

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.”

Patrick D. Brown, CPA, Chairperson. Mr. Brown was appointed to the Board by the Niagara Falls City Council on February 13, 2020, to fill a term ending on December 31, 2022. Mr. Brown previously served as the City of Niagara Falls Mayor’s appointment to the Niagara Falls Public Water Authority from 2007 to 2016. He graduated from Niagara University in 1981 with a Bachelor of Business Administration - Accounting degree. His professional experience includes employment with national accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand, the Standard Oil Company’s internal audit department, and as accounting supervisor and plant controller for the Standard Oil Electro Minerals Company (formerly the Carborundum Company), where he became a certified public accountant. He served for four years as City Controller for the City of Niagara Falls. Mr. Brown has diversified accounting and financial management experience, including governmental and non-profit fund accounting and auditing and many years’ experience with Government Auditing Standards. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, has served on numerous community boards and agencies, and is active with local service clubs.

Colleen Low Larkin, Vice-Chairperson and Chair of Governance Committee. 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’s 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, Treasurer and Chair of Finance and Audit Committee. 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.

Rena Kimble. 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’s 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. Mr. Forster was appointed to his current term on the Board by City of Niagara Falls Mayor Robert M. Restaino on February 14, 2020, to fill a term ending on December 31, 2021. Mr. Forster previously served as the Niagara Falls City Council's appointee from February 2017 through February 2020. 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.

Executive Management Team

Sean W. Costello, Acting Executive Director, General Counsel and Secretary.

Mr. Costello twice has been selected by the Board to serve as Acting Executive Director. He 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, the United States Bankruptcy Court, Western District of New York, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. 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 an Upstate New York Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

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.