

MID-GRID 2035 Virtual Workshop - Speaker Biographies

Accelerating Siting and Deployment of Beneficial Transmission Solutions

Jake Glavin, Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA)

Jake Glavin is the Executive Director of the Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA) and founder of Woven Energy. Mr. Glavin has more than 10 years of experience in the energy industry, working on projects ranging from a 2,000 MW nuclear project in China to a 20 kW solar project in Chicago. Mr. Glavin brings his unique project experience and mixed engineering and business background to bear for Tribal communities. Through his work with MTERA, Mr. Glavin supports Native American Tribes that are planning and implementing clean energy projects by empowering Tribal leadership and staff. Mr. Glavin received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering cum laude from the University of Notre Dame. He received an M.B.A. from Carnegie Mellon's Tepper School of Business with a concentration in Strategy and Operations.

Jackson Keith - Land & Liberty Coalition

Jackson Keith currently serves as director for the Land & Liberty Coalition (L&LC). Jackson develops and manages strategies that help to overcome clean energy market barriers and accelerate the scale and penetration of clean energy development. Jackson oversees all of the L&LC's grassroots field teams, currently in the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Prior to serving as director of the coalition, Jackson served as a field director in the State of Indiana. There, he was successful in engaging local communities and getting buy-in from an ideologically diverse group of stakeholders. While in Indiana, Jackson helped to stand up three (3) utility-scale wind farms, and two (2) utility-scale solar farms for a total of ~500 MW.

Prior to joining the L&LC, Jackson worked with the Sterling Corporation in Lansing, Mich. Jackson's role with Sterling was to help position clients for success by developing key messaging, research, targeting, and grassroots outreach strategies. During his time with Sterling, Jackson was also one of the inaugural members of the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum's Young Professionals Fellowship Program, producing the report: Electric Vehicles: Growing Michigan's Economy with Advanced Technology.

Jackson was raised in Michigan and received a Bachelors of Science (B.S) degree from Michigan State University.

Cody Smith, Center for Rural Affairs

Cody Smith is a Policy Associate at the Center for Rural Affairs in Nevada, Iowa. He leads the Center's state policy portfolio in Iowa which includes assisting local and state government leaders with constituent engagement and drafting balanced siting and zoning standards for wind, solar, and transmission line projects in rural communities.

Dan Wildermuth, Pipestone County, Minnesota

Dan Wildermuth has been the representative from Pipestone County on the RMEB for the past six years. He is currently employed as the Master Electrician for Suzlon Wind Energy, Incorporated. Prior to that Dan was a contract Electrical Inspector for the State of Minnesota in Pipestone, Rock and Nobles Counties. Previous to inspecting, he owned and operated DW Electric for seven years. Before that, he was the Line Superintendent at SMCE, the rural electric serving Pipestone and Rock County.

Matt Prorok, Great Plains Institute

Matt Prorok joined the Great Plains Institute in November 2015 and is a senior policy manager. His work focuses on the development of electric transmission infrastructure and market mechanisms to enhance the development of low-carbon energy technologies in the Midcontinent region. In addition, Matt contributes to GPI's research and analysis work and is a facilitator for the Midwestern Governors Association's Grid Security & Modernization initiative. As part of his work at GPI, he also served on the steering and policy committees of the Minnesota Energy Storage Alliance.

Matt has a background in engineering and sustainability. He obtained his BS in mechanical engineering from Penn State with a minor in earth systems and an MS in science, technology, and environmental policy from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs. His work at the University of Minnesota focused on assessment of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to electric vehicle charging in Minnesota based on policy incentives intended to direct charging to specific hours of the day.

Charlie Sorenson, Mountrail County, North Dakota

Charlie was born and raised in Mountrail County North Dakota and has been a farmer in this county for nearly 30 years. He was appointed to the Mountrail County Planning and Zoning Board nearly ten years ago. In that roll, he has experienced permitting because of rapid growth and activity in our oil industry and related industries including electrical transmission. As a farmer and landowner, he has granted dozens of easements relating to the oil industry and has experienced the easement process at several levels.

Matt Sowden, Iowa Utilities Board

Matt Sowden is an attorney for the Iowa Utilities Board. He has experience siting electric transmission lines across Iowa. Matt holds a J.D., cum laude, from Marquette University Law School and B.A. from Drake University in. Prior to his legal career, Matt spent 6 years in the US Navy as a nuclear electrician.

Curt Stokes, Missouri Public Service Commission

Curt Stokes is the Chief Deputy Counsel in the Staff Counsel Division of the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC). Previously, he has served as an External Litigation Attorney for the Missouri PSC, Staff Attorney for the Missouri Ethics Commission, and Assistant Attorney General for the State of Missouri. His experience includes defending appeals of Missouri PSC orders in cases brought by developers seeking certificates of convenience and necessity to construct interstate transmission lines.

Avi Zevin, U.S. Department of Energy

Avi Zevin is an attorney with over a decade of experience advancing policies that address climate change and facilitate the transition to a carbon-free, reliable, and cost-effective energy system. Avi currently serves as the Deputy General Counsel for Energy Policy at the United States Department of Energy, where he advises the Department's senior leadership on legal and policy matters and leads a team of lawyers that support the Offices of Policy, Electricity, Fossil Energy, Nuclear Energy, and Cybersecurity and Emergency Response. Prior to joining the Biden Administration, Avi worked with Google to help the company develop its federal energy policy strategy in order to achieve 24/7 carbon-free energy procurement goals. Previously, Avi was a senior attorney and affiliated scholar at the Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law. Avi started his legal career as an attorney at the law firm Van Ness Feldman LLP. He holds a J.D., magna cum laude, from New York University School of Law, an M.P.A. from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and a B.A., with high honors, from the University of California, Berkeley. He lives in Washington, DC with his wife Brittney and plays drums in the DC punk rock band Weird Babies.

Doug Scott, Great Plains Institute

Doug Scott joined the Great Plains Institute in early 2015 and is vice president of electricity and efficiency. Doug focuses on GPI projects related to his work as a former state official, including the Midcontinent Power Sector Collaborative, state energy and environmental regulator groups, the Carbon Capture Coalition and State CO2 Work Group, and utility business model/grid modernization, including the e21 Initiative.

Doug was appointed chair of the Illinois Commerce Commission in March 2011 by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn. During his tenure with the Commission, he served as a member of the Energy, Resources, and Environment Committee for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and on the Task Force on Environmental Regulation.

Doug also previously served as director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency from 2005 to 2011. During those years, he chaired the Illinois Governor's Climate Change Advisory Committee and represented Illinois in the development of the Midwestern Governors' Association's energy and climate accords. Doug was a member of the Air Committee for the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) and the US EPA Environmental Financial Advisory Board. He was also elected and served as mayor of Rockford, IL from 2001 to 2005, after serving as a state representative in the Illinois General Assembly between 1995 and 2001.

A native of Rockford, Doug received his undergraduate degree with honors from the University of Tulsa in 1982 and a juris doctorate with honors from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI in 1985.

Steve Frenkel, Direct Connect Development Company

Steve Frenkel is Vice President at Direct Connect Development Company, the developer of the SOO Green HVDC Link, with more than 20 years of energy policy, finance, and project development experience. Steve is also the co-founder of RECDeFi, an automated and scalable blockchain-powered marketplace that accelerates investment in clean energy and climate solutions. Previously, Steve directed Midwest operations for the clean energy financing firm Renew Financial and served as Chief Policy Advisor at the Illinois EPA and as Deputy Chief of Staff in the Illinois Governor's office.

Doug Mulvey, PE, LS Power

Doug has 24 years of industry experience including 14 years with LS Power. Since 2009, Doug has served as the Development Director for all of LS Power's 345 kV transmission projects that are energized, which total more than 360 miles.

Doug directly oversees the public engagement, routing, and environmental permitting activities; is the internal lead for interacting with regulatory agencies; provides expert testimony; directly oversees the ROW acquisition activities; and oversees or participates in other transmission development activities including engineering, procurement, and construction.

Prior to LS Power, Doug worked for international engineering consulting firms. He has worked on projects in approximately 40 states, Puerto Rico, and ten foreign countries.

Laurie Spears, American Electric Power

Ms. Spears currently manages the Siting, Outreach, and Right-of-way departments at AEP, which are responsible for executing AEP's capital transmission portfolio across the eleven state footprint. Ms. Spears has over 13 years experience in the utility sector, largely in transmission siting, strategy, and regulatory approvals. Prior to her current role, Ms. Spears was the Director of Transmission Asset Strategy for AEP, which focused on state level regulatory approvals, joint venture projects, and strategic initiatives. Ms. Spears joined AEP in 2016.

Ms. Spears earned a BS in Biology from College of Charleston and a MS degree in Environmental Science from University of Colorado Denver and a Financial Management Certificate from Cornell University.

Dusky Terry, ITC Midwest

Dusky Terry is president of ITC Midwest, an electric transmission utility serving parts of Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Missouri. In this role since 2019, Dusky serves as the business unit head, providing leadership and strategic direction for ITC Midwest. He also serves as vice president of parent company ITC Holdings Corp. and board member of the Iowa Utility Association.

A lifelong Iowan, Dusky spent the first half of his career in the public policy arena before joining Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) in 2008. While there, he led a team responsible for CIPCO's business development, wholesale ratemaking, energy efficiency, load forecasting and long-term resource planning where he played a key role in the deployment of CIPCO's utility-scale solar projects. Prior to his tenure with CIPCO, he served in Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack's office as an adviser specializing in agriculture, economic development, energy, natural resources, and transportation policy.

An active community volunteer, Dusky previously served two terms as mayor of Earlham, Iowa, and currently serves as president of the Earlham Lions Club. He also held board leadership positions at the Better Business Bureau of Iowa, Madison County Development Group, and Greater Madison County Community Foundation.

Dusky is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in public administration. He is based at ITC Midwest's regional office in Des Moines.

Tanya Paslawski, Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council and Institute for Energy Innovation, 5 Lake Energy

Tanya Paslawski is a Senior Consultant for 5 Lakes Energy, specializing in energy policy development, analysis, and advocacy, and serves as Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Institute for Energy Innovation and Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council, conducting research and reporting on emerging technology.

In over two decades in the industry, Tanya has worked in both the public and private sectors on in various policy positions, working with state regulatory commissions and legislatures, business groups, MISO, FERC, and a variety of stakeholder groups. She also served in leadership roles as executive of two associations, and director on several non-profit boards, advising on organization management and strategy.

Tanya has a law degree from Michigan State University College of Law with a concentration in Environmental and Natural Resource Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Oakland University. She is a member of the State Bar of Michigan. Tanya is also co-founder and facilitator for Advancing White Anti-Racist Education (AWARE) and is training to become a certified meditation teacher.