

Trainer Biographies

Kyla Jacobsen

Training Services - AWWA

Kyla Jacobsen is the recently retired Utility Director from the City of Elgin (IL). She has been in the water industry for over 37 years. She started as a bench chemist in the water quality laboratory, worked as the chief chemist in charge of water quality and eventually became the utility director in charge of drinking water, sewer collection and conveyance and stormwater.

Kyla fulfilled many roles during her career at the utility and as a volunteer for the American Water Works Association (AWWA). She has served as a trainer for the IL Section AWWA for water operators for over 20 years and now works for AWWA Training Services.

Kyla received her BS in Chemistry from Southern Illinois University, MS in Biochemistry from Northern Illinois University, and a MS in Environmental Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology.

Beth Read

Rural Development Specialist -RCAC- Environmental Lebanon, Oregon

Beth Read joined RCAC in 2021. She provides rural communities and tribes in Oregon with technical, managerial, and financial assistance related to their water and wastewater needs. She conducts water and wastewater rate analyses, assists with funding applications, provides utility operator trainings, and technical assistance to help bring water and wastewater systems into regulatory compliance.

Before joining RCAC, Ms. Read owned an environmental laboratory specializing in water and wastewater testing. She worked with water, wastewater, industry, tribal, private and government entities to help increase their understanding of the necessity to test for health and safety needs, and to maintain compliance through testing. She taught CEU classes on such topics as lab tests, proper sampling techniques, industry history, correct paperwork completion, current and emerging concerns, and finding a contract lab. She also conducted a lab section review for operator certification testing both in-person at schools and conferences, and virtually. Lab ownership required project management, purchasing, financials, records/reports review, supervising/training employees, report writing, and recordkeeping. Ms. Read previously spent 10 years conducting testing in a regulatory lab.

Education

Bachelor of Science, Microbiology – Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Quinn Andreas

Rural Development Specialist -RCAC- Environmental Corvallis, OR

Quinn Andreas joined RCAC in 2019 as part of the Environmental Finance Center Region 10 Community and Environmental Services team. He provides technical, managerial and financial (TMF) assistance to small, disadvantaged community water and wastewater systems, primarily those serving systems owned and operated by Tribal entities. Mr. Andreas conducts Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulated sanitary surveys, provides technical assistance to systems to improve regulatory compliance, conducts capacity assessments, and assists seasonal water systems. He also provides private well assessments.

Before joining RCAC, Mr. Andreas spent 10 years working as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) in Idaho and Oregon. He was responsible for an on-site sewage regulatory program, which included conducting site evaluations, permit issuance, and code enforcement. Prior environmental health work included conducting surveys and monitoring public drinking water systems for compliance with Oregon Administrative Rules, and conducting inspections on licensed facilities such as restaurants, pools, motels, recreation parks, organizational camps, daycares, school kitchens, and Job Corps.

Education

Bachelor of Science, Environmental Studies - Northland College, WI