



# **AEA Annual Meeting and Conference**

**November 18 & 19, 2024  
Caesars, Atlantic City**





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## **November 18 & 19, 2024**

### **Caesars, Atlantic City**

#### **Available credits**

TCHs: 6w/ww • CPC: 1

CEU: CMFO/CCFO, 3.5 "office management and ancillary subjects,"  
2.0 "financial and debt management."

CPWM, 4.0 "government," 1.0 "technical," 0.5 "management."

RMC, 2.0 "finance," 3.5 "professional development."

QPA, 2.0 "public works compliance" or "procurement procedures,"  
3.5 "office admin./general duties."

## **Monday, November 18**

### **5:00 p.m. | Welcome**



*Peggy Gallos, AEA*

*Marc Pfeiffer, Rutgers University*

### **5:15 p.m. | AEA State of the State Government Affairs**



*David Smith, Princeton Public Affairs Group*

AEA's strategic advisor and lobbyist David Smith will be providing you with a political update, election analysis and expert insights on both the federal and state level. He will also discuss Administrative action affecting environmental authorities, with specific focus on AEA's top public policy and legislative priorities.

### **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. | Networking Reception – Palladium**

### 7:30 a.m. | Breakfast – Palladium

### 8:30 a.m. | Welcome and Annual Business Meeting – Palladium C



*Steve Specht*

AEA President Steve Specht will conduct the annual business meeting including the election of officers and directors. Proposed slate below will be voted on.

**President** - Steve Specht, Brick Township MUA

**1st Vice President** - Brian Brach, Manasquan River RSA

**2nd Vice President** - Ron Anastasio, Somerset Raritan Valley SA

**Treasurer** - Brian Valentino, Western Monmouth UA

**Past President** - Richard Brand, East Windsor MUA

#### **Authority Member Director**

Jeff Booth, Evesham MUA

Keith Marcoon, Ocean County UA

Lisa Oberreiter, Middlesex County UA

Joe Pantalone, Atlantic County UA

#### **Municipal/Associate Member Director**

Matthew von der Hayden, Township of Stafford

Margaret Carmeli, Offit Kurman

### Voting Procedures

AEA membership is by organization. Our bylaws state that each member organization shall have a voting delegate. The voting delegate is the main contact person listed in the AEA directory. This is usually the executive director -- or could be a commissioner, superintendent. For associate members, it is the person who is our primary liaison, a partner, a vice president, as indicated to us when you join. Those of you who are voting delegates have a yellow ribbon indicating this attached to your badges. If you have that ribbon, you are eligible to vote.



## 9:15 a.m. | Getting Municipal Construction Right: Issues and Answers on Building, Procurement, and Compliance



*Honorable Robert  
Asarro-Angelo,  
Commissioner, New  
Jersey Department of  
Labor and Workforce  
Development*



*Steve Berezcki,  
Executrek  
Systems*



*John Rotolo,  
PVSC*

The State's Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development will provide an update on public works labor issues that affect workers, public agencies, and contractors. That will include an update on contractor wage reporting, debarment of contractors (The Wall), and prevailing wage compliance activities. Other speakers will discuss how to resolve challenges in construction specification, bidding and project management, how contractors can "game" their bids, and how to strategically use data that is generated through the construction process.

## 10:15 a.m. | Mastering Construction Procurement and Claim Resolution: 6 out of 8 Invaluable Tips



*Brad Carney and Diane Alexander, Maraziti Falcon*

The presenters will provide an overview of DCA's prequalification process to include mandatory minimum qualifications in bid specifications and examples of the successful use of prequalification in appropriate cases. Examples of modifications to the standard Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee standard bid specifications

to further protect the owner/Authority will be discussed as well as the necessity of legal site control to avoid disruption and delay claims. The speakers will address the importance to the authority/municipal member of having release language in every change order and how the Eichleay formula works with regard to contractor's extended home office overhead claims, and examples of defenses. Finally, there will be a discussion regarding how to prepare for the alternative dispute resolution process to potentially avoid protracted litigation, including recent examples.

## 11:00 a.m. | Navigating the Current and Future Challenges of Biosolids Handling in New Jersey



*Paul Knowles, PhD, PE, ENV SP, LEED GA, Hazen and Sawyer*

This presentation will provide an overview of the latest federal and state regulations regarding biosolids and the water industry. In addition, the direction some states have already moved in advance of federal regulations being promulgated. Similarly, takeaway challenges/opportunities revealed at NJWEA's Biosolids Roundtable (in May 2024) from NJDEP, utilities, and vendors, and how the water industry may best want to address these challenges/opportunities collectively moving forward. The latest biosolids planning and engineering tools being applied by utilities will also be presented to address steadily increasing biosolids treatment and handling cost, as well as considering future potential biosolids regulations.

## 11:30 a.m. | Break

## 11:45 a.m. | License Operator Rule Update



*Kristin Tedesco, NJDEP*

The DEP will address attendees on Licensed Operator Rules, pertinent information, as well as, some programmatic updates.

## 12:15 p.m. | Lunch – Palladium

## 1:45 p.m. | How the US Supreme Court Chevron Decision Could Affect Environmental Regulations and How The Regulatory Agencies Behave



*George Tyler & Matthew Krantz,  
Tyler, Aversano & Krantz*

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Chevron USA v. National Resources Defense Council*, ending the federal judiciary's forty-year-old deference to agencies' reasonable interpretations of ambiguous federal laws. This ruling almost certainly has profound implications for



## › TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 CONTINUED

environmental regulations. The speakers will explain the decision and discuss the possible effect it could have on the work of AEA members.

### 2:30 p.m. | Floating Solar Across America



*Ned Horneffer, Third Pillar Solar*

This presentation will explore the transition from land use to water savings by deploying floating solar. The presenter will discuss the active floating project pipeline, the U.S. floating solar waterscape, example projects, the integration of proven marine and solar energy technologies, the types of power delivery, and the lifecycle of solar floating assets.

### 3:15 p.m. | Break

### 3:30 p.m. | Turning Waste Streams and Operations Into Revenue For Your Utility



*Raymond  
Bukowski,  
NJ Resources*



*Andy Kricun,  
P.E.*



*Mark Kahrer,  
NJ Natural  
Gas*

Wastewater utility operators and managers are always looking for opportunities to optimize cost efficiency and operational performance. New Jersey Resources (NJR) is offering NJ wastewater utilities a chance to turn their digester gas stream from a liability into a consistent revenue stream. NJNG will be speaking about this opportunity as

well as other opportunities for energy cost savings and efficiency.

### 4:15 p.m. | The Business Community in New Jersey - What Keeps Us Up at Night?



*Ray Cantor, NJ Business & Industry*

The business community in New Jersey shares many of the same concerns as do the authorities. It frets about DEP overregulation, it is concerned about affordability and cost, and it wants members and employees to thrive. This discussion will highlight the key issues that impact both association memberships.

### 4:45 p.m. | Door Prizes

## 🌀 ABOUT THE PRESENTERS 🌀

### ABOUT THE GUEST MODERATOR

**Marc Pfeiffer** left a 37-year career in New Jersey local government administration in 2012. He served as a municipal administrator in several municipalities, and 26 years of service in the State's local government oversight agency, the Division of Local Government Services. At DLGS he served as Deputy Director for 14 years, and periodically as Acting Director.

He eventually landed at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University where he serves as Assistant Director of the Bloustein Local Government Research Center.

Marc has broad experience in many areas of local government policy and administration, including specific expertise in areas such as finance and property taxation, public procurement, shared services and consolidation, technology management, energy, labor relations, and general government administration. He also has deep experience in the legislative process and as a regulatory officer. He is currently engaged in research concerning the use of technology in local government.

At Bloustein Local, he supports faculty with his background in NJ government, teaches "Tech in the City" for undergraduates, is the Principal Investigator on several contracts with state government, helps the state's media understand government policies and provides occasional commentary on issues of the day. Marc makes his extensive government experience available as a guest lecturer and other collaborative efforts. He also supports the State Civil Service Commission and the Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration with the State's Certified Public Manager Program in curriculum development and instruction.

### ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

**Diane Alexander** has advised public and private sector clients regarding local government, environmental, infrastructure and resiliency-related issues and has successfully litigated matters involving a wide variety of environmental laws and regulations concerning water, wastewater, stormwater and air permitting issues, as well as water and wastewater planning, compliance, user fee and connection fee issues. She participated in the Stakeholders Group convened by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to revise the NJPDES Regulations, Planning Rules and Surface Water Quality Standards. She participated in the drafting of legislation relevant to connection fees and the creation of stormwater utilities. Ms. Alexander also served a six-year term on the Board of Directors of the Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey, *and loved every single minute of it.*

**Robert Asaro-Angelo** (Uh-SAR-oh ANN-juh-lo) was nominated by Governor Phil Murphy to serve as the Commissioner of the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development in January 2018. As Commissioner, Asaro-Angelo oversees the state's diverse services to New Jersey workers. Due in part to the innovation he has spearheaded in New Jersey, in February 2021, Asaro-Angelo was chosen by his counterparts across the nation as the Board Chair of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) for the 2021 association year. In recent years, Congress has called upon the Commissioner multiple times to testify about labor-related topics, including the state's innovative efforts to

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## About the Presenters

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develop apprenticeship programs, increase access to paid family and medical leave, and combat unemployment insurance fraud. Prior to his government service, Commissioner Asaro-Angelo worked for the Laborers International Union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the Service Employees International Union Local 1115 organizing and educating public employees, construction workers and nursing home employees about government and politics. Asaro-Angelo earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from Boston University and a master's in public policy from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University.

**Steven Berezcki** is the founder, President & CEO of Executrek Systems a Program Management and Business Processes Improvement organization utilizing Earned Values-Based solutions. His 35 years of Personal Experience spans Engineering Design, Fabrication, Construction Management and Earned Values-Based Project Controls. He helped various fortune 500 clients, across all major industries, achieve and maintain best-in-class status in managing their portfolios and meeting their business objectives. His custom methodologies, deployed across various industries, provided early visibility to cost and schedule overruns allowing owners to bring programs back on performance track. For over a decade Steve provided support to the PVSC, by developing accurate estimates and budgets for hurricane recovery efforts, providing a solution for identifying the Lowest Responsive Bids, avoiding the risks associated with

Unbalanced Bids, and provided Portfolio management services that resulted in major schedule and cost reductions. It is Steve's mission to keep bringing his experience from industry-leading companies in the private sector to the Public Utility sector.

**Raymond Bukowski** is the Managing Director of Government Relations, Communications and Sustainability at New Jersey Resources (NYSE: NJR), a leading energy infrastructure company that provides safe, reliable natural gas and clean energy services. He is responsible for leading the strategy and teams dedicated to advancing NJR's sustainability and decarbonization goals.

Mr. Bukowski joined NJR in 2021. Prior to joining NJR, he spent nearly 30 years at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, where he served in numerous leadership roles, including, Assistant Commissioner of Natural and Historic Resources and Assistant Commissioner of Compliance and Enforcement, and worked in multiple media areas and environmental programs.

A graduate of Stockton University and is a member of the Ocean County Soil Conservation District board of supervisors and member of Converse Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey board of directors.

**Ray Cantor** is Vice President of Government Affairs of the New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA), the nation's largest state-level business association whose member companies collectively employ 1 million people. Cantor, an attorney

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## About the Presenters

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whose career has included high-level positions in the legislative and executive branches of government, a former assistant commissioner and, later, chief adviser to the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), leads NJBIA's advocacy efforts on environmental and energy matters affecting the business community. At DEP, Cantor oversaw the offices of Legal Affairs, Dispute Resolution, and Economic Analysis in addition to advising the DEP commissioner on policy, legal, management, and economic matters. Cantor was also responsible for policy formulation related to all DEP regulations, including site remediation, NRD, air quality, water regulation, and land-use management. Mr. Cantor is a graduate of New York Law School.

**Brad Carney, Esq.** is a Partner at the law firm of Maraziti Falcon, LLP. Mr. Carney advises a variety of public entities regarding construction projects and defends his clients regarding construction claims for differing site conditions, equitable adjustments, change order disputes, delay, disruption, loss of productivity, liquidated damages, extended engineering costs and warranty claims. He has represented a variety of public clients in connection with Green Acres diversion and disposal matters, including Green Acre temporary construction agreements necessary for replacement of aging infrastructure. Mr. Carney is an experienced litigator representing the firm's clients in federal and state courts, alternative dispute resolution and before administrative agencies.

**Ned Horneffer** has over twelve years of experience in the renewable energy sector and is working to expand the energy transition and preserve water resources with floating solar. He is the VP of Development at Third Pillar Solar where leads a team of developers to design and build floating solar projects across the United States.

**Mark G. Kahrer** serves as Senior Vice President-Regulatory Affairs at New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG), where he oversees all aspects of the company's regulatory affairs, gas supply, environmental services and business development efforts in RNG and green hydrogen.

Mr. Kahrer joined NJNG in 2017 as Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and was promoted to his current role in 2020, when he also managed the Marketing and Energy Efficiency programs. Prior to joining NJNG, he spent 34 years with Newark, NJ-based Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) and its parent, Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG). Throughout his tenure with PSEG, he served in numerous capacities, including Vice President of Finance for PSE&G and PSEG Power, Assistant Treasurer and Senior Director - Business Performance and Improvement for PSE&G and PSEG Long Island. Mr. Kahrer was instrumental in starting up PSEG's corporate risk management function, lean six sigma efforts and was instrumental in the development of the performance metric program at PSEG Long Island.

Mr. Kahrer received his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Saint Peter's College and a Master of Business

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## About the Presenters

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Administration in finance from Seton Hall University.

**Paul Knowles, PhD** is a professional engineer in Hazen's NYC office. He specializes in water resource recovery including water reuse, energy recovery and biosolids beneficial use. He obtained his PhD from Aston University, UK and his master's degree from the University of Warwick, UK both in mechanical engineering. Dr. Knowles is a licensed Professional Engineer in the states of NY and NJ. He is Adjunct Professor of Environmental Engineering at Columbia University.

**Matthew J. Krantz** joined Tyler Aversano & Krantz, P.C. in October of 2009 after serving as a law clerk in the Civil Division of the Superior Court in Mercer County. Mr. Krantz represents a diverse client base on a multitude of environmental, real estate, zoning/land use, business, and utility authority issues and their related litigation. He assists individuals and businesses in obtaining environmental and land use permits from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and other local, county and State agencies. He provides compliance assistance in connection with such approvals and guides those responsible for remediating contaminated sites through the site remediation process. He defends clients against administrative agency enforcement actions and prosecutes appeals of permitting decisions and regulatory adoptions.

**Andrew Kricun** is a Managing Director with Moonshot Missions, a non-profit focused

on providing technical assistance to water utilities in underserved communities. He also serves on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council. He has over 35 years of experience in wastewater and biosolids management, including several years as Executive Director and Chief Engineer of the Camden County (NJ) Municipal Utilities Authority. He also served on the board of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) for several years and was co-chair of its Environmental Justice and Utility of the Future committees. He graduated with honors from Princeton University with a degree in chemical engineering. He also holds a professional engineer's license in civil engineering and is a board-certified environmental engineer.

**John Rotolo** is the Chief Engineer for the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, responsible for the administration of the Engineering and Maintenance Departments within the 171 acre public utility that serves 1.3 million people and 48 municipalities with the 5th largest flow capacity within the United States. He oversees 15 Professional Engineers and 175 Union Craftsman. John is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University where he received a BS in Mechanical Engineering. John is also a State of New Jersey Licensed Professional Engineer, with an S2 Public Wastewater License. Reporting directly to the Executive Director, he is responsible for the oversight of the physical plant, energy and utilities infrastructure, including the planning, development and management of capital construction projects of the utility's buildings, land and infrastructure. Under his administration, he is responsible for managing \$850 million in construction

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## About the Presenters

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which includes \$500 million in Resiliency Improvements to the facility. John has over twenty-five (25) years' experience as an administrator with a diverse technical and administrative background in Maintenance, Engineering, Project Administration and Plant Management.

**David A. Smith** is a veteran of the public affairs arena and has expertly managed public affairs campaigns impacting auto insurance, life insurance, financial services, service contracts, business issues, tort reform, and environmental legislative initiatives. He was a member of Governor Murphy's Transition Environment & Energy Committee and has appeared on television and radio stations representing clients' interests and authoring dozens of articles on politics/policy issues in New Jersey. Mr. Smith is also a frequent guest speaker/lecturer at national and state conferences and has been AEA's lead lobbyist for nearly 30 years.

**Kristin Tedesco** is the Bureau Chief for Water System Engineering at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, where she has dedicated over 20 years of service. A graduate of Lehigh University, she holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Civil Engineering, and is a Certified Public Manager through Rutgers University. In her current role, Kristin oversees a team of over 40 professionals focused on critical drinking water programs, including the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan program, the licensing of water and wastewater system operators, and the permitting of treatment and water system infrastructure. Notably,

she managed the implementation of New Jersey's first Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFNA, positioning the state as a leader in addressing PFAS contamination. Kristin is committed to advancing water quality initiatives and ensuring compliance with essential regulations to protect public health.

**George J. Tyler, Esq.** is a founding shareholder of the firm now known as Tyler Aversano & Krantz, P.C. Mr. Tyler handles a wide variety of business, corporate, land use and real estate matters, including general counseling, administrative agency practice, permit prosecution and related litigation. He concentrates in environmental law with extensive practice before both state and federal environmental agencies. During his seventeen-year career with NJDEP, Mr. Tyler served as the Director of the New Jersey Division of Environmental Quality and for six years as the Assistant Commissioner for Environmental Management. A graduate of Manhattan College with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, Mr. Tyler holds a JD degree, cum laude, from Seton Hall University School of Law. He is a frequent lecturer on environmental law. Mr. Tyler is a member of the NJDEP Site Remediation Advisory Group, the New Jersey Builders Association Environmental Committee, the Chemistry Council Environmental Committee and the New Jersey Business and Industry Association Energy and Environment Committee. Mr. Tyler serves on the AEA Board of Directors, legislative, NPDES and PFAS committees.

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**Thank you to the AEA Education and Conference Committee for putting together a timely and informative conference program.**

**The committee members are:**

Bill Gettings, chair, Alexa Alverio, Ron Anastasio, Brian Brach, Bernie Bujak, Tom Horn, Jill Plesnarski, Manuel Ponte, Dr. Apryl Roach, John Scheri, and Brian Valentino.

The committee was supported by AEA staff, Peggy Gallos, executive director, and Karen Burris, office manager, and by Lorna O'Hara and Tammi Kleszics from Princeton Public Affairs Group.

**Conference Chairs:**

Brian Brach, 1st Vice President  
Ron Anastasio, 2nd Vice President



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