

2023 Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference

October 22-25, 2023, Hampton, VA



Speaker Bios

Listed alphabetically, as of October 9, 2023

Frank Aguirre

Frank Aguirre holds the longest-held Registered Sanitarian license in the State of Texas, granted in 1968. He's been doing septic system designs since 1975 and has sat on the NOWRA board, been president of the TOWA association and, more importantly, done thousands of designs throughout south Texas. The largest issue is not my general public clients or the technical aspect of the work, but the fact that the entire program is in the hands of the lowest qualified person - the uneducated, inexperienced inspector. I hold that this position should be handled by a PROFESSIONAL in the field, i.e., one with much training, licensures and years of experience.

Don Alexander

Don Alexander is known for his work in Virginia related to conducting statewide field experiment and demonstration programs to demonstrate use of aerobic treatment units and engineered effluent dispersal systems. Don worked as Director for the Division of Onsite Sewage Program from 1986 to 2008. During this period, two types of state-wide programs were conducted, one under the Guidance Memoranda Policy protocol that allowed a private company to apply for and secure approval for installation at multiple sites and collect data from a sub-group of those sites, and second under an experimental permit protocol that allowed a designer to secure an approval for one site and collect performance data during the three yearlong experiment to determine if the experiment passed or failed. Both programs resulted in numerous data and reports, information from which allowed the Virginia Department of Health to propose and successfully get approval for the new Regulations for Alternative Onsite Sewage System, which is now used in Virginia to design systems on sites where vertical separation to soil limiting features is less than 12" and soil percolation rates outside the range of 5 and 120 minutes per inch.

Carley Allison

Carley Allison graduated from Michigan State University in December 2022 with a bachelors in environmental engineering with a water focus, and is currently working on her master's degree in biosystems engineering. I am 22 years old, born and raised in Michigan. My research for the past year has been focusing on on-site wastewater treatment of high strength wastewater. I have also assisted the other graduate students in my lab with wastewater characterization of meat processing wastewater. My current project included designing and building the system based on current literature, running the system with synthetic wastewater, and running the system with actual wastewater. I have presented posters at two other conferences, the MSU Graduate Symposium and the 26th Triennial Borchardt Conference, and I'm incredibly excited to present an oral presentation at this conference. I really enjoy the topic of wastewater treatment and I hope to learn more about onsite treatment.

Lilith Astete-Vasquez,

Lilith Astete-Vasquez is a PhD student in the Joint Doctoral Program at University of California, San Diego and San Diego State University. With a background in Environmental Engineering and Sustainability, her research has focused on improving onsite and decentralized wastewater treatment processes for small and disadvantaged communities. Prior to her studies, Lily served in the US Navy, and has several years of professional experience in

the private and public sectors of water resources engineering. Lily has been the recipient of several prestigious awards for her impactful work. Her most noteworthy study aimed to develop waterless flushing toilets for use in unsheltered encampments, refugee camps, disaster relief zones, and households in developing global regions. She has also studied the removal of antibiotic-resistant bacteria from decentralized wastewater in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Most recently, she started work toward developing a patent-pending product that aims to improve the use of septic systems, which should improve the livelihood of users and reduce their environmental impact.

Robert Bair

Dr. Bair is an expert on anaerobic membrane bioreactors for decentralized wastewater treatment. His passion is seeing technological advancements serving the needs of marginalized communities. During his PhD work he worked on the NEWgenerator and has served as designer, builder, and operator of the system. He plans to continue improving the system with the intent of commercialization.

Amal Bakchan

Amal Bakchan is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Civil, Coastal, and Environmental Engineering at the University of South Alabama. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. Amal's research couples engineering modelling approaches with qualitative analysis methods to gain new insights into socio-technical water-sector infrastructure systems. Her work seeks to improve access to basic services in underserved communities in the US and developing nations. Amal is currently working on decentralized wastewater management in the rural Alabama's Black Belt region, primarily advancing knowledge on responsible management entities' characteristics, as well as socio-technical challenges to achieving equitable wastewater services in these communities.

Omid Barr,

Omid Barr, MPH is an Environmental Research and Communications Specialist at MDB, Inc. supporting the Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap pilot initiative. He provides project management and research support to EPA for three of the community pilots, in Harlan County, KY, Bolivar County, MS, and the San Carlos Apache Tribe, AZ. Prior to joining MDB, Omid worked as a technical assistance provider for the Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill, where he also received his Master of Public Health degree.

Brian Baumgaertel

Brian Baumgaertel is the Director of MASSTC and is a Senior Environmental Specialist at the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment. He is a Registered Sanitarian, Environmental Health Specialist, and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. Brian holds a B.A. in Physics from Hartwick College, and has over fifteen years of experience at Barnstable County's Department of Health and Environment.

Marie-Christine Belanger

Marie-Christine Bélanger is the current Product Director and Government Relations at Premier Tech Water and Environment, a Canadian company and world leader in the Onsite Wastewater Treatment industry. Ms. Bélanger holds a Physics Engineering degree from Laval University and a Master's in Chemical Engineering from L'École Polytechnique de Montreal. Her thesis consisted of characterizing and modeling the hydrodynamic properties of a trickling filter bed of peat moss used for wastewater biofiltration.

She joined Premier Tech in 2002. She has acquired extensive experience and expertise over the past 20 years in the onsite industry. Her functions have brought her to play key roles on several steering and advisory committees throughout North America, namely with CSA, BNQ, NSF, provincial and state organizations, etc., where she has taken part in developing and advancing industry-wide regulations and standards. Before joining Premier Tech, she cumulated 10 years of professional experience as Project Manager for the wastewater

industry and Project Development Director for a group specialized in developing and implementing integrated Waste Management programs in emerging countries.

Over the past few years, she has broadened her focus to product life cycle analyses to integrate them into an eco-design approach.

Allison Blodig

Allison Blodig has been in the onsite wastewater treatment industry since 1997 and has worked most of her career in the wastewater treatment manufacturing industry. Along with a degree in Biology from Benedictine College in Atchison, KS, she has been a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and member of the National Environmental Health Association since 1996. She is also the current President of the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) and has been active in the organization since 2001. Allison received the Women in Manufacturing award in 2012 and was the 2017 recipient of the Raymond Peat Lifetime Achievement award for outstanding achievement in the Kansas onsite wastewater field.

Megan Boland

Mega Boland is a PhD and a Research Analyst at MDB, Inc. supporting the Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap pilot initiative. She provides data and geospatial analysis, research, and project management support for two of the community pilots, in Duplin County, NC and Halifax County, NC. Prior to joining MDB, Inc., Megan received her doctorate from North Carolina State University. Her dissertation research focused on metagenomic analysis of swine wastewater anaerobic digesters.

Gabriele Bonaiti

Dr. Gabriele Bonaiti is an Extension Program Specialist and has been employed by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension since February 2009. During this time, he has developed and implemented educational programs for water districts focusing on water conservation and efficiency through irrigation scheduling, identification of head and seepage issues in open canals, soil water balance and quality modeling, data management, and use of Geographic Information Systems. He is currently supporting Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's - Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendment projects by developing and implementing methodologies for building and maintaining an inventory of On-Site Sewage Facility systems along the Texas coastal zone and the Lampasas River Watershed, and Texas General Land Office's Coastal Management Program projects to identify history and potential drivers of coastal bacterial pollution. He is currently leading a new research project funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Onsite Grant Program to evaluate onsite effluent Drip Irrigation system design, installation, and management.

Krista Capps

Dr. Krista Capps is an ecosystem ecologist with a focus in rivers and streams. She works in both temperate and tropical freshwater systems and she is obsessed with wastewater. She earned a BS in biology and political science from Hope College in Holland, Michigan, a MS in environmental science from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, and a PhD from the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Krista holds a joint position through the Odum School of Ecology and the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. She collaborates with researchers in soil science, engineering, and public health and with local, state, and federal natural resource managers to study how environmental conditions influence septic system function. She is excited to help create and sustain partnerships among industry representatives, government agencies, and university researchers.

Rachel Chai

Rachel Chai is a Ph.D. student in the System Engineering program at the University of South Alabama. She has done her bachelors and masters in Civil Engineering at the University of South Alabama. Her current research interests include Life Cycle Analysis of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems within the Alabama Black Belt.

Stuart Coleman

Stuart Coleman, MFA, worked for ten years as the Hawaiian Islands Regional Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, overseeing five Chapters and hundreds of volunteers across the state. He has led coalitions to help shape policy and pass landmark legislation to reduce pollution of Hawaii's coastal areas, including the nation's first and only bill to create smoke-free beaches & parks and the first bill to ban oxybenzone in sunscreens. Stuart also helped pass legislation to reduce wastewater pollution and mandate the upgrade of cesspools across Hawaii. He currently serves on the state's Cesspool Conversion Working Group and on the Advisory Board of the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Sea Grant Program. Along with being a public speaker, teacher and freelance writer, Stuart is also the award-winning author of three books about modern Hawaiian history, surfing and culture, including *Eddie Would Go*, *Fierce Heart* and *Eddie Aikau: Hawaiian Hero*.

Eric Daniels

Eric Daniels is the Senior Technical Lead at Eljen Corporation. Mr. Daniels was a First-Class Petty Officer in the US Navy. He served 11 years onboard 3 nuclear submarines as a Sonar Technician and Sonar Supervisor. Since 2016 Eric has specialized in technical training and plan reviews for the onsite wastewater community nationwide. Much of his work is in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Idaho, Georgia, and Indiana. He is married and a father of 2 boys. Eric's hobbies are fishing, homebrewing, camping, gardening, cooking, and watching sports with his family.

Marcia Degen

Dr. Degen has a B.S. in Biology, a Masters in Environmental Sciences and Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering, all from Virginia Tech. She is also a licensed Virginia professional engineer. Dr. Degen's Ph.D. research was in onsite wastewater disposal systems, specifically looking at the effect of several variables on the in-ground denitrification rate. Dr. Degen's career has involved consulting and teaching at the community college level, but has primarily been with state government. She started her regulatory career with the water permit program at DEQ, moved to wastewater engineering both at VDH and DEQ where she was a district engineer and then technical program coordinator for the Office of Wastewater Engineering. Dr. Degen moved to VDH in 2009 to assume the role of Technical Services Manager in the Division of Water and Wastewater Services. She is currently a member of VOWRA (past Board member), the Virginia Environmental Health Association, the Virginia Water Environment Association, and the State Onsite Regulators Association and is a past member of the Virginia licensing Board for onsite wastewater professionals. She currently serves on the Boards of NOWRA and SORA. Dr. Degen has participated in two EPA technical review panels that developed onsite BMPs for use in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. She is currently overseeing the wastewater surveillance program for Covid 19 in Virginia.

Ashley Donnelly

Ashley Donnelly has a passion for building relationships within the onsite wastewater treatment industry through training and technical education. Ashley entered the onsite wastewater industry over 19 years ago and is committed to the industry and public health. She has a passion for preserving the environment through sound wastewater treatment solutions. In her position at Infiltrator, she leads the Inside Sales Team and is responsible for maintaining and building customer relationships by assisting engineers, contractors and regulators with technical and design information, training, installation, and operation & maintenance of their onsite wastewater needs. In 2020, she launched IWT's webinar program, which is currently accredited in over 10 states and to date

has trained over 2,000 attendees on various contemporary industry topics. She serves on various committees within the industry (AzOWRA, TOWA and NOWRA Emerging Professionals). Ashley holds a Bachelor of Arts in communications from Central Connecticut State University.

Matthew, Dowling

Matt Dowling is the onsite wastewater management program manager for the Town of Charlestown (RI) and has nearly 25 years of project coordination experience in groundwater hydrogeology, watershed management and groundwater remediation. In his current role, Matt currently oversees the individual management of over 5,000 onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) in Charlestown, including nearly 900 advanced nitrogen reducing OWTS for protection of public health and the environment. Matt's programmatic approach and methods are rooted in holistic watershed management practices.

Gig Drewery

Gig Drewery and his wife, Trina, have been solving onsite wastewater issues for over 30 years. In the early 1980's Gig and Trina began installing aerobic treatment units in east Texas and were instrumental in getting ATU's approved for use in the state. They soon began designing and developing NSF tested and certified ATU products under the company name Hydro-Action. Over the years many of Gig's patents have become public domain and are still in use in the industry today. He was a founding board member of NOWRA, the founding president of the Texas Onsite Wastewater Association and has served on the NSF joint committee. Gig and Trina's continued passion for solving onsite wastewater treatment issues facing the industry and the environment has led them to develop the innovative RioVation & BioMaze product line.

Mark Elliott

Mark Elliott received his PhD from UNC-Chapel Hill and is Professor of environmental engineering at the University of Alabama. Research topics of interest include: household water use, surface water quality, global progress in drinking water and sanitation, onsite and decentralized wastewater treatment, functionalized membranes for reduced fouling in water and wastewater treatment, and characterizing and addressing wastewater failures in low-income communities of rural Alabama.

Heidi Faller

Heidi Faller is an Environmental Protection Specialist with EPA Headquarters Office of Wastewater Management. She oversees the coordination of EPA's Decentralized Wastewater MOU Partnership, leads several community pilots for the Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap (CAWAG) and supports the decentralized wastewater program in its national efforts and initiatives.

Casey Fiedler

Casey is the owner of MWSI and part owner of Michigan Septic. His family ran Shunk/Fiedler R&L Septic in Mason, MI for 30 years. Casey is now a time of sale inspector and Alternative Wastewater Maintenance Provider in Ingham County in Michigan. He also runs and coordinates Michigan Septic, a full-service install, pumping, repair, and operating company based in the Lansing, MI area. Casey serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Septic Tank Association as well as representing Michigan for the National Association of Wastewater Technicians.

Xueqing Gao

Dr. Xueqing Gao holds a Master's degree in Environmental Biology and Ecology, as well as a Ph.D. in Biochemical Limnology. Since 2016, he has been a member of the Florida Onsite Sewage Program (OSP), where he has taken on various responsibilities, including coordinating meetings for the research review advisory committee, conducting research on onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS), offering technical support for

the review of engineer-designed OSTDS, and actively participating in the permitting process for innovative OSTDS products seeking entry into the Florida market. Prior to his involvement with OSP, Dr. Gao worked with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Total Maximum Daily Loading program, where he was responsible for developing restoration targets for impaired waters. He possesses a comprehensive understanding of the environmental impacts caused by both point and nonpoint sources, with a specific focus on the influence of OSTDS.

Nandita Gaur

Dr. Nandita Gaur is a soil physicist. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Punjab Engineering College, India and a Ph.D. in Biological and Agricultural Engineering from Texas A&M. Dr. Gaur holds an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at University of Georgia and is affiliated with the River Basin Center and the Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems. She serves on the Soils Technical Advisory committee under the Technical Review Committee for the Department of Public Health and is an instructor for training county agents on soil physics concepts applicable to septic system licensing through a program led by University of Georgia to support Department of Public Health. She collaborates with researchers in soil science, engineering, and public health and with local, state, and federal natural resource managers to study how environmental conditions influence septic system function. Dr. Gaur is excited to help create and sustain partnerships among industry representatives, government agencies, and university researchers.

Jonathan Godfrey

Jonathan Godfrey is an experienced professional in environmental health and onsite wastewater management, holding a BS in Business Management from NCSU in 2000 and a Masters of Extension Education from NCSU in 2004. Throughout his career, he has dedicated himself to improving the industry. From 2007 to 2010, Jonathan worked as an Environmental Health Specialist for Lee and Chatham County, North Carolina. He then became an Environmental Health Program Specialist for Advanced Systems Monitoring in North Carolina from 2010 to 2014. This prepared him for his role as the Director of Onsite Wastewater Training at North Carolina State University, which he held from 2014 to 2018. In 2018, Jonathan joined Infiltrator Water Technologies as an Area Sales Representative, where he received the salesman of the year award in 2022. Currently, he serves as the Operations Manager at Marlin Wastewater Services. Jonathan is also the owner of Olde Carthage Farm, a USDA Certified Organic farm. As an owner of Onsite Wastewater Professionals, Jonathan actively engages in public outreach and education, offering certification programs and continuing education courses. In 2022, he hosted over 2,000 attendees and provided more than 600 hours of training. Jonathan was awarded the Steinbeck Achievement Award in 2018 for his contributions to the industry. With expertise in onsite wastewater systems, Jonathan Godfrey drives progress in the field through education and practical experience.

Claude Goguen

Claude Goguen is a professional civil engineer and has worked in the construction and concrete industry for almost 30 years. For the last 15 years, Claude has been with the National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA) and is currently the Director of Outreach and Technical Education. In this role, Claude develops educational programs and delivers content to association members as well as college students and industry professionals. Prior to that, Claude was operations manager in a precast plant for 10 years and a project manager on many large-scale industrial projects. Claude has been involved in the onsite wastewater treatment industry since he started at NPCA and has participated with many national and regional based organizations. He serves on committees for ACI (American Concrete Institute), ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials), and NAWT as well as on the Board of IOWPA (Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professional Association) and NOWRA. Claude has attended and presented at numerous industry related events on a range of topics.

Lance Gregory

Mr. Gregory has worked in a variety of positions within VDH's onsite sewage and water programs at the local, district, and central office level providing a useful perspective of the programs impacts on individual, community, and statewide levels. Mr. Gregory is a licensed master alternative onsite soil evaluator.

Roxanne Groover

Roxanne Groover is currently the Executive Director of the Florida Onsite Wastewater Association (FOWA). She holds an Engineering degree from ODU. She wears various hats for FOWA by coordinating and teaching continuing education, outreach to the community regarding onsite wastewater treatment systems, running a not-for-profit association, and staying extremely active in the politics that affect the industry. Prior to FOWA she worked for Bord na Mona as an Environmental Engineer. She belongs to various organizations including ASAE, NAWT, and NOWRA, which assist her in the different aspects of her career.

Dennis Hallahan

Dennis F. Hallahan, P.E., is the Technical Director of Infiltrator Water Technologies. Dennis has over thirty years of experience with the design and construction of decentralized wastewater treatment systems. He has authored several articles for on-site industry magazines and has given numerous presentations nationally on the science and fundamentals of on-site wastewater treatment systems. Dennis also oversees a department that is responsible for wastewater research and testing for both Universities and private consultants. The department develops system sizing charts for national and international codes, and assists engineers in the design of large decentralized systems, some in excess of 1 million gallons per day. He received his MS in civil engineering from the University of Connecticut and his BS in civil engineering from the University of Vermont. Dennis is a registered professional engineer in Connecticut. He has been with Infiltrator Water Technologies for over 20 years and in his current position as Technical Director, he is responsible for the technology transfer between Infiltrator and the regulatory and design communities. Dennis also holds several patents for wastewater products. Member ASCE, WEF, NOWRA, has served as chairman of the NOWRA Technical Practices Committee and also serves on the NOWRA Educational Committee. Dennis is also a member of the New England Water Environment Federation and serves on the NEWEA and WEF Small Communities Committee.

Sara Heger

Dr. Sara Heger is a researcher and instructor at the University of Minnesota in the Onsite Sewage Treatment Program in the Water Resources Center and is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering Department. For over 20 years, she has been providing education and technical assistance to students, homeowners, small communities, onsite professionals, and local units of government regarding onsite wastewater treatment. She leads the field-based research program at UMN with the role of Principle Investigator developing novel research approaches related to septic systems, chlorides, management of systems and development of educational resources. She is a regular contributor to the Onsite Installer and Pumper Magazine. Sara is the past-president of the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association and has also served on the board of the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association. Sara serves on the NSF International Committee on Wastewater Treatment Systems, and she chairs the Minnesota State Advisory Committee on Decentralized Systems. She has BS in Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering and a MS and a PhD in Water Resource Science.

Ryan Homeyer

Ryan Homeyer is a research and development engineer at Brightwater Tools. Ryan began his journey into wastewater nutrient recovery as an ECO AmeriCorps member at the Rich Earth Institute, where he found a passion for urine diversion and reuse. To support research and development at Brightwater Tools, Ryan focuses on technical research, experimental design, and data analysis to support the advancement of technologies that value our toilet resources. Ryan earned a Master's of Science Degree in environmental engineering at Syracuse

University with a thesis focused on the development of a physics-based, numerical model for a proposed ecological sanitation technology.

Charles Humphrey

Charles Humphrey earned a BS in Ecosystems Assessment and an MS in Soil Science from North Carolina State University (NCSU) and a PhD in Coastal Resources Management (Geoscience concentration) from East Carolina University (ECU). Charles is a Professor of Environmental Health Science at ECU where he has worked for the past 14 years teaching classes and conducting research related to wastewater treatment. Charles previously worked for 7 years as an Environmental Agent with NCSU Cooperative Extension, and for 3 years as an Environmental Health Specialist where he conducted soil and site evaluations and permitted onsite systems and wells. Charles is a Licensed Soil Scientist in NC, a Registered Environmental Health Specialist, and a Certified Subsurface Wastewater Operator.

Guy Iverson

Dr. Guy Iverson is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Health in the Department of Health Education and Promotion at East Carolina University since August 2019. He earned his Ph.D. in Coastal Resources Management (2019), Masters of Science in Geology (2013), and Bachelors of Science in Geology (2010) from East Carolina University. Since 2011, Dr. Iverson has been studying the influence of onsite wastewater systems on shallow groundwater and surface water resources. More specifically, his work focuses on evaluating nutrients, bacteria, sediment, and other water quality parameters in waters that receive septic effluent.

Anish Jantrania

Anish R. Jantrania is an Associate Professor/Extension Specialist in the Biological & Agricultural Engineering Department at Texas A&M University. He is based at the Blackland Research & Extension Center in Temple, Texas. Dr. Jantrania has over 30 years of experience working in the wastewater industry, in the public and private sectors, with a focus on On-Site Sewage Facilities and decentralized wastewater systems used in areas not served by public sewer. His research and extension interests focus on sustainable infrastructure to ensure the availability of clean water to meet society's water demands, and to ensure safe sanitation to protect public health and environmental quality. Before joining Texas A&M, Anish has worked in Virginia, Massachusetts, and West Virginia, and has studied in West Virginia, South Carolina, Ohio, and India. Anish is a nationally recognized technical expert and speaker at environmental health and other technical conferences such as ASABE, WEF, NEHA and NOWRA. Anish is a registered professional engineer in Texas, Virginia, Massachusetts, and West Virginia.

Justin Jobin

Justin Jobin is an environmental scientist with over two decades of decentralized wastewater experience which started at the New England Onsite Wastewater Training Program at the University of Rhode Island, where he co-authored many publications and assisted in industry training. He also served 15 years as the Wastewater Management Specialist and GIS Coordinator for the Town of Jamestown, RI where he implemented and ran the town's Wastewater Management District and used GIS analysis to inform science-based regulations to address the cumulative impact of nonpoint source pollution in environmentally sensitive areas. Mr. Jobin recently served over six years as the Environmental Projects Coordinator for the Suffolk County NY, Department of Health Services and currently serves as the Wastewater Management Consultant for Nassau County's Soil and Water Conservation District where he continues to address the region's nitrogen pollution crisis by advancing several key elements of the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP), including his work as a lead architect and project manager of the nitrogen-reducing septic system grant programs on Long Island, which have received over \$60M in Federal, State, and County Funding to date.

Reed Johnson

Reed Johnson has worked for Orenco Systems for 15 years and is a licensed service provider. Reed has served on the MOWPA board for six years and the VOWRA board for five years. Attending many colleges throughout his career, Reed's last stop was ODU, earning a certificate in programming PLCs. Reed is a master electrician and holds a master's license in Virginia. Reed has worked in the water and wastewater industry for 30 years. Reed's experience includes James City County Service Authority, Flowtronex ITT, traveling the world, commissioning pump stations. Reed is an international children's book author. A horse named Ray-Ray was dedicated to his sister. Reed is a Master Mason dedicating his time to the community. Reed has brought his vast knowledge of controls and pumps to Orenco Systems, where he continues to teach wastewater management and process, WWTP design consultant, installation, and troubleshooting of large and small treatment works. Reed's primary goal is to make you successful."

Jon Kaiser

Jon Kaiser joined Infiltrator Water Technologies in 2016 as a Project Engineer after graduating with his B.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Vermont. He spends his time at Infiltrator working on decentralized wastewater treatment system designs, product regulation, and research and development initiatives.

Jeffrey Kerr

Jeffrey Kerr, the Director of Operations at Onsite Wastewater Professionals (OWP) and Chief Executive Officer at Marlin Wastewater Services, is a dedicated professional in sustainable decentralized wastewater treatment and management. His expertise spans soil evaluation, system design, permitting, installation, inspection, management, and repair. With certifications as a Certified Environmental Specialist, Certified Onsite Wastewater System Inspector, and Certified Onsite Wastewater System Installer, Jeffrey demonstrates his skill and professionalism. Previously, he served as the Field Service Manager at Marlin Wastewater Services and contributed to industry standards as a Member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Septic Tank Association. Jeffrey's commitment to enhancing industry standards, promoting accessible training, and fostering a strong community of professionals drives innovative solutions in onsite wastewater management.

Jim King

Jim King is the President of Eljen Corporation, an onsite solutions provider. He obtained his engineering degree and MBA from the University of Connecticut. King retired as a captain in the U.S. Army in November of 2021. Over the past ten years at Eljen, King has worked with state, national, and international governments as well as health agencies to improve their onsite wastewater programs. Part of his work at Eljen focuses on new technologies innovation and development. King and Eljen Corporation are proud partners of NOWRA, the NOWRA Board of Governors, SORA, and SORA's Captains of Industry, to name a few.

David Lentz

Dave Lentz manages Infiltrator Water Technologies' government affairs department, with responsibility for regulation of the company's effluent dispersal, tank, and treatment product lines. Nationally, Infiltrator is involved in rulemaking, legislation, and industry standards development supporting the onsite wastewater treatment system industry. Dave has over 25 years of experience related to soil and groundwater systems. He holds a Bachelor's degree in structural engineering and a Master's degree in geotechnical engineering, and is a licensed professional engineer.

Zachary Lowenstein

Zachary Lowenstein, MPH is an Environmental Scientist in EPA's Office of Wastewater Management (OWM), located in Washington, DC. Zach has been with EPA's OWM since 2017, with the Decentralized Wastewater

Program, managing initiatives such as SepticSmart Week and the Decentralized Wastewater MOU Partnership and is now the Program Manager for the Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap Community Initiative. Prior to his employment at EPA, Zach worked for a couple of years in water use and well permitting at the South Florida Water Management District, and before that, as an environmental scientist at a small consulting firm in the oil and gas sector, focused on groundwater and soil remediation. Zach holds a Bachelor's in Environmental Science and Master's in Public Health, both from the University of Florida. Zach resides in Alexandria, VA with his wife and two children.

Gary MacConnell

Mr. MacConnell is a registered engineer in five states and is President of both MacConnell and Associates, PC and Green Global Technologies. He has a Bachelor's Degree from Gettysburg College and three Masters Degrees from Duke University. He has over 38 years of experience in engineering and specializes in onsite wastewater. He has presented over 65 presentations and papers, both nationally and internationally.

Lola Maratita

Lola Maratita is a Community Programs Specialist with the Portfolio Management Branch for USDA, Rural Development Water and Environmental Programs based in Joelton, TN. She is the Decentralized Water Systems (DWS) Grant Manager and the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Grant Manager. As the DWS Grant Manager, she works with nonprofit organizations to promote the increase to clean, reliable water and septic systems to eligible homeowner in rural areas. As the SWM Grant Manager, she works with eligible organizations to reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources by providing funding for organizations that provide technical assistance or training to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. Lola's career with USDA, Rural Development started in 2004 as an Area Technician in Watertown, NY. Prior to joining USDA, she worked with the Department of Defense, US Army for 14 years with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and Department of Public Works. A native from the island of Guam, as a young child her family relocated to Hawaii (Oahu). She is married to Ben, who served and retired from the Army. They have a daughter Megan married to Devin and one grandson, Kalani Rome.

Jillian Maxcy-Brown

Jillian Maxcy-Brown is a postdoctoral researcher in the Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Alabama. She earned a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Alabama in August 2023 and a B.S. in Engineering with a Civil Engineering concentration from LeTourneau University in 2019. Her dissertation research focused on equity challenges for wastewater access in the U.S. She is a student member of NOWRA and part of the Emerging Professionals Committee.

Dominic Mercier

Dominic Mercier is a Professional Engineer with over 25 years of experience in the design of Onsite Wastewater Systems and technology development. He is the owner of Enviro Neptune a company doing research and Development related to Onsite Wastewater technologies as well as Enviro-STEP Technologies a Canadian company offering Onsite Wastewater Treatment solutions for residential, commercial, and industrial applications.

Michael Mezzacapo

Michael Mezzacapo, MS is a Physical Scientist with EPA Headquarters Office of Wastewater Management, split between the Clean Water Technology Center and Decentralized Program. He is focused on wastewater technical assistance and technology advancement in underserved rural communities and previously held roles with the

State of Vermont and University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center and Sea Grant College Program. Michael co-lead for five communities with the Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap Community Initiative.

Stephen Moeller

Stephen Moeller's career journey in the industrial sector began with a solid foundation in the electrical wholesale business. Building on this early experience, he transitioned into the field of industrial electrical, controls, instrumentation and automation contracting, gaining valuable expertise in these areas. For over a decade, Stephen played a pivotal role in a global organization, where he focused on developing and managing business relationships and procurement for large-scale construction projects. His dedication and strategic approach contributed significantly to the success of these initiatives. Stephen's interest in wastewater treatment led to extensive research into the field's current state and historical evolution. More recently, he has delved into microbiology, recognizing its importance in advanced wastewater treatment. Stephen's commitment to continuous learning and exploration is a testament to his drive to stay at the forefront of his fields of interest. Stephen is involved in the development and marketing of the RioVation® BioMaze® product line, demonstrating his entrepreneurial spirit and ability to bring innovative solutions to market.

Janie Moore

Dr. Janie McClurkin Moore is an Assistant Professor in the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department at Texas A&M University in College Station. A native of Columbus, Ohio, she attended North Carolina A&T State University where she received a B.S. in Bio Environmental Engineering in 2006. She then began pursuing her graduate education at Purdue University in the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department, completing her Ph.D. in 2015. Her primary research areas include 1) treatment technologies for reduction of microbes in food and water and 2) innovate instructional strategies for Biological and Agricultural Engineering students. She is also a Member of the Engineering Education Faculty, Institute for Engineering Education and Innovation, Food Science Graduate Faculty, and Multidisciplinary Engineering Graduate Faculty groups at Texas A&M University.

A. Robert Rubin

Robert Rubin is an emeritus professor in the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department at North Carolina State University. He has experience in a variety of resource recovery efforts, often referred to as waste management. He is passionate about rebranding waste management as resource recovery and his work with the Reinvented Toilet project sponsored by the BHMGF reflects this passion.

Larry Oxenham

Larry Oxenham is one of America's top asset protection experts, having helped thousands of professionals achieve financial peace of mind by teaching them how to properly structure their assets for lawsuit protection and tax reduction. He has authored and co-authored several articles and books on the subject including The Asset Protection Bible and How to Achieve Financial Peace of Mind through Asset Protection. His career has been credited with helping thousands of people save millions of dollars.

Sushama Pradhan

Sushama Pradhan, Ph D, is the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program Coordinator at the On-site Water Protection Branch in North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Pradhan specifically engages in impact assessments of onsite wastewater systems and prevention of surface and ground water quality degradation from such systems. She got her Doctoral degree in Soil Science at North Carolina State University. Dr. Pradhan has over 15 years of research experience in onsite water management, onsite system technologies performance evaluation, and modeling onsite systems derived pollutant loadings using GIS based hydrologic model. Currently she is overseeing "Serving the Underserved: Addressing PFAS and Other Contaminants in

Septic Systems and Private Drinking Water Wells” project funded by EPA and “Decentralized Wastewater Infrastructure: Septic Systems Needs in Marginalized Communities of North Carolina” project funded by CDC.

Emmy Radich

Dr. Emmy Radich has led R&D efforts in active treatment technologies at Infiltrator Water Technologies since 2021. She comes to us with B.S. and M.S. degrees in chemical engineering from Mississippi State University and a Ph.D. in chemical & biomolecular engineering from the University of Notre Dame. Prior to joining Infiltrator, Emmy spent a number of years in academia, the first of which were nested at Auburn University in the department of chemical engineering. While there she advised and graduated 4 Ph.D. students whose research focused on designing nanostructured heterointerfaces that drive facile charge transfer reactions and enable next generation solar energy conversion strategies that incorporate quantum dots, graphene, and other nanomaterials with unique optoelectronic properties. Emmy spent the next few years in Penn State's energy engineering department working toward smart control systems for sustainable community development. Emmy also brings over 18 years of experience in bioenvironmental research and pilot testing design from RespirTek, Inc., which she helped grow from the company's early toddler days. Emmy served as Engineering Manager for 5 years and Technical Director for another 13 years while focusing on bioremediation feasibility/optimization, industrial wastewater treatability, toxicity, and process design, and consumer product fate and biodegradation in natural and constructed environments.

Danna Revis

In 1983, Danna began work with a small hydrogeological consulting firm in Newport News, VA, logging boreholes, measuring monitoring wells, and evaluating drainfield sites. Danna signed on with VDH in 1987 as an Environmental Health Specialist in Prince William Health District and worked there for 14 years in the onsite sewage program. In 2002, Danna became the Training Coordinator in the Office of Environmental Health Services, where she trained EH staff and private sector Onsite Soil Evaluators in the onsite sewage program among her other assignments. She retired in 2018 after 30 years. Danna has a bachelor's degree in geology from the College of William and Mary and a master's degree in learning technologies from Pepperdine University. She is licensed as a Master Alternative Onsite Soil Evaluator and a Master Onsite Sewage System Operator and is located in Hanover County, VA. She is currently the president of VOWRA.

Kaitlin Rinke

Kaitlin serves as a Senior Account Manager for Commercial Water at NSF. She is a dedicated professional aspiring to make impactful contributions within the water industry by utilizing her working knowledge in wastewater and drinking water standards/regulations.

James Roberts

James Roberts has a BAsC in Integrated Engineering and MASc in Environmental Engineering from the University of British Columbia. He worked as an engineer at an environmental consulting firm in Honolulu before becoming the co-founder of WaiHome, a small Hawaii based research and development firm focused on a suite of aboveground treatment products for the Hawaiian market. WaiHome was funded by the National Science Foundation Small Business Innovation and Research program for the ongoing development of their Passive Aerobic Treatment Unit (PATU), a proprietary form of algae photobioreactor designed as an alternative to residential cesspools and septic tanks. This work has so far involved an initial round of pilot studies and a three-pronged Hawaiian market review through GIS, interviews, and literature review. Over the past year and a half, James Roberts has also collaborated with local Hawaiian educators at the high-school and community college levels to develop technical curriculum for the next generation of wastewater practitioners who will be needed to service surging demand.

Gregory Rouland

My name is Gregory Rouland, and I am a recent graduate of Michigan State University. I graduated with a B.S. in Biosystems Engineering in May 2023. I am now working on my M.S. in the same department. I am currently 22 years old, and I was born and raised in Michigan. My research for the past two and a half years has been primarily focused on wastewater and water resource recovery. My first project was aiding in the development of a model that tracks phosphorus leaching through agricultural soil. My current project involves characterizing meat processing wastewater in Michigan and then testing alternative onsite treatment systems. The two technologies I am primarily looking at are coagulation/flocculation systems and the use of ceramic membranes to filter wastewater. I have spent the past year working with small business meat processors to provide detailed data regarding their wastewater that was unavailable prior. This includes mapping out their onsite treatment systems and determining the best places to sample. This has been a major learning experience for me regarding onsite wastewater treatment and I hope to continue learning more through my research and conferences such as this one.

Nicole Sandberg

Nicole L. Sandberg, MS is currently serving as Wastewater Infrastructure Manager within the Division of Water and Wastewater Services at the Office of Environmental Health Services at VDH and has been in this position since its creation in February 2022. Her current job involves responsibility for assessing water and wastewater infrastructure needs and programs for the Commonwealth of Virginia and administering a team to implement programs to repair or replace failing onsite sewage (septic) and private drinking water (well) systems in Virginia. Prior to that, she was the Nonpoint Source Program Coordinator for the Commonwealth of Virginia for 18 years which included implementing a statewide program for assisting homeowners with repairing and replacing their failing septic systems and connecting to public sewer. Sandberg received her B.S. in Biological Aspects of Conservation and her M.S. in Water Resources Management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Kevin Sherman

Kevin Sherman has Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology and Civil Engineering, Masters Degrees in Biology and Public Health and a Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography. He has written over 50 technical papers on decentralized and individual onsite wastewater systems over his career. Before becoming Director of Engineering and Regulatory Affairs for SeptiTech, Inc., Kevin was a technical specialist for Presby Environmental, Inc., and Vice President of Engineering for Clearstream Wastewater Systems. Dr. Sherman was also formerly the Director of Engineering for Quanics, Inc., executive vice president of the Florida Onsite Wastewater Association and before that worked for 14 years at the Florida Department of Health. Kevin is past president of the Florida Environmental Health Association and this association. He is a professional engineer in seventeen states and a registered sanitarian in Florida. He has achieved the distinction of being named a diplomat of Water Resources Engineering.

Larry Stephens

Larry has spent over 50 years now in the onsite wastewater treatment industry, first as a state regulator for 12 years and then as the owner of Stephens Consulting Services, PC for the last 40 years. Stephens Consulting Services is a design engineering company located in Haslett, MI. Onsite wastewater treatment systems, both large and small, have become his focus and specialty. Larry holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Michigan State University and a Masters of Engineering from the University of Florida. He is a registered professional engineer in Michigan and Ohio. Larry is active and has held leadership positions in both the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association and the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association.

Mike Stidham

Michael Stidham is Vice President and of EZ Treat, Inc. founded in 2000. Mike has participated with the NOWRA Model code committee, serving on the Guidance and Septic Tank committees. Served on the NPCA Septic Tank Committee and is a co-author of the NPCA's Best Practice manual for septic tank construction. The Virginia Onsite Wastewater Board of Directors, Board of Directors for the NVBIA (Northern Virginia Builders Industry Association), Current member of the Onsite Wastewater Advisory Committee for Arizona Dept of Environmental Quality. Mike works with regulatory approvals, engineering assistance on wastewater systems ranging from single family dwellings, Subdivisions, Restaurants, Shopping Centers, Convenience Stores, Campgrounds and RV Parks, Schools, Breweries, Wineries, and various other applications involving high strength waste. EZ TREAT currently has an Innovative approval for North Carolina and is a certified NSF 40, 245 and NSF 350 reuse.

Robert F. Sweeney

President & Founder of Environmental Management Systems, Inc. specializing in finding solutions for challenging sites & projects. Current Board Member of NOWRA/Formal President & Board Member of WOSSA and Former Board Member of O2WA. 45 years in Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Recycling. 20 years as a Regulator and 25 years as a Consultant/Designer/Maintainer. 33 Years with military health, safety, and environmental protection. Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Sanitarian (OR)/Professional Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Designer (WA). BS Science/Public Health Certificate/MS Management/MBA Veteran Entrepreneurship/Army Medical Service & Civil Affairs Officers Advanced Courses/Wetlands/Erosion and Sediment Control/Food Protection/Water Quality/Epidemiology/Disaster Preparedness and more.

Tammy Trantham

Tammy Trantham has extensive experience in water quality education. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin. She completed her Master's in Biology from Missouri State University with an emphasis in Aquatic Biology. Tammy has done educational presentations all around southwest Missouri pertaining to stream ecology, lake ecology and wastewater treatment. As the Executive Director of Missouri Smallflows Organization, she coordinates educational presentations around the state for continuing education opportunities including the only Missouri onsite wastewater conference at MSO Conference & Trade Show in Columbia. Over her last 14 years of working in the onsite wastewater industry, she has helped plan the NOWRA Mega-Conference in different parts of the nation. She is also a registered Onsite Soil Evaluator through the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to conduct soil evaluations for onsite wastewater treatment systems. Tammy is also the Executive Director of the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association (MOWA).

Steven Thomas

Steve is the Technical Services Soil Scientist with the VA Department of Health (VDH) at Office of Environmental Health Services and Technical Services. Steve provides evaluation and interpretation of sites and soils for VDH, often acting as arbiter on tough sites; trains new environmental health specialists; and develops small research projects related to soil and site suitability for septic systems. He earned his B.S. in Agronomy from Virginia Tech in 1976. He mapped soils from 1976 until 1999 for Virginia Tech and was party leader for 20 years. He then moved into private consulting as owner of Thomas EnviroSoil, Inc. Steve left consulting to become a Virginia Tech Interpretive Soil Scientist for Northern/Central Virginia from 2011 to 2016. Prior to his current position with VDH Technical Services Division, Steve was an Environmental Health Supervisor in the Rappahannock Area Health District, specifically in Spotsylvania and Caroline Counties. He has more than 47 years of experience in soil mapping, classification, interpretation, and drainfield investigation and design. Steve was appointed by Governor George Allen in 1994 to the Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations Appeals and Review Board. He served for 16 years and was chairman for 6 of those years. Steve is a Virginia Licensed Professional Soil Scientist (LPSS) and Master Alternative Onsite Soil Evaluator (MAOSE).

Kevin White,

Kevin D. White, Ph.D., P.E. is Professor Emeritus and former Chairman (16 years) of the Department of Civil, Coastal, and Environmental Engineering at the University of South Alabama. Specializing in wastewater and stormwater treatment, his research has focused on small community and onsite wastewater systems for over 30 years, including constructed wetlands, decentralized infrastructure, bioremediation of environmental contaminants, and low impact development. Dr. White led an EPA National Decentralized Wastewater Demonstration project in Mobile, demonstrating sewer mining and treated wastewater reuse in public parks in 2005. He is currently working to test innovative wastewater strategies (onsite and clustered systems) in the rural Alabama Black Belt, and is the coordinator of the Consortium for Alabama Rural Water/Wastewater Management. Dr. White is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Water Environment Federation.

Daniel Wickham

Dr. Wickham holds a BS in Biology, MS in Limnology and PhD in Marine Ecology from UC Berkeley. He served as project director for the UC Davis aquaculture facility at the UC Bodega Marine Lab. He continued as an Assistant Research Ecologist for 20 years. He was half-time winemaker and owner of Sea Ridge Winery on the Sonoma Coast. He became involved in bacterial bioremediation of petroleum contaminants in 1989. In 2000 he was co-inventor of the Aerobic Bacterial Generator for use in restoring failed leachfields and is Founder/Chairman of SludgeHammer Group Ltd. of Petoskey, Michigan. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed papers and is listed inventor on 5 US patents.

Sara Wigginton

Sara Wigginton joined MASSTC in 2021 as an Environmental Project Assistant. Sara earned her Ph.D. in the Laboratory of Soil Ecology and Microbiology (LSEM) at the University of Rhode Island in May 2020. During her doctoral program, Dr. Wigginton investigated advanced nitrogen removing onsite wastewater treatment systems and served as a training staff member at the New England Onsite Wastewater Training Program. She earned a Biological and Environmental Sciences Master's degree in 2015 at the University of Rhode Island and a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Western Kentucky University in 2013. Sara has been involved in environmental research and monitoring for the past ten years and has been researching onsite wastewater treatment systems since 2017. She is an expert on nutrient movement through landscapes and nitrogen removing onsite wastewater treatment systems.

Hillary Yonce

Hillary Yonce is a Professional Hydrologist with a Master of Science in Hydrology from the University of Arizona and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and minor in Geology from the University of North Carolina. Hillary has over a decade of experience in environmental consulting with a specific focus on water resources, centralized and decentralized wastewater evaluation, geospatial analyses, and receiving water modeling. She leads the Environmental Assessment technical service line for the Tetra Tech office in the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. Key project experience in the onsite/decentralized industry include onsite system risk evaluation for a statewide assessment in Maryland, and ongoing support for identifying risk and opportunity for Wake County, NC and across the lower 9 counties in Mississippi related to environmental and human health for compliance with the EPA Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA). Risk and opportunity can be extremely complex across a landscape that is typically not highly documented geospatially, so we frequently rely on reasonable assumptions and a wealth of conventional and unconventional data sources to approximate where septic systems are located and what their condition may be.

Mohammed Tamim Zaki

Mohammed Tamim Zaki is a Civil and Environmental Engineering PhD student at West Virginia University, where he also earned his MS in Civil Engineering. He previously obtained his BS in Civil Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. Tamim's expertise mainly involves applications of data science to inform sustainable implementations of environmental engineering practices. Tamim's dissertation topic focusses on leveraging data science to promote decentralized County level sustainable resource recovery from organic waste streams in rural regions of the United States. In that regard, he has conducted multiple stakeholder meetings and site visits to Hardy County (a rural farming County in West Virginia) to understand their organic waste (domestic septic and sewage sludge, municipal solid waste, and animal manure) supply, management practices, and community demands. Utilizing information from these community engagements, he is currently working on developing data-driven tools that can sustainably serve their waste management needs while promoting environmental quality, economic prosperity, and social equity.

Fanjian Zeng

Fanjian Zeng is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Civil Engineering at Stony Brook University and a graduate research assistant at the New York State Center for Clean Water Technology. He is interested in nutrient phosphorus (P) attenuation and recovery from onsite wastewater treatment systems like nitrogen removing biofilters (NRBs). His current research focuses on efficient and cost-effective passive technologies and their mechanisms to retain and recover P from onsite wastewater.