



COUNCIL OF INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING AUTHORITIES

## 2022 CIFA Online Learning Series

**Disaster Response: Thursday, May 12, 1:00 – 2:30 (ET)**

### **Get Prepared to Help Communities Recover More Quickly from a Disaster**

Learn how you can expedite financial assistance for water and wastewater utilities in the aftermath of a Presidential-declared disaster using a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Hear first-hand experiences from Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) in Nebraska and Oklahoma who used the MOU to help communities in their state recover from catastrophic natural disasters. Get the opportunity to ask FEMA's first responders and EPA's water professionals for their insights on how to utilize this unique federal partnership so you can be ready when communities need your help the most.

### **Meet the Speakers**

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#### **Frances Josephs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Frances Josephs has been a financial analyst since 2016 for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Branch at the U.S. EPA headquarters in Washington, DC. She is currently supporting the State Revolving Fund team, states, and regions, while managing grants as a project officer for the agency, as well. Prior to this, Frances worked for more than ten years as a project accountant in the engineering consulting services field, which includes work in financial services and investment management. Before completing a Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Management at Johns Hopkins University, Frances completed a certificate program in Geographic Information Systems from Florida Atlantic University. Originally from Westchester County, New York, she now resides in Arlington, Virginia since May of 2010.



#### **Dr. Andrew Sawyers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Andrew Sawyers is the Director of the Office of Wastewater Management at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Before his appointment to that position, he served as Deputy Director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. Prior to EPA, he was the Deputy Director for the Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration, managing Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. Andrew has a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University.



**Gerilee W. Bennett, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

Gerilee W. Bennett is the Director of FEMA's Interagency Coordination Division within the Recovery Directorate. Ms. Bennett currently oversees the Recovery Support Function Leadership Group and the Interagency Recovery Coordination field cadre and operations. She has supported an array of disaster assistance operations from headquarters and field offices. She previously managed the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and was responsible for leading the initial development and implementation of the National Disaster Recovery Framework. Ms. Bennett holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and German as well as a Master of Arts in National Security Studies.



**Michael Deane, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Michael Deane is Chief of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to returning to EPA he was the Executive Director of the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC), the organization representing private water utilities and operating companies in the U.S. Michael has extensive experience and the perspective of working in both the public and private water sectors. Before joining NAWC in 2009, he was Associate Assistant Administrator for Water in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where he played a key role in developing and implementing national water policy. Before his appointment to EPA in 2006, he served as an executive at several water management companies, including SUEZ and the U.S. operations of Veolia, where he focused on innovative financing and infrastructure policy. He holds a Master of Environmental Management degree from the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment and his bachelor's degree in biology and geography from Gustavus Adolphus College.



**Peter Barlow, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

Peter Barlow is Program Analyst within the Branch of Policy for FEMA's Public Assistance Program. Prior to coming to FEMA in 2020, Peter served as Fish and Wildlife Administrator at the US Fish and Wildlife Service and has over 20 years of environmental experience at the State and Federal levels. Mr. Barlow holds master's degrees in environmental microbiology as well as clinical nursing and has worked on disaster assistance with non-profit organizations domestically and internationally.



**Steve McNulty, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy**

Steve McNulty is the SRF Section Supervisor for the Planning & Aid Division at the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. He oversees all financial assistance programs for the funding of water and wastewater infrastructure. He has worked primarily in the DWSRF program for the past 15 years and guided the response to the State's March 2019 Flood Disaster for major infrastructure needs. Steve graduated from the New Jersey Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

**Steven Hoffman, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality**

Steven Hoffman is a Project Engineer with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Steven has been employed with DEQ since November 2001. Steven spent fourteen years with the Public Water Supply Engineering Section and has been working with the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for seven years. Steven is a Registered Professional Engineer in Oklahoma and holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Tulsa.

**Patrick Tuohy, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

Patrick Tuohy is the Federal Disaster Recovery Officer for FEMA Region II. In this capacity he coordinates FEMA, other federal agency and state/local recovery programs and projects to ensure a unity of effort. He has led interagency efforts in New York after Hurricane Sandy, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands after Irma and Maria and now supports the Ida recovery. In addition to the interagency efforts, Tuohy supported the COVID-19 response and Community Vaccination Center missions.

**Stephen Oliver, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

Steve Oliver supports FEMA's Interagency Coordination Division Recovery Support Function Leadership Group. During college, he worked for the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Administrative Law Judges, then taught writing and literature at several universities in the Washington, D.C. area. He has served the public at FEMA for most of the past 25 years, working in Response, Recovery, and Logistics, taking two years off to serve as Staff Manager for the State of New Mexico's Office of Boards and Commissions. At FEMA, he has also served in several special roles, including as Director of the Office of Cerro Grande Fire Claims and representing the United States in Thailand during a United Nation's "Migrants in Countries in Crisis" Workshop in Thailand.