

## **Niagara Falls Water Board Board of Directors**

Note: Pursuant to Public Authorities Law § 1230-e(2), “All [Water Board] members shall continue to hold office until their successors are appointed and qualify.”

**Daniel O’Callaghan, Chairperson.** Mr. O’Callaghan was appointed to the Board by City of Niagara Falls Mayor Paul A. Dyster on February 3, 2017, to fill a term ending on December 31, 2018. Mr. O’Callaghan completed the four-year Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union Apprenticeship Program and coursework at Niagara County Community College. He has over 40 years of experience in the field of construction, including 36 years of construction management experience as field foreman, general foreman, field superintendent, and field engineering and contract administration experience as a project/site manager. Mr. O’Callaghan worked for some of the region’s largest mechanical contracting companies on major projects throughout the region, including projects at the Niagara Falls Gorge Pumping Station and managing mechanical construction of the Water Treatment Plant that now is operated by the Water Board. Mr. O’Callaghan has held many leadership positions in Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 129, including as a past president of that Union and as Chairman and Trustee of its Pension, Welfare, Security Benefit, and Death Funds.

**Rena Kimble, Vice-Chairperson.** Ms. Kimble was appointed by the New York State Assembly on February 24, 2012, to fill a term ending on December 31, 2014. Ms. Kimble holds a Juris Doctor Degree and a Bachelor Degree in Political Science from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, as well as an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts/Social Science from Niagara County Community College (NCCC). She served for over 18 years as a Niagara County Legislator, and her professional qualifications also include serving as Risk Manager for the City of Niagara Falls, Director of the Niagara Falls Human Rights Commission, Adjunct Professor at SUNY Buffalo, Director of the Business Opportunity Program at the Office of Urban Initiatives, and serving as a Legal Associate with the Niagara County Attorney’s Office. Her extensive community involvement includes leadership and Board positions in many organizations, including serving as a member of the Executive Committee and Chairperson of the Legal Redress Committee for the NAACP’s Niagara Falls Branch.

**Nicholas Forster, Treasurer.** Mr. Forster was appointed by the Niagara Falls City Council on January 18, 2017, to fill a term ending on December 31, 2019. Mr. Forster’s professional experience includes service as a supervisory-level Senior Inspector with the New York State Gaming Commission, Erie County Deputy Sheriff, and Director of the Niagara County Office of Traffic Safety. He is a graduate of multiple law-enforcement academies and has served as a training instructor for multiple law-enforcement agencies. Further, Mr. Forster has served as a Union Officer for C.S.E.A. Local 300.

**Colleen Low Larkin.** Ms. Larkin was appointed by the New York State Senate on March 27, 2017, to fill a term ending on December 31, 2019. Ms. Larkin has a Bachelor Degree in Communications from SUNY Buffalo. She operates RooBoo Productions as a freelance communication services consultant. Her prior professional experience included serving as a managing editor of a technical publication and for an in-house publication, as well as several years of employment in sales and service.

**Gretchen Leffler.** Ms. Leffler was appointed by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on February 11, 2013 to fill a term ending on December 31, 2015. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Education from Niagara University, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Home

Economics Education from Misericordia University. Her professional experience includes services as Regional Vice President of the American Cancer Society, Executive Director for the American Cancer Society in Niagara County, Field Director for the Girl Scout Council of Niagara County, and as a teacher in Niagara Falls City Schools.

## **Executive Management Team**

**Patrick A. Fama, Executive Director.** Mr. Fama was appointed Acting Executive Director of the Niagara Falls Water Board in January 2019, and appointed permanent Executive Director in March 2019. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Syracuse University, College of Environmental Science, and Associate in Science Degree from Niagara County Community College. He has completed a course in Supervisory Management in the Water/Wastewater Field from Michigan State University, and holds New York State Grade IA-SW/GUI and IIA-SW/GUI Filtration Plant Water System Operator License #NY0038895. Prior to his appointment as Executive Director, he was the Lead Technical Director/Microbiologist for the Water Board's Water Treatment Plant Laboratory, Senior Laboratory Technician, and worked as a Water Treatment Plant Operator, in addition to other Water Treatment Plant Laboratory positions. In all, Mr. Fama has more than 25 years of employment experience with the City of Niagara Falls and Niagara Falls Water Board's water treatment system. Mr. Fama is a member of the Western New York Water Works Conference.

**Sean W. Costello, General Counsel and Secretary.** Mr. Costello holds a Juris Doctor Degree from Syracuse University College of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Relations, *magna cum laude*, from Syracuse University College of Arts and Sciences. He is admitted to practice law in New York, New Jersey, the Federal District Courts for the Northern, Southern, and Western Districts of New York, and the United States Bankruptcy Court, Western District of New York. Prior to becoming an employee of the Water Board, Mr. Costello was a Partner with one of the region's largest private law firms. His experience includes having served as Contract General Counsel to the Water Board, as attorney for a Western New York Town, and representing municipal entities in tort, civil rights, and employment-based claims in state and federal court. Mr. Costello was a law clerk with the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity and with the Defense Information Systems Agency, and is a member of various professional organizations, including the New York State Bar Association, Local and State Government Law Section. He has been honored as a Buffalo Business First 30 Under Thirty Honoree and as a Upstate New York Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

**James (Jim) Perry, Director of Administrative Services.** Mr. Perry has over 30 years of progressive management experience. He holds a degree in Business Commerce and Human Resources Management from Niagara University, having achieved certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources from the HR Certification Institute. In addition to human resource management he is experienced in quality systems management, information technology, and security. Mr. Perry worked for the City of Niagara Falls Water Department for a short period of time when he was honorably discharged from the US Army after serving 10 years during the Vietnam and Post Vietnam era and then was employed for the Chemical Division and North American Tire Division of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

**Kendra McClain Walker, Director of Financial Services.** Ms. Walker holds a Master of Business Administration Degree from Medaille College and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and Business from Niagara University. Her professional experience includes serving as Director of Emergency Management & Community Programs at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical

Center, Health Home Administrator for the Greater Buffalo United Accountable Healthcare Network, Site Director for Community Health Center of Buffalo, Inc., Regional Assistant for the United States Senate Office of Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Principal/Owner of Solomon Business Consulting Solutions, and Benefits Consultant for HealthNow N.Y.

**Douglas Williamson, Director of Technical and Regulatory Services.** Mr. Williamson received a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is a licensed professional engineer in New York State. Mr. Williamson has 25 years of progressive experience focusing on construction and the water/wastewater fields and has been with the Water Board since 2009. He previously worked for the Seneca Nation of Indians and for one of Western New York's largest mechanical contracting firms.