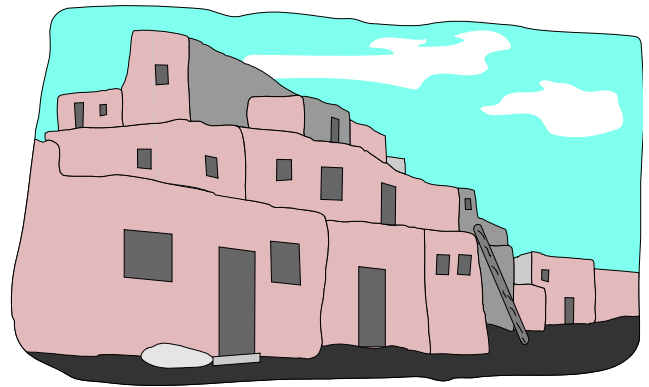




## Members Bios

**Infrastructure Task  
Force on Improving  
Access to Safe Drinking  
Water and Basic  
Sanitation in Indian  
Country**



**June 2012**



**Jason Adams**  
**Executive Director**  
**Salish and Kootenai Housing Authority**

Mr. Adams has been employed by the SKHA since July of 1992. The SKHA is the affordable housing provider for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The SKHA operates and manages over 620 units of affordable housing on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Mr. Adams is the region V alternate representative to the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) Board of Directors currently and from 1996 to 2000 and 2006 to 2010 served as regional representative. Region V consists of fourteen tribes in the states of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah. On the NAIHC Board Mr. Adams was instrumental in the creation of the NAIHC Training Institute.

In 1995, Mr. Adams was appointed by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council to the Salish Kootenai College (SKC) Board of Directors. From 1998 to 2003 Mr. Adams served as the Board Chairman of SKC.

Mr. Adams was born and raised on the Flathead Nation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Mr. Adams has a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from the University of Montana. Mr. Adams lives in Ronan, MT with his wife, Autumn, his sons, Elliott and Payton, and daughters Josie, Angie and Annie.

**Marie Barry**  
**Environmental Program Director**  
**Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California**

Marie Barry, currently the Environmental Program Director, Washoe Environmental Protection Department (WEPD) for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and has served on the Region 9 Regional Operations Committee for 10 years and as a Nevada Representative on the National Tribal Operations Committee for 5 years. Ms. Barry started with the Washoe Tribe 12 years ago with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University as an Environmental Specialist and has advanced to her current position. Ms. Barry came to the Tribe with over 15 years of natural resource experience in a variety of positions with California Department of State Parks and Recreation, Hoopa Fisheries Department, USDA Forest Service: Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation. In 2004 her Department received the Environmental Award for Outstanding Achievement from Region 9 Environmental Protection Agency for Non Point Source Pollution projects implemented along the Carson River, Douglas County, Nevada. The WEPD working with the

Washoe Utility Management Authority has successfully implemented several drinking/waste water and conservation projects. Repatriation of Tribal lands and protection of cultural and all biotic and abiotic resources for the benefit of future generations is her driving force.

### **Dana Baer**

#### **Assistant Director Sanitation Facilities Construction Program Indian Health Service (Rockville, MD)**

Mr. Baer received a Bachelors of Science in Mining Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in 1976 and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of New Mexico in 1992. From 1976 until 1985 Mr. Baer worked in the uranium mining industry in New Mexico, Colorado and Utah. Until he joined the Indian Health Service in 1986, Mr. Baer owned and operated a construction company that specialized in custom solar adobe homes.

Mr. Baer's initial assignment with the IHS was as a Field Engineer in Crownpoint, NM followed by two District Engineer assignments, one in Gallup, NM and one in Anchorage, AK. During a six-year leave from IHS Mr. Baer worked as a consulting engineer in West Africa, Brazil, and New England. He re-joined the IHS in 2001 in the Bangor, ME District Office as the Engineer Consultant to the Nashville Area. Dana is a Commissioned Corps Officer of the US Public Health Service holding the rank of Captain.

### **Steve Bolan**

#### **Director Sanitation Facilities Construction Program Alaska Area Native Health Services Indian Health Service (Anchorage, AK)**

Mr. Bolan has worked in the Sanitation Facilities Construction program for 22 years in Alaska and on the Navajo Nation. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Alaska. He holds Bachelor of Science from Utah State University and Master of Science from the University of New Mexico in Civil Engineering. Steve is a Commissioned Corps Officer of the US Public Health Service holding the rank of Captain.

### **Jennifer Bullough**

#### **National Director of Grants Evaluation Office of Native American Programs US Department of Housing and Urban Development (Washington, DC)**

HUD's Office of Native American Programs located in Washington, DC is responsible for setting policy in the areas of performance reporting and oversight. Ms. Bullough started working for

HUD in the Phoenix Office in 1987. In 1990 she transferred to the Southwest Office of Native American Programs and in 1994 relocated to the Headquarters Office of Native American Programs. She spent quite a few years as the Senior Contract Oversight Specialist, working with contractors and the Native American Indian Housing Council to facilitate the provision of training and technical assistance to Indian Housing Block Grant recipients. Ms. Bullough was also a member of the original Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. Ms. Bullough holds a Bachelors degree in Business Administration and a Masters degree in International Management.

**Marta J Burg**  
**Attorney Tribal Consultant**  
**US EPA Region 9 Tribal Operations Committee**

Marta has been providing legal services exclusively to tribal governments since 1997. Her practice focuses on environmental protection and natural resource rights and management; governmental operations; inter-governmental relations; real estate transactions and economic development; and tribal law and order. Past and current clients include the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Havasupai Tribe, the Hualapai Tribe, the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, the La Posta Band of Pomo Indians, the Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay, and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla.

Marta has regularly attended US EPA Region 9 Tribal Operations Committee meetings since 1997, and has participated as a tribal advocate on several RTOC workgroups, including those formed to develop regional policy and encourage national policy related to tribal program budgets and strategic planning; consultation; tribal access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation; dispute resolution procedures for tribal grantees; FOIA procedures; and tribal enforcement and compliance issues. She has served as the Legal/Policy Advisor to the Region 9 Tribal Caucus since 1999 under contract to the tribes of the last six Tribal Co-Chairs (Hualapai Tribe 1999-2000; Owens Valley Indian Water Commission 2001-2003; Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community 2004-2005; Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Reservation 2006-2007; Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe 2007-2009; and Tohono O'odham Nation 2009-present).

Marta has taught college level courses regarding environmental law and environmental ethics; and has published articles and made presentations to college-level and graduate classes, and at conferences, workshops and continuing education courses, regarding tribal environmental issues. She also served as a Member of and Advisor to the Executive Committee of the State Bar of California's Environmental Law Section from 1999 to 2004.

Marta obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from UC Santa Barbara in 1985; a Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School in 1991; and an Legum Magister (Master of Laws) with Concentration in Environmental Law from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1997.

**David Clark****Director of Environmental Programs****Rural Community Assistance Partnership (Washington, DC)**

Dave came to work at RCAP's national office in 2005 after serving as an RCAP Technical Assistance Provider working directly in the field with small, rural community projects in West Virginia for 11 years. He has worked in all of RCAP's programs over the years, including drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure-related work. He has also received grants extending the RCAP work in watershed, source water and telecommunications areas. Dave was very involved in The National Drinking Water Advisory Council's Measures Testing Group, the RCAP Native American Task Force and is currently the RCAP database administrator. Dave is also part of the EPA's Decentralized MOU and Water Security Division Partners groups. Previous to joining RCAP, Dave was a laboratory technician. Dave has a B.A. in biology from West Virginia University, specializing in environmental sciences (water) and recombinant DNA technology

**Ronald Ferguson****Director, Sanitary Facility Construction Program****Indian Health Service (Rockville, MD)**

Ronald C. Ferguson has spent his entire career as a PHS Commissioned Officer advocating for high quality engineering services and the promotion of public health for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Ferguson received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Oregon State University (OSU) in 1977 and a Master of Science of Environmental Engineering and Science from Stanford University in 1989. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Arizona.

After graduating from OSU, Ronald Ferguson began his Public Health Service career in 1980 as an Indian Health Service (IHS) Field Engineer in Kayenta, Arizona, part of the Navajo Area Office. In 1984, he was detailed to the Colville Confederated Tribes as a Tribal Engineer at Nespelem, Washington under an Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEA) contract. In 1986, he returned to the Navajo Area where he held a variety of positions culminating in his service as the Deputy Director of the Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction for the Navajo Area. He served in that post until October 1998.

Beginning in 1995, Ronald Ferguson was given the collateral duty of serving as the Lead Negotiator representing the IHS Director with twenty Tribal groups in negotiating Self Governance and Self Determination Agreements for health care programs in four IHS Areas. He continues to be involved in Self Governance and Self Determination activities, including negotiated rule making, and is an expert on federally sponsored construction projects.

In 1998, Ronald Ferguson transferred to IHS headquarters in Rockville, Maryland as the Deputy Director of the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program. In 2001, he became the Director of that program, a post he holds at this writing. As the Program Director, Ferguson is responsible

for implementation of a national environmental engineering and construction program, providing direction to 12 IHS Areas in the provision of engineering design and construction of water, sewer, and solid waste facilities for over 560 federally recognized Tribes in 38 states. The program has responsibility for the design and construction of 450 sanitation facilities projects annually.

Ronald Ferguson is a Commissioned Corps Officer of the US Public Health Service holding the rank of Rear Admiral.

## **Sheila Frace**

### **Director of the Municipal Support Division**

#### **Office of Water**

#### **US Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC)**

Ms. Frace's division has broad responsibility for a variety of programs affecting local government management of water infrastructure, including national direction and oversight of the Clean Water Indian Set-Aside and the Alaskan Native Villages program. The Division's number one priority is helping communities achieve sustainable water infrastructure to ensure that the gains of the past 30 years are sustained and surpassed. Ms. Frace holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering from Penn State. She has worked on water issues at EPA for 27 years, managing the development of technology-based regulations for industrial wastewater, implementing regulations through permitting and enforcement, and encouraging the adoption of non-regulatory solutions through incentives and assistance.

## **Gregory Gwaltney**

### **Team Leader, Sustainable Communities Branch**

#### **Office of Wastewater Management**

#### **US Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC)**

Mr. Gwaltney received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Urban Studies (cum laude), from the University of The District of Columbia. He also attended Roger Williams College in Bristol, Rhode Island for Mechanical Engineering and studied Tropical River Ecology in Belize.

Mr. Gwaltney has worked in the environmental field for over 30 years with more than 20 of them in civil service. Prior to working with EPA, Gwaltney worked for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as well as for several environmental engineering and consulting firms. He has managed projects that have included laboratory analysis, enforcement, stormwater management, Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping and modeling, drinking water security, pandemic flu planning and emergency response and recovery efforts (Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the Gulf Oil Spill).

Mr. Gwaltney currently serves as a Team Leader / Environmental Scientist in the Sustainable Communities Branch for the Office of Wastewater Management overseeing projects to help small communities, tribes and Alaskan Native Villages achieve sustainable wastewater infrastructure.

**David Harvey**  
**Environmental Engineer**  
**Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water**  
**US Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC)**

Mr. Harvey is charged with developing strategies and coordinating with other federal agencies to meet the federal government's commitment to increase access to safe drinking water on tribal lands. Prior to his current position he worked in the Water Security Division as part of a team that developed and deployed a contamination warning system at the Greater Cincinnati Water Works. He has firsthand knowledge of challenges faced by small water systems through his work experience as a field engineer with the Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction Program in Reno, NV. David is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Maine. He holds Bachelor of Science from the University of Maine and Master of Science from the University of Connecticut both in Civil Engineering. He also holds a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. David is a Commissioned Corps Officer of the US Public Health Service holding the rank of Commander.

**Billy Hix**  
**Director Office of Environmental Health and Engineering**  
**Cherokee Nation**

Mr. Hix has been employed with Cherokee Nation for 16 years. He graduated from Northeastern State University with a Bachelors of Science in Chemistry in 1996 and a Master of Science in Industrial Management in 2000. He is a Registered Sanitarian with the State of Oklahoma and the National Environmental Health Association and holds Class B Water Operator and Water Laboratory licenses as well as a Class C Wastewater license from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. Billy works closely with many Federal, State and Local agencies to address water and sewer infrastructure needs in the Cherokee Nation 14 county jurisdictional area of northeast Oklahoma.

**Ron Hoffman**  
**President/CEO**  
**Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)**  
**Regional Housing Authority (Bethel, AK)**

AVCP Regional Housing Authority a state chartered housing authority formed to address the housing needs in the region. Ron started his career with AVCP Housing in 1985, held numerous administrative positions before becoming the President/CEO in 2000.

Ron has experience in all aspects of housing construction in rural Alaska from planning to actual construction including the importance of all parties working cooperatively in development and construction of houses. Ron is knowledgeable of challenges of building conditions, limited construction time, logistical limitations, and construction costs. Ron uses this experience and knowledge to develop creative solutions for complex housing problems in rural Alaska.

Ron also served as past President of the Association of Alaska Housing Authorities and now serves on the Board, Vice President of Yuut Elitnaurviat, past Board member on the National American Indian Housing Council and now serves as an alternate and a Board member of Nuvista Light and Power. He also served on the NAHASDA Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. Ron is a businessman, a commercial fisherman and practices the subsistence way of life.

**Kellie Kubena**  
**Chief, Sustainable Communities Branch**  
**Office of Waste Water Management**  
**US Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC)**

Ms. Kubena has a Bachelors degree in Wildlife and Fisheries from Texas A&M University and a Masters degree in Fisheries from the University of Washington. She joined the Agency in the Regional office in Seattle and served in the EPA headquarters water quality standards program prior to coming to the Sustainable Communities Branch in 2009. The Branch focuses on assisting underserved communities and Tribes to attain sustainable wastewater treatment to protect human health and aquatic life.

**Shaun Livermore**  
**Utility Operator**  
**Poarch Band of Creek Indians Utility Authority**

Mr. Livermore is a Certified Grade II Water Operator and Certified Grade II Wastewater Operator working for the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Utilities Authority. Shaun holds an



Associate Degree in Drafting and Design from Jefferson Davis Community College. The majority of his expertise is more focused on groundwater treatment and distribution. He is proficient with several AutoCAD applications and is beginning to deal with GIS updating and implementation. Shaun has helped design Water and Wastewater system expansions from infrastructure to plant upgrades.

## **Eric Matson**

### **Deputy Director Sanitation Facilities Construction Program Indian Health Service (Phoenix, AZ)**

Mr. Matson has served as the Deputy Director of the Phoenix Area Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction Program since September 2009. Prior to this duty station, he served five year terms as the O&M Coordinator in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as District Engineer in Escondido, California, and as a field engineer in Pinetop, Arizona, and Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Raised in North Dakota, he obtained a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of North Dakota and a Masters Degree from the University of Idaho. He is married and has three daughters. Eric is a Commissioned Corps Officer of the US Public Health Service holding the rank of Captain.

## **Jon K. Melhus**

### **Senior Civil Engineer**

### **Water & Environmental Programs**

### **Rural Utilities Service, USDA Rural Development (Washington, DC)**

Mr. Melhus came to the USDA Rural Development National Office in the Water Program in the spring of 2007. Prior to that Jon was State Engineer for Rural Development (RD) in Minnesota since 2003.

Before coming to RD, Jon was an Engineer with US Fish and Wildlife Service in Minneapolis and Portland, OR, an Engineer with the Air Force in Cheyenne, WY and a Soil Scientist with Natural Resources Conservation Service in NM, MT and CO. Jon recently returned from a year in Iraq serving as USDA's Agriculture and Engineering Advisor on the Maysan Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Jon earned a Bachelor of Science in Soil Science from the University of Minnesota and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University, and he is a registered Professional Engineer in Colorado. He lives with his wife and two children in MD where they are enjoying all the sights of the DC area.

**Ken Norton**  
**Director Tribal Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Hoopa Valley Tribe**

Mr. Norton, a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, has worked in the environmental field since 1980. Over the past 32 years, Mr. Norton has served as a fishery technician, fishery biologist, water quality coordinator, and director of the Hoopa Valley Tribe's Environmental Department. Mr. Norton has a Bachelor of Science degree in Fishery Management. From 2003 through 2009, Mr. Norton served as the vice-chair of the National Tribal Caucus. Mr. Norton has the honor of currently serving as Chairman of National Tribal Water Council. Mr. Norton is deeply rooted in his Hoopa traditions and culture.

**Peggy O'Neill**  
**Planning Director**  
**Yurok Tribe**

Ms. O'Neill has held this position for 11 years. Prior to coming to this position, she worked as a Planning Director for the Wiyot Tribe and Trinidad Rancheria and the General Manager of the Cher-Ae Heights Casino. She has a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration Accounting. At the Yurok Tribe she oversees all building construction, new road construction and public utilities systems.

**Shawn Pensoneau**  
**Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs**  
**National American Indian Housing Council (Washington, DC)**

Shawn Pensoneau is the Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs at National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC). Mr. Pensoneau has over 15 years of experience working for tribal interests on Capitol Hill and the federal government. His role with the NAIHC is the point of contact with Members of Congress and federal agencies with Indian housing programs and provides advocacy for tribal housing programs.

Mr. Pensoneau joined NAIHC in May of 2011 after serving for seven years as Director of Congressional and Public Affairs for the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC). While at the NIGC, Mr. Pensoneau was responsible for the planning, coordination, and management of agency programs and activities relating to both legislative and public affairs. He has also held legislative positions at the Navajo Nation Washington Office, and at one time the NAIHC in 2003-2004.

Mr. Pensoneau has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Administration from Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. He is a member of the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma.

**Stephen Poloncsik**  
**Environmental Engineer**  
**Water Division National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System**  
**US Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 (Chicago, IL)**

Mr. Poloncsik is the Regional Coordinator for EPA Region 5 Clean Water Act Section 518(c) Indian Set-Aside Program providing financial assistance for construction of wastewater sanitation facilities on Indian tribal lands, in the states of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Mr. Poloncsik has coordinated Region 5 Clean Water Act Section 104(b)(3) financial assistance for NPDES-related Water Quality Cooperative Agreements during 2000-2006, including focus on assistance to tribes and other organizations in developing and implementing approaches to manage decentralized wastewater systems in rural small community and tribal reservation contexts.

During 1993-2005, Mr. Poloncsik delivered onsite wastewater operator training and assistance to operators of small community wastewater utilities in Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, coordinating with Region 5 EPA Clean Water Act Section 104(g)(1) funded wastewater operator training and onsite technical assistance programs. During 1983-2003, he performed Program analysis-evaluation for state-delegated and US Army Corps of Engineers-delegated Clean Water Act Title II Wastewater Construction Grant programs. This program focused on quality implementation including wastewater utility operation & maintenance, innovative and alternative technology, value engineering and sludge management. He was the Region 5 EPA National Research Program Liason 1970-1982 and a research engineer focusing on natural systems for treatment and disposal of wastewater and wastewater treatment residues. Mr. Poloncsik holds Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and Master of Science in Sanitary Engineering degrees from Illinois Institute of Technology.

**Jacqueline M. Ponti-Lazaruk**  
**Assistant Administrator for Rural Development's Water and**  
**Environmental Programs**  
**US Department of Agriculture (Washington, DC)**

Ms. Jacqueline Ponti-Lazaruk is committed to increasing economic activities and improving the quality of life in rural America. In January 2008, she was appointed Assistant Administrator for Rural Development's Water and Environmental Programs. She is charged with administering multiple loan and grant programs that provide funds for water and waste disposal infrastructure and technical assistance in communities with populations of 10,000 or less. Under her leadership, the program has invested nearly \$9 billion in new loans and grants for

rural water and waste disposal systems across the Nation. As a result, rural residents will benefit from increased access to reliable and sustainable water and waste services. Ms. Ponti-Lazaruk also served as the Rural Development Assistant Administrator for Telecommunications Program from 2006 to 2008, promoting and supporting rural broadband deployment.

Prior to joining USDA, Ms. Ponti-Lazaruk served in various positions over a 15-year span at the Federal Communications Commission. From 2004 to 2006, Ms. Ponti served as Associate Bureau Chief for Outreach for the International Bureau, leading industry, congressional and regional outreach related to international and satellite communications services. Under her leadership, the FCC hosted Satellite Forums in 2004 and 2005 showcasing advancements in satellite technology, mobile and global applications and challenges related to broadband deployment in rural and remote areas. From 2000-2004 she served as Chief of Staff for the International Bureau, overseeing bureau operations and leading strategic planning efforts to promote competition, effective spectrum management and broadband deployment.

Ms. Ponti-Lazaruk has been in public service for 20 years and is a graduate of James Madison University in rural Virginia.

**Charles Bearfighter RedDoor**  
**Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response**  
**US Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC)**

Charles Bearfighter RedDoor is the National Tribal Programs Coordinator for the Federal, State and Tribal Programs Branch, Permits and State Programs Division, EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR). Having joined ORCR in 2002, his primary focus is on solid and hazardous waste policy and guidance, as well as coordination of tribal solid waste activities, grants projects, and program measurement data with other federal agencies. Charles is a member of the Teton Hunkpapa Sioux of Fort Peck, Montana, and his Great-Grandfather, Chief Bear Runs Growling, led his warriors in the battle against the US 7th Cavalry during the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

**Michael Reed, Ph.D.**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Cocopah Indian Housing and Development**

Michael Reed, Ph.D. is the Chief Executive Officer for Cocopah Indian Housing and Development. He is also a licensed Arizona contractor, who manages Steamboat Construction, owned by Cocopah Indian Housing and Development. Dr. Reed has 20 years in the non-profit financial, development, and housing field. He received his bachelor of management from Pepperdine University, his Masters in Business Administration from the University of La Verne, and his Doctorate from Columbia Commonwealth University. He has been an adjunct professor at Webster University and the University of Phoenix. Dr. Reed has participated as a member on

the NAHASDA National Rulemaking Committee for the Organization of Native American Programs, and the Arizona and Mexico Commission. Dr. Reed serves as the Vice Chair of the Greater Yuma Port Authority, a Board member of Native Home Capital, President of Arizona Native Asset Coalition, and board member of the Cocopah Community Youth Center. He is also Vice Chair of the Cocopah First Things First Regional Partnership Council, which provides child development services to children birth to five.

## **Linda Reeves**

### **Tribal Drinking Water Program**

#### **US Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (San Francisco, CA)**

Ms. Reeves coordinates EPA Region 9's Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside program, regulates tribal drinking water systems, and serves on the Regional Tribal Operations Committee. She has over 20 years of water infrastructure experience with states and tribes, including a 4 year detail to the Hawaii Department of Health to help develop its Clean Water State Resolving Fund program. Through the U.S. / Mexico Border program, she worked with U.S. and Mexico tribes, binational organizations, and nonprofit organizations to upgrade all public water systems for indigenous communities on the Mexico side of the Border region. Ms. Reeves has a BS in Natural Resource Economics from UC Berkeley.

## **Matthew Richardson**

### **Environmental Protection Specialist**

#### **Office of Waste Water Management**

#### **US Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC)**

Mr. Richardson is charged with developing guidelines and coordinating within EPA and with other federal agencies to meet the federal government's commitment to increase access to safe waste water sanitation services for tribes and Alaskan native villages.

Mr. Richardson previously assisted with the implementation of EPA's new Watersense program that promotes water efficiency by enhancing the market for water-efficient products. Mr. Richardson was part of a team that significantly increased the number of local water utility partners and conducted extensive outreach that increased Watersense product market share.

Mr. Richardson has firsthand knowledge of challenges faced by small, rural utility systems through his work experience as a Research Assistant for the Environmental Finance Center where he developed recommendations and tools for state and federal water infrastructure funding decision makers to maximize public investments.

Mr. Richardson holds Bachelor of Science in Environmental Chemistry from Saint Michael's College in Colchester Vermont, a Professional Certificate in Environmental Compliance Auditing

and Remediation Technologies from the University of California at Berkeley, and Master of Science in Environmental Engineering and Policy from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill School of Public Health.

**David C. Saddler**  
**Manager Water/Wastewater & Propane Department**  
**Tohono O'odham Utility Authority (Sells, AZ)**

Mr. Saddler has forty-five years of industry related experience in project development, commercial, institutional, and residential project management, infrastructure development, inspection, utility operations, water and wastewater system design, construction and operation. He has experienced in budget preparation, planning, operations, asset management and human resource development. He is an instructor and lecturer on utility operations and structure, management strategies, operator training, board development, stewardship and tribal utility development, contract management and related topics. He is also certified in water treatment, water distribution, utility management, asset management and board development with licenses in other industry related disciplines.

**Aaron Salzberg**  
**Special Coordinator for Water Resources**  
**Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science Affairs**  
**US Department of State (Washington, DC)**

Mr. Salzberg serves as the Special Coordinator for Water Resources at the Department of State in the Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science Affairs. He is the first person to hold this title. He is responsible for managing the development and implementation of U.S. policies on drinking water and sanitation, water resources management, and transboundary water and leads the U.S. Government's response to the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005. Aaron has been the lead representative or the lead water advisor for the United States at several major international events on water including the G8, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and the World Water Forums.

Aaron has a Ph.D. in Genetic Toxicology and a Master's degree in Technology and Policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also holds a Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Maryland and has mediated more than forty civil disputes as a mediator with the Harvard Law School. He was recently awarded the 2010 Frank E. Loy Award for Environmental Diplomacy for moving water from the periphery to the center of U.S. government foreign policy.

**Kelly Titensor, PE**  
**Policy Analyst**  
**Native American and International Affairs Office**  
**U. S. Bureau of Reclamation**  
**(Washington DC)**

Mr. Titensor received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1980 and a Masters of Engineering Management degree in 1983, both from Brigham Young University. From 1980 until his retirement in 2007, Mr. Titensor worked with the Indian Health Service Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) program. His service included assignments in the states of South Dakota, Nevada, and California and the Portland Area Office (Oregon, Washington and Idaho). His duties included serving as a Field Engineer, District Engineer, Assistant Director, SFC, and Director, SFC.

From 2007 to 2011, Mr. Titensor worked in the Montana Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation the Native American Affairs Coordinator working with six tribes in Montana on various water resource projects. In September 2011, Mr. Titensor accepted a new assignment as a Policy Analyst in the Native American and International Affairs Office (NAIAO) in the Washington Office of the Bureau of Reclamation.

Mr. Titensor retired as a U. S. Public Health Service Officer with the rank of Captain. He is also a registered engineer in California and Oregon.

**Dennis Wagner**  
**Civil Engineer**  
**Alaska Operations Office**  
**US Environmental Protection Agency (Anchorage, AK)**

Mr. Wagner is EPA Region 10's coordinator for the Safe Drinking Water Act Tribal set-aside, the Clean Water Act Indian Set-aside and the Alaska Native Village Infrastructure programs. In addition he is the project officer for these programs in Alaska. He also has worked for EPA in the drinking water program. Prior to being detailed to EPA he was detailed to the Indian Health Service as a project engineer where he worked in the Oklahoma, Bemidji, Albuquerque and the Alaska Areas. Dennis is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Alaska. He holds Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of Nebraska and Master of Civil Engineering from the University of Alaska. Dennis is a Commissioned Corps Officer of the US Public Health Service holding the rank of Captain.

**John Wheaton**  
**Utilities Planner**  
**Nez Perce Tribal Water Resources**

The Nez Perce Tribe is located in Northern Idaho, within the boundaries of the North Central District 2 Health Department for the State of Idaho. Mr. Wheaton oversees the Water and Wastewater, Solid Waste, and is actively involved as an Energy Committee Member for the Nez Perce Tribe. Nez Perce Tribe Utilities is under the umbrella of the Tribe's Water Resources Division, so Mr. Wheaton works closely with water quality, non-point source, brown fields, underground storage, and wetlands programs. He has been working as the Utilities Planner since June 2008.

Mr. Wheaton is a Nez Perce Tribal Member and feels fortunate to be in a position to enhance the water quality that affects so many programs and communities within the Tribe. He was raised in Salem, Oregon and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Social Science from Portland State University, M. ed in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Idaho, and am on the cusp of a Masters of Public Administration. Recently, in October 2010, he took on a more authoritative role in overseeing the Tribal Utilities and ensuring compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's water quality. He now works closely with our Tribal administration, Indian Health Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and federal funding agencies to increase more support for water quality standards such as making sure that standard operating procedures coincide with Tribal Code and Federal Regulations.

**Mellor C. Willie**  
**Executive Director**  
**National American Indian Housing Council (Washington, DC)**

Mellor C. Willie is the Executive Director of the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC). He directs the non-profit organization's operations and programming, as well as publicly promotes and advances the American Indian, Alaska Native and native Hawaiian housing policy agenda in Washington, D.C. and abroad.

Willie is a member of the Navajo Nation, born and raised in Window Rock, Arizona. He was born into the Yei Dine' Tachii'nii clan and born for the Tsenahabilnii clan. In 1998, he received his bachelor's degree in political science from Southern Utah University. In May 2009, Willie graduated from The George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management, being the first American Indian to graduate from the program.

Before NAIHC, Willie served as director of development for the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) headquartered in Washington, D.C. As the chief fundraising executive, he directed the fundraising efforts for NCAI. Prior to joining NCAI, Willie worked for the New



Mexico State Senate where he served as a majority analyst and assisted ranking Senator John Pinto, Chair of the Senate Indian and Cultural Affairs Committee.

In 2003, Willie served a visiting fellowship in Harvard University's Administrative Fellowship Program detailed to work in the Harvard University Native American Program in the John F. Kennedy School of Government. Prior to Harvard, Willie worked as development officer for the Western Health Foundation in Gallup, New Mexico, where he raised funds to provide critical health care for indigent Native Americans.

Willie was a recipient of both the Morris K. Udall Foundation Congressional Scholarship and Internship, and during the Internship Program worked for former Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-AZ). After graduating from college, he helped start a publication, Navajo Culture Today, devoted to enhancing the culture and language in schools across the Navajo Indian reservation. At 22, he was the youngest ever appointed by the Navajo Nation President to serve as spokesperson for the Navajo Nation, the largest Indian tribe in the country. Later, he was promoted to intergovernmental affairs advisor and secured funding from the State of Arizona to build several senior citizens centers on the Navajo reservation. In 2002, Mr. Willie helped organize a multi-million dollar marketing campaign, sanctioned by the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games, to showcase the Navajo culture to the world.

Willie was recognized in 2010 as one of 40 emerging American Indian leaders under the age of 40 by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's Native American 40 Under 40. Willie served on the faculty advisory board for the Harvard University Native American Program, and he currently serves on the advisory board for the Native American Political Leadership Program at George Washington University. As a former alumni, he continues to serve on the advisory board for the Washington Internships for Native Students at American University.

## **Michaelle D. Wilson**

### **Chief of Federal, State, and Tribal Programs Branch**

### **Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery**

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC)**

Michaelle D. Wilson is Chief of the Federal, State, and Tribal Programs Branch (FSTPB) in the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. FSTPB provides technical support and policy guidance to EPA headquarters and regional offices, federal agencies, states, and tribal governments on solid and hazardous waste management programs under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). FSTPB manages the national RCRA tribal program and two grant programs for capacity-building projects in Indian Country. The Tribal Solid Waste Management Assistance Project is a multi-agency program for projects proposed by federally-recognized tribes or intertribal consortia for development of integrated waste management plans or to clean-up, close and prevent open dumps. The

Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes funds projects proposed by federally-recognized tribes or intertribal consortia for the development and implementation of hazardous waste management programs.

Michaelle joined the Federal government in 1982 as a Presidential Management Intern and joined EPA in 1984. In 2000, she completed a Senior Executive Fellowship at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. She holds a B.S. degree in political science from Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland, and a master's degree in public administration from the State University of New York at Albany.

**Aneva Yazzie**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Navajo Housing Authority**

Ms. Yazzie came to NHA with extensive experience and knowledge in the affordable housing arena especially on tribal lands and HUD's Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act funding for Native American housing opportunities. Her experiences include the full range of leveraging available to Tribally-Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) that include: the first-ever tax exempt-Section 184 collateralized bond financing in the amount of \$25 million to build 317 single family lease-purchase homes; mixed funding with Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects for various new construction and rehabilitation projects in the amount of \$10 million; grant funding of State Housing Trust Funds in the amount of \$1 million for rehabilitation; Title VI loan guarantee financing for \$5 million for off-site water and wastewater infrastructure systems and additional \$10 million for homes construction for various tribes across the country including Alaskan native communities.

Ms. Yazzie is a full-blood member of the Navajo (Dine) Nation. My professional background by education is in Industrial Engineering and worked ten years as a private engineering/management consultant for native and urban communities in the affordable housing arena combined with 14 years of public sector work with the Department of HUD and Department of Interior. I also worked as a Deputy Director with the Arizona State Department of Housing under the former Governor Janet Napolitano which has further added to my knowledge of the tax credit financing and State Housing Trust funds for rural and native American communities. I remain committed to being housing professional and know the intimate details and challenges of housing development and related infrastructure needs in Indian Country.