



COUNCIL OF INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING AUTHORITIES

2022 CIFA SRF Workshop Online Program

Technical Assistance: Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 3:00 – 4:30 pm (ET)

Tackling Big Challenges in Small Communities

Learn about a new EPA program, authorized in America's Water Infrastructure Act, to provide technical assistance for wastewater projects in small, rural and tribal communities. Hear how each of these providers is helping small communities comply with stringent national water quality standards and access financing for wastewater infrastructure to protect public health and the environment.

- Matt Richardson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Audrey Whitefeather, National Rural Water Association
- Sarah Buck, Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- Dawn Nall, Southwest Environmental Finance Center

Meet the Speakers



Matt Richardson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Matt Richardson is an Environmental Protection Specialist in the Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure Branch of the Office of Waste Management in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Matt has more than 15 years of experience in program design, policy development, monitoring and evaluation, community participation, and sustainability issues. He specializes in communicating technical and administrative procedures, regulations, and processes to small, rural and tribal communities. Matt holds a B.S. in chemistry and an M.S. in environmental engineering.



Sarah Buck, Rural Community Assistance Partnership

Sarah Buck is the Chief Programs Officer at the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP). Sarah has been with the RCAP for close to four years and has been part of the RCAP family since 2013. Prior to joining RCAP's national office in 2019 she worked for two of the six RCAP regional affiliates, RCAP Solutions in the Northeast and RCAC in the West where she was a member of the Regionalization, Community Leadership, Agua4All and Median Household Income teams. She is based in Maine oversees RCAP's environmental (water, wastewater, solid waste) and community and economic development programming including fund development and grants management. She is a member of the senior leadership team and has about 12 years of experience working for water-focused nonprofits.



Audrey Whitefeather, National Rural Water Association

Audrey Whitefeather is an EPA Programs Manager for the National Rural Water Association (NRWA). Audrey manages the EPA Training programs: SDWA Training and Technical Assistance program, Training and Technical Assistance for Private Drinking Water Wells program, and the Training and Technical Assistance for Wastewater Treatment Works program. Audrey's professional experience includes Grants Compliance, Internal Auditor, Tribal Administration, Tribal Water Systems and Banking. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in Communications.



Dawn Nall, Southwest Environmental Finance Center

Dawn Nall is a Research Engineer for the Environmental Finance Center. She has over 20 years experience, including working as a wastewater treatment plant operator, a manufacturing engineer, and a design engineer. Since joining the organization in 2006, Dawn has presented trainings around the country to water and wastewater operators and managers on topics including Asset and Energy Management, Rate Setting, Capacity Development, Water Loss Reduction, Construction Cost Estimating, Water Treatment, Operations and Maintenance, and Operator Certification. Dawn has been involved in the Small Systems Managerial and Financial Capacity Assistance project funded by EPA since it was originally awarded to the EFC Network in 2012. Dawn earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana.