

The Value of Water Launch Call Speaker Bios

Michael Deane

Executive Director

National Association of Water Companies

Before joining the NAWC as Executive Director, Michael Deane served as Associate Assistant Administrator for Water in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from 2007 to January 2009.

Prior to being appointed to this position, he served as Senior Policy Advisor, Infrastructure Finance, for the Agency's Office of Water. Before joining EPA in 2006, Michael was an executive at several water management companies including United Water and its parent company Suez and the U.S. operations of Vivendi (now Veolia), focusing on innovative financing and infrastructure policy. He began his career in water at the EPA, working on the state revolving fund and public-private partnership programs.

Originally from Minnesota, Michael holds a master of environmental management degree from Duke University and a bachelor's in biology and geography from Gustavus Adolphus College. A regular presenter at conferences Michael serves on the Pictet Water Fund Advisory Board, the Xylem Global Water Advisory Board, the Board of Directors of the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships, and the Executive Committee of AquaFed, the International Federation of Private Water Operators.

David B. LaFrance

Executive Director

American Water Works Association

David LaFrance was named Executive Director of the American Water Works Association in March 2010.

Prior to joining AWWA, he spent 16 years at Denver Water, eventually becoming the Director of Finance. While at Denver Water he reported directly to the GM and worked closely with the Board of Water Commissioners on all aspects of rate setting, strategic planning, capital financing, and legal challenges. Before joining Denver Water, David was Project Manager and rate Consultant for CH2M Hill and a Natural Resource Economist for the Corps of Engineers.

As a water utility executive, David has successfully engaged Boards, City Councils and customers, worked with the media, and developed and implemented strategic plans.

David holds a BS in Economics from Lewis & Clark College; and an MBA in Finance from the University of Colorado.



Ken Kirk
Executive Director
National Association of Clean Water Agencies

Ken Kirk is the Executive Director of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA).

NACWA is the leading advocate for responsible national policies that advance clean water. The trade association represents the collective interests of America's clean water utilities nationwide – and their clear commitment to America's waters. Prior to joining NACWA, Mr. Kirk worked at a Washington, DC-based private consulting firm, where he had responsibility for the management of several associations; worked in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Legislation; and, served as Public Affairs Manager at the Water Environment Federation.

Mr. Kirk has degrees from New York University, the Georgetown University Law Center and the George Washington University Law Center, where his specialty was environmental law. Mr. Kirk also serves as chair of the Water Infrastructure Network, a broad-based coalition dedicated to preserving and protecting the health, environmental and economic gains that America's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure provide. In 2008 he helped found, and served as the first president of, the Clean Water America Alliance (now known as the U.S. Water Alliance), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established to explore the complex issue of water sustainability and plan for the future by improving public awareness that advances holistic, watershed-based approaches to water quality and quantity challenges.

Eileen O'Neill, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Director
Water Environment Federation

Eileen O'Neill is the Interim Executive Director of the Water Environment Federation (WEF), an international organization of more than 36,000 water quality professionals headquartered in Alexandria, Va.

Most recently WEF's deputy executive director, Dr. O'Neill has worked with the Federation for just over 20 years in a variety of positions including with responsibility for oversight of WEF's technical, international, and communications programs and served as the organization's chief technical officer before becoming deputy executive director in late 2011.

Before joining WEF she worked as an academic and in environmental consulting in the US and in Europe. She has a B.S. in Soil Science from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (UK) and a Ph.D. in Soil Science from the University of Aberdeen (U.K.) and undertook a postdoctoral traineeship in Environmental Toxicology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

