North American Technology Center (NATC), Director of Process Engineering responsible for overseeing R&D program for Siemens Water Technologies.
- CDM: Industrial Wastewater Treatment Practice Leader.
- AECOM: Executive Director, AECOM Asia and Technical Practice Leader for the oil and gas business sector. He was responsible for developing market in Asia region of AECOM. Responsible for building upstream water/wastewater treatment practice for AECOM in collaboration with Baker Hughes.
- Shell Global Solutions: Served as a global technical expert in the water team of the engineering and R&D organization of Shell Oil Co.

Dr. Basu has taught undergraduate and graduate environmental engineering courses as an adjunct faculty member at several universities in the Boston area. He has two patents, numerous technical publications, and has given many global presentations.

Dr. Basu is considered by his peers to be one of the most capable and knowledgeable persons in process engineering for the chemical, energy and water and wastewater treatment sectors. He has been a great mentor to many young professionals in WEF under the umbrella of Industrial Wastewater Committee (IWWC), as well as Technical Practice Committee (TPC). He has contributed, co-authored, and peer-reviewed several Manuals of Practice publications for WEF.

Dr. Basu has tremendous knowledge relevant to academia as well as industry practices. He currently serves as the Chair for the Publications subcommittee of WEF Industrial Water & Wastewater Committee, Chair of the Technical Practice Committee and is a member of the Government Affairs Committee. Additionally, has authored two chapters of the book Industrial Water Reclamation & Reuse to Minimize Liquid Discharge published by WEF in 2018.

Due to his deep knowledge about different aspects of our water and wastewater industry, he was invited to speak at one of the PFAS workshops at WEFTEC 2021. For WEF's first book on PFAS, he is managing a chapter on emerging technologies of PFAS treatment and helping the editorial team successfully publish the book. He is a true leader of our industry and WEF.



DR. LYNN E. BROADDUS

Central States Water Environment Association

Lynn is an inspirational convener, connecting the dots creating unique combinations within the knowledge and energy trust of the water industry, causing those involved to finally see connections that have always been there, but never fully realized.

With nearly 40 years in the water, biodiversity, and ecosystem conservation sectors, Lynn's experience combines executive and governance leadership, convening for impact, project management, program assessment, stakeholder input, and strategic guidance. She is known for bringing novel solutions to long-standing challenges, particularly where water, equity, and sustainability intersect.

Lynn is highly regarded as a national expert on water systems and sustainability, particularly in distributed water infrastructure. As founder and president of Broadview Collaborative, Inc., she serves as a strategic advisor providing consulting expertise, including presentations, speeches, and thought pieces on water systems and sustainability, convening and facilitation, stakeholder engagement, and program assessment services and strategy development. Her clients include funding organizations, national and regional conservation NGOs, higher education institutions, and water innovators. She is the author of *Opportunities in Distributed Water Infrastructure* (2019) and *H2Equity: Rebuilding a Fair System of Water Services for America* (2020).

She has led the Johnson Foundation's environment program (2004-2008), and under the umbrella of "Charting New Waters," she has convened hundreds of leaders address national water sustainability and resilience. Earlier, she held leadership roles with Milwaukee Riverkeeper, The Nature Conservancy, and NatureServe. Lynn also served energy conservation specialist and a biology/mathematics teacher. She earned her PhD from Duke University, her M.B.A from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and her bachelor's degree from University of Virginia.

Lynn is a former Trustee and Past President of WEF. She is a past chair of the River Network's Board, and is a member emerita (past chair) of the University of Wisconsin Madison's Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies Board of Visitors.



RALPH ERIK EXTON

Pennsylvania Water Environment Association

Ralph Exton joined Grundfos in November 2022 as VP – Water Utility and Chief Marketing Officer, where he is the global leader for Solutions and Marketing, Product Management, and Business Development. Prior to Grundfos, Ralph was a member of the overall Suez Top Executive (TOPEX) team and was responsible for providing leadership and program direction for SUEZ –Water Technologies & Solutions in the areas of: strategic marketing activities, communications, business development, digital, and business strategy. He also led several integration workstreams for the merger with Veolia.

For 16 years, Ralph worked for GE Water & Process Technologies in a Senior Executive capacity and served for six years as CMO. Ralph joined the business in 1994 and held numerous roles with increased responsibility for product management, commercial operations, business development, channel strategy, digital marketing, global sales management, global key accounts, digital IoT and M&A projects. During his time with GE, he was also the business program manager for the leadership development programs, which were designed to recruit, develop and grow future commercial leaders.

Ralph was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Water Environment Federation (WEF), an international organization of water quality professionals, for five years (2012–2017), where he served as Treasurer/Officer for three consecutive years and chaired the Audit committee. He was elected to the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Board Committee in 2020 and is currently serving in this capacity. In 2023 he joined the WEF Circular Economy Advisory Committee. Ralph is a long-time member of the PA Water Environment Association (PWEA).

Ralph is the Co-Founder and Board Director of Partnering for Impact (PFI), a not-for-profit platform for influencers inspiring the water sector to achieve sustainability and resiliency goals, drive equitable economic prosperity, encourage the next generation of professionals, create innovations, and build research and development capacity. Ralph was also the founding co-chair of the AIChE International Society for Water Solutions from 2012–2014. Additionally, he is currently a member of the Advisory Board for BlueTech Research, and on the Accelerator Judging Team of Imagine H2O.

He has frequently been asked to speak and keynote at industry events and has participated in several think tanks and thought leadership sessions on the importance of global water issues. Ralph earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1987.

Ralph has over 36 years of experience in the water sector and has dedicated his career to the protection of the environment and sustainability of our most precious natural resource, water.



HENRY E. GIBSON

Water Environment Association of South Carolina

Henry Gibson began his lifelong career in the water industry working for the South Carolina Pollution Control Authority (SCPCA) as chemist in the Florence Regional Laboratory after graduating from Wofford College in 1960. He took a hiatus from public service to attend graduate school at the University of Oklahoma during 1968 but returned to the South Carolina Pollution Control Authority a year later as Chief of the Laboratory Services Branch. During his tenure at the SCPCA, in various leadership roles, Henry oversaw the performance of special water quality studies, implemented an Analytical Quality Control Program for all lab, and developed and implemented a comprehensive Biological Monitoring Program.

After the 1973 merger of the Pollution Control Authority and the State Board of Health, his responsibilities expanded to include the statewide investigation of oil spills, hazardous material spills, fish kills, specific lake studies, and special water quality studies. Additionally, he supervised and conducted Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) inspections statewide for Region 4 of the Environmental Protection Agency and served as the On-Scene Coordinator for South Carolina working with the US Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency in the cleanup of and hazardous material spills, and training exercises.

During the 1980's, Henry's career moved into administration and enforcement of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and managing the Industrial and Agriculture Wastewater permitting for South Carolina. In this capacity he also wrote NPDES permits and developed the Rationale for Aquacultural facilities.

After retiring in 1994, Henry was contracted as a Consultant/Environmental Manager for the Agricultural & Stormwater Section of the Bureau of Water where he assists with the siting and permitting of dairies, swine, and poultry facilities. Now at 85 years of age, he still maintains office hours three days a week at SCDHEC in the above capacity.

In the early implementation of the Clean Water Act, Henry became involved in environmental systems operator training and certification. He served as the Director of the South Carolina Board of Certification for Environmental Systems Operators from 1973-1974. He taught water and wastewater courses at Clemson University Short Schools and Technical Education Centers, administered, reviewed and graded exams.

Henry has been a member of the WEASC for 60 years. He has held every leadership role, from committee chair to secretary, treasurer, president to WEF Director from 1985-1988. He mentored numerous future leaders of the WEASC, is a charter member of the WEASC 5-S (1982), and was elected Influential Integrator for Life. He is the recipient of the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award.

For his dedicated and unselfish service to his Member Association, the Henry Gibson Service Award was established in 2016.



JEANETTE KLAMM

Kansas Water Environment Association

Jeanette Klamm is a recognized national expert and leader in residuals and biosolids management. Throughout her 26 years in the industry, she has worked in all aspects of wastewater treatment including operations maintenance, design, and developing training programs for Operational staff.

Ms. Klamm has been with the American Public Works Association as the Senior Manager of Accreditation since February 2022. Prior to that she was with Johnson Country Wastewater in Mission, Kansas as the Assistant Director of Operations and Maintenance for 4 1/2 years and the City of Lawrence, Kansas Department of Utilities in various positions for 21 years.

She has been a member of WEF since 1996 and is currently a member of the Residuals and Biosolids Committee, Utility Management Committee, and Plant Operations and Maintenance Committee, where she has served as the Operator Essentials sub-committee chair providing monthly Operator Essentials articles for the WE&T magazine.

Ms. Klamm has been a key participant in the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP). In 2000, the NBP approached the City of Lawrence, Kansas Utility Department about becoming a charter agency for the development of the NBP EMS Program. At the time, she was serving as the residuals coordinator for the utility and agreed to serve as the champion for the development of the utility's EMS and as the liaison with the NBP for development of the program.

Over the next few years, she provided input to the NBP EMS consultants to assist with their development of the standard and the progress of implementing the standard in Lawrence. In 2005, Lawrence became the 10th charter agency to undergo an external audit and be fully certified under the NBP EMS program under her oversight.

Over the past 25 years, she has made multiple presentations on the management system value and principles at WEF and Kansas Water Environment Association (KWEA) events and to other environmental and water related associations.

Ms. Klamm volunteered for the KWEA where she invigorated a stagnant Biosolids Committee, implemented a new voluntary certification program for biosolids in Kansas, and served on the KWEA executive committee including serving as KWEA President. She also worked with WEF and NACWA to provide stakeholder support to EPA's renewed Biosolids oversight beginning in 2019 and that work continues through today.

For the last 10 years, she has had broader wastewater utility and operations and maintenance experience at Lawrence and Johnson County Kansas, and she has been a leader in the Utility Management Committee and Plant Operations and Maintenance Committee. She has helped implement "operator essentials" training and has been involved in national workforce development activities.

Ms. Klamm is a past recipient of the KWEA 5S and the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award for her service to KWEA.



DALE E. KOCAREK, P.E., BCEE

Ohio Water Environment Association

Dale E. Kocarek has over 39 years of experience as a professional engineer and project manager. His experience includes regulatory, private, and public sector work. He started his career with the Ohio EPA, then later as an engineering consultant, and is currently serving as the Assistant Wastewater Facilities Manager for the City of Aurora, Ohio. He is highly experienced in the areas of planning, design, process design, compliance management, and financing of sanitary sewer systems; infiltration and inflow studies; and process design for water and wastewater treatment plants. His area of expertise is serving small and medium sized municipal communities.

Mr. Kocarek began his career in service to the citizens of Ohio by working several years for the Ohio EPA. During his tenure, he served in three major roles including District Engineer for the Central District Office, Project Engineer for the Division of Construction Grants (currently the Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance), and as Engineering Unit Supervisor for the Division of Construction Grants. His roles at the Ohio EPA allowed him to provide technical assistance to agency personnel for enforcement cases, along with guidance to consulting engineers and communities regarding programmatic requirements, policies, and technical issues. He also assisted with the development of program policy within the Division of Construction Grants. During his 32 years in consulting, he provided professional engineering services for many communities around the state of Ohio and a few projects in Indiana.

Mr. Kocarek has one of the longest spans of Ohio WEA volunteer service in the history of the organization. He has served on the Ohio WEA Executive Board for over 20 years including holding offices of Section Delegate, Board Officer, WEF MA Delegate, and lastly being re-appointed back on the Executive Board as the Secretary-Treasurer. He also served years on countless committees for both Ohio WEA and WEF, presented numerous technical papers, and has authored over 60 articles for the OWEA Buckeye Bulletin. He has been a previous recipient of the Ohio WEA 5S, the Ohio WEA Lifetime Engineering award, and the Ohio WEA Larry Moon award - an award for service to the member association.

Over his four decades of service in the water industry, Mr. Kocarek has shown his expertise in design, education, operations, regulations, research, utility management, and leadership.



JENNIFER KELLY LACHMAYR, P.E., BCEE

New England Water Environment Association

Jennifer Lachmayr has made tremendous contributions to the water sector in her 35-year career as a technical expert and project leader, through her volunteer leadership with WEF and the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA), and in the development of the next generation of water leaders. Her primary expertise and much of her technical work has been in collection systems, having led the planning, design, and construction of countless successful collection systems related projects across the New England region.

Ms. Lachmayr's professional work activities include serving as a Vice President and Area Leader (New England) for Arcadis U.S., Inc. where she serves as Contract Principal for numerous municipal clients in New England. She has a strong background in all phases of municipal engineering projects from planning and design through construction. She has managed or designed more than 50 miles of pipe, and has extensive experience in pump station sizing, design, and modifications, and helping clients meet the EPA's CSO policy and inflow/infiltration evaluation and elimination projects. She has provided direct oversight in illicit connection detection, best management practices, and stormwater receiving water quality sampling programs.

Ms. Lachmayr's technical contributions to the sector are just a fraction of her impact to the water sector. She has been tireless and ever enthusiastic in giving back to the water community and inspiring the next generation of leaders both at the MA level and WEF level, as well as at Arcadis. She has been an engaged volunteer leader in both NEWEA and WEF since 2003.

For NEWEA, she contributed to several committees and workgroups that aligned with her passions, including serving as the President, Chair of the NEWEA Public Awareness Committee, and NEWEA's WEF Delegate. She is a recipient of the NEWEA 5S award. With WEF, she has served various roles in the House of Delegates (HOD), the WEF Collections System Committee, and the Government Affairs Committee. For the Collection System Committee, she served as a subcommittee chair on two occasions, as well as on the Steering Committee for a three-year period. She also served as the Collection System symposia Chair for WEFTEC on the program committee. In recognition of her significant contributions to the field, she received a Golden Manhole award from the Collection Systems Committee in 2009.

During her service to WEF and NEWEA, one area of personal passion she strove to expand on was increased public awareness of our profession and the need for funding infrastructure. This played a key role in her decision to take on the role of Communications Council Director for NEWEA and her work to guide the NEWEA Newsletter, Journal, Website and Public Awareness committees to increase NEWEA's visibility and to seek new like-minded partners.

She also served as the chair for the WEF HOD Public Communication and Outreach for Member Association Workgroup. Through her work as NEWEA Communication Council Director she assisted the committees to develop a new sponsor program and advertorial campaign. You can see these materials [here](#), but in short, under her leadership NEWEA was able to expand outreach from sponsors and advertisers to include partners and donors.



WILLIAM J. MITSCH, PH.D.

Florida Water Environment Association

As a world-renowned wetlands scientist and pioneer in the field of ecological engineering, Dr. Bill Mitsch's contributions differ from those of many WEF members but are aligned with the interests of all, and certainly very worthy of acknowledgement via a program that recognizes the "stature and contributions of WEF members to the preservation and enhancement of the global water environment.

WEF is a sponsor of the Stockholm Water Prize (SWP) and WEF's leaders had considerable interaction with then Professor Bill Mitsch in 2004 during World Water Week in Stockholm, when he was awarded the Prize jointly with the late Professor Sven Erik Jørgensen of the Danish University of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The breadth and significance of Dr. Mitsch's career contributions are clear in his Laureate profile on the Stockholm International Water Institute's web site. Almost 20 years ago, his achievements deemed worthy of recognition via the SWP included:

- Helping establish the Olentangy River Wetland Research Park at The Ohio State University, and showing how constructed wetlands can be used as buffering and treatment systems.
- Co-authoring the groundbreaking textbook, *Wetlands*, and founding the leading journal, *Ecological Engineering*.
- Influencing the global community of professionals responsible for lake and wetlands protection.

After he had received the SWP, Dr. Mitsch went on to found and direct the Everglades Wetland Research Park (EWRP) at Florida Gulf Coast University in Naples, FL where he continued to conduct research, teach, and engage with the public. Over a 47-year career as a professor at five institutions, Dr. Mitsch guided 85 graduate students, authored/coauthored almost 800 publications, and received numerous honors and awards. For example, he was selected four times to receive Fulbright Fellowships and elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Mitsch has engaged in international research and knowledge exchange including through organizing conferences and travelling for and hosting international fellowships. His collaborative approach was clear in the willingness of researchers from outside the US to endorse Dr. Mitsch's nomination for the Lee Kuan Yew Prize and state how he had positively influenced their organization and/or practices in their country.

A tireless advocate for the preservation of wetlands, Dr. Mitsch has worked to educate the public on their importance, including through frequent press interviews and speeches to citizens groups. The EWRP is located on the campus of the Naples Botanical Gardens and Dr. Mitsch organized regular programs to engage with the public as well as the university community. Entitled Moonlight on the Marsh, the program includes distinguished lectures and workshops on a variety of water-related topics from harmful algal blooms to the impacts of climate change, and of invasive species.



MARK POLING

Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association

Mark Poling's career and contributions can be summed up in one word: Service. He has dedicated his life to mentoring others, protecting our communities and environment, and providing industry leadership. Mr. Poling's expertise in utility management has led to innovations in the water sector with new technologies, funding strategies to obtain and implement new ideas, and a relentless pursuit of quality outcomes. He has over 25 years of experience, which led him through a pathway of operations, management, leadership, and finance. He now operates a successful consulting practice, Clean Water Management, focusing on utility management.

Mr. Poling spent the first 13 years of his career with King County, Washington serving as the Plant Manager at the West Point Wastewater Treatment Plant where he conducted process engineering, process supervision, and overall plant management. Following his success with King County, he joined Clean Water Services in Hillsboro, Oregon. His leadership through multiple roles helped Clean Water Services gain a reputation as one of the nation's most innovative and outstanding water organizations.

At Clean Water Services, Mr. Poling began as Wastewater Treatment Department Director where he was responsible for two large, advanced water resource recovery facilities, two smaller facilities, and 40 pump stations. As Director his responsibilities included oversight of both the operating and capital program. Under his leadership, the department has been recognized with numerous awards.

Mr. Poling served in two additional Director-level roles at Clean Water Services: Business Operations Director and Business Strategy & Performance Systems Director. Both roles required an advanced understanding of utility management expertise and leadership impact. As Director of the Business Operations Department, he led the District's Financial Services, Information Technology, and Risk and Benefits Programs. The financial program was recognized for excellence including receipt of Government Finance Officers Association for Excellence in Budget Presentation and for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. He led the District's performance excellence initiative that included business process improvement through Lean Six Sigma and other business process improvement techniques.

Mr. Poling was also part of the leadership of the Clean Water Institute, a not-for-profit corporation formed by the District to advance water quality innovation and research. His role included business planning for the Institute.

Mr. Poling has volunteered for WEF and the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association (PNCWA) for many years. For WEF, he has served on the Board of Trustees, and was a member of the Leaders Innovation Forum for Technology (LIFT) Steering Committee, member of the Automation and Information Technology Committee, and was involved in the publication of the Water Reuse Roadmap. He continues serving WEF as a Delegate-at-Large in the House of Delegates.

For PNCWA, he served on the Association Board including the role of President and has served on numerous committees. He also coached the PNCWA River Rangers Operations Challenge team for ten years. Mr. Poling served as Chair and a committee member of the Oregon Water Education Foundation (ORWEF) Water Environment School which holds a three-day water environment school for operators. Mr. Poling is the previous recipient of the Arthur Sydney Bedell Award, the PNCWA President's Award, and the PNCWA Individual Distinguished Achievement Award.



F. MICHAEL SAUNDERS, PHD

Georgia Association of Water Professionals

Dr. Michael Saunders has been contributing to the understanding of water treatment practices and sustainable water management for over 50 years. Beginning his career at the Virginia Water Control Board in 1967, Dr. Saunders moved into Academia at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and made a deep impact in water research. As a professor and consultant at various international institutions, including the University of Copenhagen and the National University of Singapore, and on to the Georgia Institute of Technology (where he established the WEF Student Chapter), Dr. Saunders influenced hundreds of students to become actively involved in the water sector and in WEF and their respective Member Associations. He led the Department of Environmental Engineering from its inception to national Prominence.

Dr. Saunders received the Gordon Maskew Fair Medal from WEF and the Georgia Association of Water Professionals, and has been recognized at length for his dedicated involvement in activities for WEF including:

- A member (1976-1984, as Activated Sludge review editor) and the Chair (1985-1995) of the Research Committee that annually oversaw the development, editing and publication of the Annual Research Review issue in the WEF journals.
- Editor, Journal Water Pollution Control Federation and then Editor, Water Environment Research over the period of 1989-1992. In this role Saunders was also the Chair of the Editorial Board of WER as well as Chair of the WEF editorial committee that founded the new journal as it transitioned from JWPCF.
- MOP 8 Committee from 1985-1999.
- Currently serves on the WEF Awards Committee for the Gordon Maskew Fair Medal
- Served on the ABET Certification Committee (nonprofit, ISO 9001 certified organization that accredits college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology) maintaining and evolving rigorous, high quality standards of education in engineering.

Dr. Saunders has provided input and advice to many people that is thoughtful, accurate, beneficial and appreciated. He resides in the category of “remarkable” as a servant and thought leader in the broad areas of water quality engineering and the water environment community both in the US and around the world.



DIANNE M. SUMEGO, P.E., O.I.T.

Ohio Water Environment Association

During her thirty plus year career as a consultant and now as the president of her own company, dms water solutions co., llc, Dianne Sumego has devoted her time, talent and energy into conveyance systems design, project management from concept to completion, strategic planning, operator training all with a focus on environmental protection and sustainability and client/customer satisfaction. Diane has freely shared her knowledge and expertise through multiple presentations at MA, WEF and Civic organization meetings and conferences and by her participation either as author, co-author or reviewer of MA and WEF publications.

As President of dms water solutions, Dianne is responsible for securing and performing all work for her company. She expanded services beyond typical engineering design and project management to include development of training materials for collection system certification training, pump station O&M training, and sewer system O&M for multiple utilities, which she has personally provided the instruction for these courses which provide approved CEU credits through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

During her tenure as a consultant, Dianne was a subject matter expert in conveyance systems as well as responsible for business development into new geographic territories, project team management along with project management. She developed strategic plans for business development within her firm as well as strategic planning for the clients resulting in an increase in partnerships for her firm and client project successes.

Joining WEF and Ohio WEA shortly after graduating the University of Akron, Dianne became immediately engaged with Ohio WEA committee work, progressing into Member Association leadership roles eventually doing the same in WEF. She has served in numerous capacities on HOD and WEF committees, workgroups, task forces and advisory panels, serving in numerous leadership positions including Community of Practice Director for the Committee Leadership Council.

Due to her past service, leadership experience, knowledge of Member Association (MA) and WEF structure and governance, and consensus building skills that she was asked to participate on the Membership Engagement Transformation task force to update the current WEF committee structure and improve the WEF member/volunteer experience.

Dianne has made numerous presentations at Member Association annual conferences, WEF conferences, client meetings and civic groups. She authored or co-authored reports, BMP's and chapters for Member Association and WEF publications. Dianne is the recipient of the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award, WEF's Golden Manhole and the Volunteer Recognition Award and is a member of the OWEA 5-S.



BOB SWARNER, P.E.

Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association

Robert E. (Bob) Swarner has served the people of King County for the past 34 years by providing vital information that has been used to make multi-billion dollar policy and investment decisions in the King County Wastewater Treatment Division's (KCWTD) operating and capital programs regarding regional wastewater treatment plants, large conveyance projects and combined sewer overflow (CSO) projects.

Over the past 30+ years, he has mentored the modeling engineers that he supervised, such that they are well equipped to effectively carry on the work after his retirement. There has been good succession planning, and the wide variety of experience in the group bodes well for continuing the preeminent service provided by the Modeling Group into the future. He has also mentored to two consultants over two 2-year periods in a program set up by the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association (PNCWA).

Bob has been a member of WEF and the PNCWA for over 30 years and served both organizations in leadership positions on committees and Technical Program Committees. He has won awards for outstanding contributions in the field of wastewater collection system maintenance and operation.

Bob's accomplishments and contributions to the wastewater collection field, as demonstrated by his career's work, by the respect and trust of his peers, and by his numerous professional papers and publications exemplify exceptional achievement.

Bob is a recognized expert in the field of hydraulic and hydrologic modeling, acknowledged for his commitment to continual improvement, knowledge transfer and passion to evaluate and solve the technical challenges facing wastewater management.



JOHN TROFATTER

Florida Water Environment Association
New England Water Environment Association

John Trofatter, Teledyne Water Director of Business and Strategic Development, is a strategic organizational leader, mentor, operations challenge advocate, and innovator. He is dedicated to advancement of industry organizations through hard work, innovation, and commitment to people he works with. John's career began in wastewater flow measurement technologies and he transferred that expertise to business development and senior management roles.

He is recognized for his ability to solve challenging flow monitoring problems, leveraging innovative technologies in the marketplace, and trailblazing the sampling and monitoring technologies that helped detect COVID-19 surges through wastewater surveillance. Much of John's career has been with three leading manufacturers of wastewater equipment – ADS, Duperon, and now Teledyne Water.

Since 1989, John has been an active WEF member focused on serving the industry in broad, strategic ways. Among John's significant contributions to WEF is his championing the organization's Operations Challenge. John has served as event coordinator, vice chair, and chair of the Operations Challenge Committee. He was instrumental in the delivery of additional professional operator resources through WEF, including the Wastewater treatment Fundamentals training series and the On Demand Wastewater Library (OWWL). John's mentorship and encouragement has inspired many to become involved with the Operations Challenge as competitors, judges, event coordinators, and committee chairs, as well as serving for other WEF committees or Member Associations.

John has parlayed his passion and energy into WEF leadership, as chair of the Committee Leadership Council (CLC). He assumed responsibility for updating the WEF Volunteer Handbook, developed the WEF Committee Manual, and assisted the establishment of the Volunteer Service Recognition program. He also implemented organizational and leadership changes within unproductive WEF committees.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, he drafted the WEF Strategic Plan and represented WEF at numerous national and international events. He was recently named WEF's representative to the US Department of Commerce Environmental Trade Advisory Commission under Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. John is the recipient of the WEF Volunteer Service Recognition Award and is a member of the 5-S in both New York WEA and New England WEA.



BILLY G. TURNER

Georgia Association of Water Professionals

Billy Turner is a seasoned professional in issues related to water resources management, strategic planning, policy and government relations. He has more than 50 years of progressive experience in the public and private sector related to the management of water resource facilities.

He has served as an officer, trustee, board or committee member on many important local, state and national water related organizations. He is the author of many scientific articles and publications dealing with water resources. Since retirement in 2009, Mr. Turner has consulted with businesses and agencies in addressing their water related issues.

Billy Turner served as President of Columbus Water Works (CWW) for 20 years starting in 1989. During his service CWW received over 70 state, regional and national awards including: EPA O&M, Best Operation, and Combined sewer Control Excellence Awards, American Academy of Environmental Engineers "Grand Design" Award for the Riverwalk/CSO program as well as many state and local awards for excellent performance in water resources.

Prior to coming to Columbus, he served as the General Manager of the Commission of Public Works of the City of Spartanburg and the Spartanburg Sanitary Sewer District, in Spartanburg, SC. His 15 years with a major Southeastern, Atlanta based, consulting firm as vice president provided broad experience in managing major projects for clients. There he led projects for both governmental and the private sector ranging from local water supply and wastewater projects, to effectiveness of state organizations for their environmental programs, to national wet weather studies.

Billy served as the environmental manager for a major pulp and paper company while also conducting research on effective water treatment systems. His initial employment was with the Tennessee Valley Authority where he performed field studies of water quality in lakes and rivers before moving into their tributary development program where he helped cities and counties assess their potential for economic growth from a water resource standpoint.

Since retirement in 2009, Billy has been involved as consultant and volunteer on two major regional water projects. In the River Restoration/Whitewater project on the Chattahoochee River, he served as Program Manager during the concept, permitting, consultant and contractor selection phases and then continued as a member of the five-member team that managed the project through construction. In the ACF Stakeholders, Inc. efforts to develop a sustainable water management plan for the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint Rivers to offer a possible solution to the 20+ year water wars between Alabama, Florida and Georgia, Billy has served on the Executive Committee for four years and is the current Chairman of ACF.

Billy is a past member of the WEF Executive Committee, serving as WEF President 1996-1997. He represented the Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association (GW&PCA) as WEF Director and his service to WEF includes considerable committee experience. Billy held leadership roles in both the GW&PCA and WEASC and is the recipient of the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award, a member of the 5-S and was awarded a WEF Honorary Membership. In addition, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Water Environment Research Foundation from 1989-1998.



TODD O. WILLIAMS, P.E.

North Carolina One Water
Virginia Water Environment Association

Todd Williams has served the wastewater industry for over 40 years and is recognized as an authority in biosolids management planning having assisted dozens of communities and utilities of all sizes throughout the US and Canada in developing effective biosolids management programs. As a recognized biosolids compost engineering expert, he has led or participated in the design of more than two dozen operating composting facilities, which produce hundreds of thousands of tons of high-quality marketed biosolids compost annually. He has trained dozens of operators at these facilities and has helped develop multiple successful compost product utilization programs.

Mr. Williams began his career managing the 20-mgd James River Treatment Plant at Hampton Roads Sanitation District for six years prior to moving into engineering consulting. Because of his passion for producing high-quality biosolids products, his focus shifted towards serving the sludge and biosolids management space by gaining expertise in all biosolids technologies. Since 2005, he has worked at Jacobs Engineering (formerly CH2M), and currently serves as Jacobs' Residuals and Resource Recovery Global Technology Leader.

Mr. Williams served as co-author on several WEF manuals of practice, and specialty publications on biosolids composting, odor control, and biosolids management. His body of work includes more than 200 publications and presentations specific to residuals management and as a contributing author for several articles and books significant to residuals management, composting, and odor control.

Further proof of his expertise and innovation is demonstrated by his receiving two patents for an odor reduction technology (US 7,537,699 B2 entitled Methods for Reducing Biosolids Odors) in May 2009 and the second entitled "Method for Reducing Biosolids Odors" issued February 21, 2012; this proven technology effectively reduces odors of stored dewatered biosolids cake by 75 percent, as compared to odors produced from normal storage of dewatered cake.

As a visionary in the biosolids business, Mr. Williams recognized a paradigm shift in the wastewater field, and understood that the value of converting residuals into energy, nutrients, and valuable organic materials deserved more focus and needed better promotion.

In 2011, as Chair of the WEF Residuals and Biosolids Committee, he submitted a proposal to the WEF Board of Trustees to establish a Task Force to consider rebranding the term “Wastewater Treatment Plants” to “Water Resource Recovery Facilities”. A report that supported this name change and recognized the value of commodities recovered from wastewater and residuals was submitted to the Board of Trustees, who formally adopted the term Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRF) in 2012. Today, many agencies around the US, Canada, and overseas have formally changed their names to convey the important value of these facilities as well as the professionals who operate them.