

**WRF Webinar: Probability Management for Water Finance and Resource Managers**  
**Thursday, October 8, 2020**

**Presenter Biography Information**

**Thomas W. Chesnutt, PhD -- CAP® PStat® Chief Executive Officer A&N Technical Services, Inc.**

Dr. Chesnutt is the CEO of A & N Technical Services, Inc. He has extensive experience in water rate development, stochastic simulation and forecasting in the fields of water policy and economic modeling. Dr. Chesnutt holds a PhD and M.Phil. in Policy Analysis from the RAND Graduate School, an MS in Technology and Science Policy from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a BA in Economics from Kenyon College. Dr. Chesnutt is a Certified Analytics Professional (CAP®, see [www.certifiedanalytics.org](http://www.certifiedanalytics.org)) and an Accredited Professional Statistician™ (PStat®).

**Eric Akiyoshi -- Engineering Manager Irvine Ranch Water District**

Eric is currently the Irvine Ranch Water District Engineering Manager for the Planning and GIS group. He graduated from the University of California at Irvine with his B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering and has worked at IRWD for over 27 years. For the past 15 years he has helped lead IRWD's efforts in facility and water resource planning.

**Gordon Ng, PE -- Principal Water Resources Specialist Water Resources and Facilities Planning Eastern Municipal Water District**

Gordon Ng is a California-licensed professional engineer. He currently holds the position of Principal Water Resources Specialist in the Water Resources and Facilities Planning Department of the Eastern Municipal Water District.

**Michael Hollis, PhD, PStat® Senior Resource Specialist Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**

Mike Hollis is a Senior Resource Specialist with an interest in applied statistics and research design. His work responsibilities include demand forecasting and the analysis of water savings attributable to water efficiency programs. He previously worked as a power rates analyst for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and as a researcher at the UCLA School of Medicine.

**Shayne Kavanagh -- Senior Manager of Research Government Finance Officers Association**

Shayne is the Senior Manager of Research for GFOA and has been a leader in developing the practice and technique of long-term financial planning and policies for local government. He started GFOA's long-term financial planning and policy consulting offering in 2002 and has been working with governments on financial planning and policies ever since. Shayne has worked with many governments of different sizes and types on financial planning and policies across the United States and Canada.

**Maureen Hodgins -- Research Project Manager The Water Research Foundation**

Ms. Hodgins joined the Foundation in July 2005. Prior to that, Maureen worked for the Marine Department of the U.S. Antarctic Program as science cruise coordinator. She also worked at the University of California as a staff research associate studying trace organics in environmental samples. Maureen holds a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College, where she majored in Biology.

## **WRF Webinar: 2020 Technology Scan Webinar: Pyrolysis**

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020**

### **Presenter Biography Information**

#### **Valentino Villa -- Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer Bioforcetech Corporation**

Valentino Villa is the Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Bioforcetech Corporation. He earned the status of “Perito Industriale Capotecnico per l’Elettronica e le Telecomunicazioni,” an Italian professional designation for an industrial expert in the field of engineering that is recognized as an industrial engineer outside of Italy. Since co-founding Bioforcetech, Valentino and his team have been rethinking every step of biosolids management to prepare for a carbon-free future. Their system results in a deeply carbon negative and cost-effective management plan for any resource recovery facility. Valentino believes that Bioforcetech’s biochar is a resource, which is why he and his team are investing in research and development to expand the applications for biochar far beyond soil amendment.

#### **Andrew White -- Co-Founder CHAR Technologies**

Andrew is the co-founder of CHAR Technologies. He completed his graduate work in Chemical Engineering at the University of Toronto. Andrew co-founded CHAR Technologies while completing a Master’s Degree in Business, Entrepreneurship and Technology (MBET) at the University of Waterloo. He led CHAR through financings, including going public, M&A activities, technology development, and the successful engineering and construction of a 1 ton per hour high temperature pyrolysis facility, which was commissioned in 2018.

#### **Steve Wirtel, PE -- Executive Vice President of Business Development Kore Infrastructure**

Steve Wirtel is a Registered Professional Engineer with over 30 years of progressive experience in water treatment and waste-to-value. Mr. Wirtel has a unique blend of experience as both a consulting engineer and a technology provider that has allowed him to gain multiple perspectives as to how projects are sold, developed, and delivered. Having worked for large companies like US Filter/Veolia/Siemens, he now enjoys working with small entrepreneurial companies bringing game changing technologies to market.

Steve Wirtel is Executive Vice President of Business Development for Kore Infrastructure. Prior to joining Kore, Mr. Wirtel was Senior Vice President of Nutrient Recovery for Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies and before that he was an owner at Carollo Engineers, an engineering firm dedicated exclusively to water treatment planning, design, and construction services. Steve also spent seven years as Executive Vice President of Municipal Sales and Marketing with U.S. Filter, a large water treatment technology provider acquired by Siemens. Between Carollo and Ostara, Steve operated a consulting practice, providing communication and business development services to engineers, architects, and contractors. Steve received a B.S. in Civil Engineering and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

#### **Aaron Fisher, PhD PMP -- Technology and Innovation Manager, LIFT The Water Research Foundation**

Aaron joined the legacy Water Environment Research Foundation in 2016. Aaron works on the LIFT team where he serves as the technical lead (aka technology scout) in identifying innovation. He manages the LIFT Technology Scan process, LIFT Link, and the FAST Water Network. He assists with the validation program, webinars, proposal, and other strategic activities. Aaron also serves as co-manager of the HYPOWERS (Genifuel) project and has his PMP certification. Aaron previously served as a support contractor to the U.S. Department of

Energy and is the founder of a battery start-up. Aaron received a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Maryland and a BS in Chemistry from Duke University.

### **WRF Webinar: 2020 Technology Scan Webinar: Leak Detection**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

#### **Presenter Biography Information**

##### **Cory Sides -- Director of Sales VODA**

Since graduating from NC State University with a BS in Mechanical Engineering, Cory has spent his entire 18-year career in the water industry. Cory began as a design and manufacturing engineer in water metering before transitioning into field sales and eventually became a National Account Manager focusing on Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and Smart Water sales. Cory recently joined [VODA.ai](http://VODA.ai) as Director of Sales where he supports utilities who want to better understand how to target capital planning and operational activities through artificial intelligence.

##### **Tim J. Sutherns, M.Eng., P.Eng., PE -- Co-Founder Eramosa Engineering Inc.**

Tim is the co-founder of Eramosa Engineering, a consulting firm providing engineering services to the water sector in the areas of technology, automation, and process control. He is the current CIO at Eramosa where he spends time exploring smart water opportunities and the growth in the fields of data, analytics, and AI/ML in the sector. Having been involved in creating a data management, analytics and visualization software platform, eRIS, that has since been sold he is now working with Digital Water Solutions to help utilities understand what is happening underground. Digital Water Solutions monitors pressure, transient pressure, acoustics and water temperature within the distribution system to identify leaks and bursts as well as to help utilities understand the impacts of transient events on our aging infrastructure.

##### **Fidan Karimova -- Water Technology Collaboration Manager, LIFT The Water Research Foundation**

Fidan joined the legacy Water Environment Research Foundation in 2015. She works on the LIFT team where she serves as the contact person for utilities interested in learning more about LIFT, the LIFT SEE IT program, University-Utility partnerships, LIFT Affiliates, and the LIFT IWS Challenge. She also manages the LIFT for Management project. Fidan previously worked with young entrepreneurs in 86 countries to turn their ideas into startups. Fidan created a mobile app that tracks a person's daily water use. She received her M.S. in Environmental Management and B.S. in International Business from University of Maryland and most recently earned a Water Management certificate from Delft University of Technology.

### **WRF Webinar: 2020 Technology Scan Webinar: Digital Water**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

#### **Presenter Biography Information**

##### **Fidan Karimova -- Water Technology Collaboration Manager, LIFT The Water Research Foundation**

Fidan joined the legacy Water Environment Research Foundation in 2015. She works on the LIFT team where she serves as the contact person for utilities interested in learning more about LIFT, the LIFT SEE IT program, University-Utility partnerships, LIFT Affiliates, and the LIFT IWS Challenge. She also manages the LIFT for Management project. Fidan previously worked with young entrepreneurs in 86 countries to turn their ideas into startups. Fidan created a mobile

app that tracks a person's daily water use. She received her M.S. in Environmental Management and B.S. in International Business from University of Maryland and most recently earned a Water Management certificate from Delft University of Technology.

**Sara Charboneau -- Project Engineer AEEC**

Sara Charboneau has been a project engineer at AEEC for 8 years. She has worked on various projects across the western United States. Project locations include Hill AFB, Bridger Wyoming Coal Mine and Power Plant, and Bannock County Idaho Landfill, to name a few. She enjoys spending time hiking, camping, and fishing.

**Bill Smith -- President/Inventor Enviro/Sci Corporation**

Bill Smith, an inventor and process consultant, has developed several interrelated technologies that optimize wastewater plant performance and provide a means to train and educate a new generation of plant operators. Bill is President and Founder of Enviro/Sci Corporation and holds a total of 8 patents in 3 countries for wastewater treatment methods. Organic memory and knowledge has been converted to digital memory and models. The software models and applications have been made available to particular plants and are available for installation at other plants.