



## **2020 CIFA SRF Workshop Online Edition**

**Regionalization: Tuesday, November 10, 3:00 – 4:30 pm (ET)**

### **Bringing Communities Together for Stronger Water Systems**

Learn how leadership, partnership, policy, permitting, programs, funding and communication can be effective tools in developing a successful plan for regionalization and consolidation of small and rural water systems. Hear presentations on the Environmental Finance Advisory Board's [Financing Strategies to Promote System Regionalization](#), the Rural Community Assistance Partnership's [Resiliency through Water and Wastewater System Partners: 10 Lessons from Community Leaders](#), and the University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center's [Regionalization: Five Key Takeaways with Resources](#). Hear about a successful regionalization project with multiple partners in Oklahoma.

**Moderator:** Jim McGoff, Chief Operating Officer and Director of Environmental Programs of the Indiana Finance Authority

### **Panelists:**

- Joanne Throwe, President, Throwe Environmental and Chair, Environmental Finance Advisory Board
- Eric Rothstein, Principal, Galardi Rothstein Group
- Sarah Buck, Senior Director of Programs, Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- Laura Landes, Research Manager, Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- Erin Kristine Riggs, Executive Director, University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center
- Eddie Rhandour, Engineering Manager, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

### **Meet the Panelists:**

#### **Sarah Buck, Rural Community Assistance Partnership**

As the Senior Director of Programs, Sarah oversees Rural Community Assistance Partnership's major environmental programs, including regionalization. Previously, she spent two years at the Northeastern RCAP, RCAP Solutions and nearly four years at RCAPs' Western partner, RCAC. At RCAC, Sarah was a key regionalization and community leadership development team member.

#### **Laura Landes, Rural Community Assistance Partnership**

Laura Landes is a Research Manager at the Rural Community Assistance Partnership. She interviewed community leaders and worked on RCAP's previous (and upcoming) regionalization report. She completed her Masters of Environmental Management at the Nicholas School of the

Environment at Duke University, where she also did research related to rural communities and regionalization.

### **Jim McGoff, Indiana Finance Authority**

Jim McGoff is Chief Operating Officer and Director of Environmental Programs of the Indiana Finance Authority. Prior to his current position, Jim served as Director of Environmental Programs and General Counsel for the Authority. Prior to joining State government, Jim was a partner in the Indianapolis law firm Bingham McHale LLP (currently Bingham Greenbaum Doll, LLP), where he was a member of the firm's public finance practice group, representing the State of Indiana and many Indiana cities and towns with their municipal borrowing needs. He was appointed to the US EPA Environmental Financial Advisory Board in 2016 and was also invited to be a member of the Great Lakes Protection Fund - Advisory Board. He graduated with a degree in Accounting from Indiana University Kelley School of Business and a J.D. from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law.

### **Erin Kristine Riggs, University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center**

Erin Riggs is the Executive Director of the University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center and conducts applied research surrounding legal, policy, and accounting frameworks that influence environmental finance issues around the country. Erin has a JD from the University of Florida's Levin College of Law where she pursued a law degree with a specialization in Environmental and Land Use issues.

### **Eddie Rhandour, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality**

Eddie Rhandour is the Engineering Manager of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) within the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Eddie has been employed with DEQ since November 2006, 14 years. From November 2006 through May 2010, Eddie was employed in the Construction Permitting Section as plan review engineer. Eddie has been working with the DWSRF program since May of 2010 where he served as a project engineer for 7 years before becoming the program's Engineering Manager in January 2017. Eddie graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and holds Professional Engineering license in Oklahoma.

### **Eric Rothstein, Galardi Rothstein Group**

Eric has over 30 years of experience in water, wastewater, and stormwater utility financial and strategic planning. His recent projects include supporting the City of Atlanta Watershed Management Department's capital financing program, and as co-author of the report: *"Developing a New Framework for Household Affordability and Financial Capability Assessment in the Water Sector"*. Previously, Eric served on the Michigan Governor's Flint Water Advisory Task Force, and as program manager for establishment of the Great Lakes Water Authority. For the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, he chaired the Blue Ribbon Panel on Affordability. He was Jefferson County, AL's rate consultant and municipal advisor for litigation related to the County's bankruptcy and issuance of \$1.7 billion in sewer warrants. Eric prepared the City of Atlanta's Financial Capability-Based Schedule Extension Report. For several permittees (Atlanta,

Akron, EBMUD, Honolulu, Guam, NEORSD, ST. Louis), Eric provided strategic and financial consulting and negotiation support services on financial capability assessment and low-income affordability issues. Eric is a member of the USEPA Environmental Finance Advisory Board, an MSRB registered Municipal Advisor, and a contributing author of the WEF *Financing and Charges for Wastewater Systems* and AWWA *Principles of Water Rates, Fees and Related Charges Manual of Practices*.

**Joanne Throwe, Throwe Environmental**

Joanne Throwe is the President of Throwe Environmental and is a Senior Fellow at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy. Previous positions include serving as Deputy Secretary for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Director of the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center; Specialist with USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service; and Peace Corps volunteer in the South Pacific. Joanne currently chairs US EPA's Environmental Financial Advisory Board and also serves as co-chair of the Stormwater Finance Task Force.