

7th Annual NJ Watershed Conference

February 23, 2024

Regional
Collaboration for
our Watersheds



The ⁷⁵Years
Watershed
Institute



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We all are part of the problem so we all must be a part of the solution.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Addressing the catastrophic flooding and serious water quality issues that New Jersey faces will not be possible unless these challenges are addressed at a watershed scale. This will require unprecedented coordination and cooperation across municipal and county boundaries. This 7th New Jersey Watershed Conference will offer specific strategies, tools and lessons learned to inform the development of regional approaches in New Jersey.

The Watershed Conference is an opportunity for learning, brainstorming, discussing, and planning solutions to the problems faced by New Jersey's Watersheds.

The conference attendees includes state, municipal, and county officials and staff, nonprofit organizations, environmental professionals, and the general public.

Log in on the Conference App for In-Person and virtual access to resources, recordings, and more:



Thank you to our Conference Sponsors



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WELCOME



Welcome to the Seventh Annual New Jersey Watershed Conference! The Watershed Institute is very excited to bring the conference to The College of New Jersey this year with an inspiring group of speakers.

The theme of this year's conference—***Regional Collaboration for our Watersheds***—is extremely timely. The daunting threats that New Jersey faces from water pollution, flooding, and drought are most effectively addressed through collaboration and cooperation across municipal and county boundaries. As climate change exacerbates these threats, regional planning is more essential than ever.

This year, The Watershed Institute marks 75 years since our founding as the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association in 1949. Over the years, we've been proud to be part of the growth and development of New Jersey's vibrant and successful conservation movement. The strength of our field is reflected in the leaders from federal and state government, regional commissions, academia, nonprofits, and environmental consulting who are speaking at the New Jersey Watershed Conference this year.

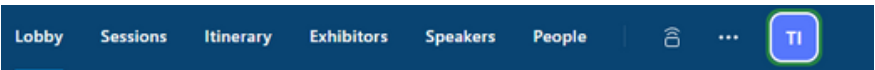
Thank you for joining us!

Jim Waltman
Executive Director
The Watershed Institute

Helpful Tips:




Bookmark your sessions.
 This adds the session to your itinerary. Zoom will send you a reminder when a session has started and when the recording is ready. Bookmarks are located by each session.



Full Vs. Hidden Menu (how to extend)
 If you are on a phone or not using full-screen on a laptop, you may not see the full menu. The extended menu (three lines) will be located at the top right of the event banner.

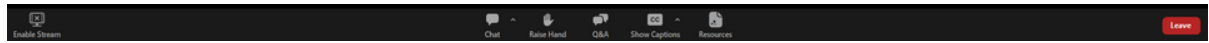
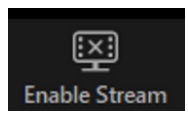
Reference Materials


TCNJ Campus Map - Highlight Event Parking...
[Download](#)

Some reference materials may be available prior to the start of the session. Click on individual sessions from the "Sessions" or "Lobby" tab to check.

Why isn't the session starting? (Virtual Only)

You may have to manually start the "stream" in sessions. The button will be located on the bottom left-most side of your screen and looks like this (see right).



Materials like slides, speaker information, and more will also be found from a "References" button inside and during the Zoom session.



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91%

OF NJ POPULATION LIVES IN A REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED COMMUNITY



83%

OF MUNICIPALITIES PARTICIPATING

67%

of NJ public school districts registered with Sustainable Jersey for Schools



198

MUNICIPALITIES CERTIFIED

70 SILVER CERTIFIED

130 BRONZE CERTIFIED



337

SCHOOLS CERTIFIED

44 SILVER CERTIFIED

293 BRONZE CERTIFIED

25,569



SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS COMPLETED by both municipalities and schools

\$7.6 MILLION



IN GRANTS FOR MUNICIPALITIES, SCHOOLS & SCHOOL DISTRICTS

AGENDA

BREAKFAST AND CHECK-IN (8 - 9:15 a.m.)

MORNING SESSION (9:15 - 11:35 a.m.)

- 💧 Welcome by Jim Waltman, *Executive Director, The Watershed Institute*
- 💧 Keynote Speaker, Dr. Daniel Van Abs, *Professor of Professional Practice at Rutgers University*
- 💧 New Jersey Water Policy: The Honorable Bob Smith, *NJ State Senator of the 17th Legislative District*
Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

NETWORKING LUNCH & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS MEET-UP (11:35 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.)

AFTERNOON SESSION 1 (12:50 - 2:05 p.m.)

- 💧 Federal, Regional and State Perspectives on Watershed Planning, Protection and Enhancement
- 💧 MS4 Multi-Municipal Partnership Discussions
- 💧 Addressing Non-Point Source Pollution: An Update
- 💧 Working Regionally: Lessons Learned from the Highlands and Pinelands

AFTERNOON SESSION 2 (2:10 - 3:25 p.m.)

- 💧 WMPs and WIPs: How Watershed Management Plans can inform Watershed Improvement Plans
- 💧 Engaging the Community is More than a Public Hearing
- 💧 Engaging Students in Regional Study of Watersheds
- 💧 Watershed Planning through GIS Tools

AFTERNOON BREAK (3:25 - 3:45 p.m.)

AFTERNOON SESSION 3 (3:45 - 5 p.m.)

- 💧 Watershed Planning at Multiple Scales
- 💧 Embracing a Growth Mindset for Effective Flood Buyouts
- 💧 Regional Conservation Partnerships: A Flexible Model for Watershed Protection
- 💧 Valuable Ecosystem Services Associated with Watershed Management that Everyone Should Care About

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Room BSC 100 East & West

- 9:15 - 11:35 a.m. *Welcome*
Keynote Speaker
New Jersey Water Policy

Room BSC 100 East

- 12:50 - 2:05 p.m. *MS4 Multi-Municipal Partnership Discussions*
- 2:10 - 3:25 p.m. *Watershed Planning through GIS Tools*
- 3:45 - 5 p.m. *Embracing a Growth Mindset for Effective Flood Buyouts*

Room BSC 100 West

- 12:50 - 2:05 p.m. *Federal, Regional and State Perspectives on Watershed Planning, Protection and Enhancement*
- 2:10 - 3:25 p.m. *WMPs and WIPs: How Watershed Management Plans can inform Watershed Improvement Plan*
- 3:45 - 5 p.m. *Watershed Planning at Multiple Scales*

Room BSC 225 East

- 12:50 - 2:05 p.m. *Working Regionally: Lessons Learned from the Highlands and Pinelands*
- 2:10 - 3:25 p.m. *Engaging Students in Regional Study of Watersheds*
- 3:45 - 5 p.m. *Valuable Ecosystem Services Associated with Watershed Management that Everyone Should Care About*

Room BSC 225 West

- 12:50 - 2:05 p.m. *Addressing Non-Point Source Pollution: An Update*
- 2:10 - 3:25 p.m. *Engaging the Community is More than a Public Hearing*
- 3:45 - 5 p.m. *Regional Conservation Partnerships: A Flexible Model for Watershed Protection*

MORNING SESSIONS DESCRIPTIONS (9:15 A.M. - 11:35 A.M.)

WELCOME (9:15 - 9:30 a.m.)

💧 Jim Waltman, *Executive Director, The Watershed Institute*

KEYNOTE (9:30 - 10:10 a.m.)

💧 Dr. Daniel Van Abs, Ph.D., FAICP, PP - *Professor of Professional Practice, Rutgers University, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences - Department of Human Ecology*

💧 Moderator- Jim Waltman - *Executive Director, The Watershed Institute*

Dr. Van Abs has 40 years of experience in water resources and environmental management with Rutgers, the Highlands Council, NJ Water Supply Authority, NJ Department of Environmental Protection and Passaic River Coalition. He is a Professional Planner.

NJ Water Policy (10:20 - 11:35 a.m.)

💧 The Honorable Bob Smith - *NJ State Senator of the 17th Legislative District*

💧 Shawn LaTourette - *Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection*

💧 Moderator - *Jim Waltman - Executive Director, The Watershed Institute*

Senator Bob Smith, Chair of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee and NJDEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette will be discussing how NJ addresses its water resources. Water issues from forever chemicals, climate change, NJ's Water Supply Master Plan, stormwater utilities and more are the agenda for this discussion amongst the top NJ environmental leaders.

**CLE: Continuing Legal Education Credits (1.4)*



Jim Waltman,
*Executive Director,
The Watershed
Institute*



Dr. Daniel Van Abs,
*Professor of
Professional Practice
at Rutgers University*



**The Honorable
Bob Smith,**
*NJ State Senator
of the 17th
Legislative District*



Shawn LaTourette,
*Commissioner of
the New Jersey
Department of
Environmental
Protection*

AFTERNOON SESSION 1 DESCRIPTIONS (12:50 - 2:05 p.m.)

Federal, Regional and State Perspectives on Watershed Planning, Protection & Enhancement

💧 **Anika Andrews** - Director, Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration, NJ Department of Environmental Protection

💧 **Richard (Rick) Balla** - Supervisor, Watershed Management Branch, Water Division Environmental Protection Agency Region 2

💧 **Steve Tambini** - Executive Director, Delaware River Basin Commission

💧 **Moderator - Michael L. Pisauro, Jr. Esq** - Policy Director, The Watershed Institute

New Jersey is struggling with flooding and most waterways in our state don't meet the standards of the Clean Water Act. As towns seek solutions, many are looking for ways to collaborate regionally to address these problems. Much can be learned from regional approaches that have been implemented in other parts of the United States. Join this session to learn from experts from EPA's Region 2 the latest about what's happening nationally and how the DRBC manages water resources within the Delaware River Watershed. In addition, New Jersey DEP will provide an overview of their thinking about regional watershed planning and action in NJ.

**CLE: Continuing Legal Education Credits (1.4)*

**PE Professional Engineering Credits (1.25)*

**CFM Certified Flood Plain Manager (1.25)*

**APA/AICP CM (1.25)*

MS4 Multi-Municipal Partnership Discussions

💧 **Beth Uhler** - Pennsylvania Director, Center for Watershed Protection

💧 **Drew Shaw, AICP** - Environmental Planning Section Manager, Montgomery County Planning Commission

💧 **Gail Farmer** - Executive Director, Wissahickon Trails

💧 **Jamie Anderson** - Coordinator, Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative

💧 **Nicholas R. Johnson, PE** - Johnson Environmental Engineering & Wyomissing Creek Watershed Stormwater Coalition

💧 **Moderator - Susan Bristol** - Municipal Policy Specialist, The Watershed Institute

Many municipalities in Pennsylvania have NPDES MS4 Permits and requirements to reduce sediment and/or nutrient pollution to impaired waters. Financial challenges and limitations on project locations create a stress on communities. Multi-municipal partnerships can help to alleviate these burdens; however, strategies are needed to incentivize collaboration and ensure it is equitable. An overview of MS4 collaborations in Pennsylvania will be provided with key statistics that make up the structure of these entities obtained from research and interviews with lead organizations. Select case studies on partnership for pollutant reduction will be presented through a panel discussion with Wyomissing Creek Watershed Stormwater Coalition, Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative, and the Wissahickon Creek Clean Water Partnership -- all of which have member municipalities with Environmental Justice Areas. Accomplishments, challenges, and differences will be highlighted. A framework will be provided for entities interested in starting their own efforts in equitably working across municipal boundaries.

**APA/AICP CM (1.25)*

Addressing Non-Point Source Pollution: An Update

- 💧 **Donna Somboonlakana** - *Environmental Engineer, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2*
- 💧 **Michael Flood** - *Watershed Management Specialist, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2*
- 💧 **Robert Schuster** - *Watershed Coordinator, Office of the Assistant Commissioner, NJ Department of Environmental Protection*
- 💧 **Moderator - Steve Tuorto** - *Science Director, The Watershed Institute*

Many waterbodies are impacted by pollution outside the permitted pollution discharges included in the MS4 program. Pollution and flooding from nonpoint source pollution is dominant in many waterbodies. There are opportunities to reduce flooding and improve water quality by addressing nonpoint sources. EPA Region 2 and NJDEP will provide updates on this program and tools available.

Working Regionally: Lessons Learned from the Highlands and Pinelands

- 💧 **Benjamin L. Spinelli** - *Executive Director, New Jersey Highlands Water Protection & Planning Council*
- 💧 **Jaclyn Rhoads, Ph.D.** - *Assistant Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance*
- 💧 **Julia M. Somers** - *Executive Director, Highlands Coalition*
- 💧 **Moderator - Sophie Glovier** - *Chief of Operations, The Watershed Institute*

The Highlands Council and the Pinelands Commission are two entities with decades of experience implementing regional solutions to protect the environment. This session will provide an overview of lessons learned and specific suggestions for successful regional collaboration that will be useful to municipalities interested in collaborating to develop Watershed Improvement Plans and solutions to flooding and water quality issues.

***CLE: Continuing Legal Education Credits (1.4)**

***APA/AICP CM (1.25)**





Photograph Credit: The Watershed Institute

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AFTERNOON SESSION 2 DESCRIPTIONS (2:10 - 3:25 p.m.)

WMPs and WIPs: How Watershed Management Plans can inform Watershed Improvement Plans

💧 **Gabe Mahon, PE** - Bureau Chief, Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting and Water Quality Management, Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

💧 **Brian Friedlich, PE** - Managing Engineer, One Water Consulting, LLC.

💧 **Moderator & Speaker - Michael L. Pisauro, Jr. Esq** - Policy Director, The Watershed Institute

In 2026 municipalities must complete the first component of the Watershed Improvement Plans to address Total Maximum Daily Loads, impaired waters, and flooding. These are town by town plans, but is there a better way? Can we look at the entire watershed(s) in preparing these plans? This is where Watershed Management Plans may have an important role to play. Learn more about Watershed Management Plans, Watershed Improvement Plans, how they can work together and why these plans are required in the first place.

**PE Professional Engineering Credits (1.25)*

**CLE: Continuing Legal Education Credits (1.4)*

**CFM Certified Flood Plain Manager (1.25)*



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James Cosgrove, P.E., Principal
 Brian Friedlich, P.E. Managing Engineer
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 www.OneWaterNJ.com

Engaging the Community is More than a Public Hearing

💧 **Dana Patterson** - Director of Marketing & Communications, Princeton Hydro

💧 **Kendra McKoy** - Community Engagement Manager, The Watershed Institute






💧 **Lee Clark** - Program Manager, New Jersey Future

💧 **Lucia Middleton** - Community Water Advocate, The Watershed Institute

💧 **Moderator - Sophie Glovier** - Chief of Operations, The Watershed Institute






This session, designed for local leaders and elected officials, will review the requirements and opportunities for community outreach regarding the MS4 permit. Before the Q&A session, each of the four panelists will give a short presentation touching on topics related to communicating watershed science to the public for deeper engagement, opportunities to utilize residents and watershed associations to address MS4 requirements, and the nuances of reaching Spanish speaking populations including challenges to translation.

Engaging Students in Regional Study of Watersheds

- 
Davis Bush - *Coordinator for StreamWatch Schools, The Watershed Institute*
- 
Jeff Hoagland - *Education Director, The Watershed Institute*
- 
Lauren Madden, Ph.D. - *Professor of Elementary Science Education Coordinator, Environmental Sustainability Education Minor, The College of New Jersey*
- 
Roberta Howard Hunter, Ph.D. - *Education Program Manager, New Jersey Audubon*
- 
Moderator -Pat Heaney - *Assistant Director of Education, The Watershed Institute*

This session will show how teachers are bringing global environmental issues close to home with both a local and regional focus. Dr. Hunter will talk about the importance of a sense of place in learning and acting on environmental issues, and how to bridge the local to the global. Dr. Madden will examine New Jersey's compulsory climate change education standards and predict how this intentional curricular focus will change environmental education across the state. Davis Bush and Jeff Hoagland will highlight the StreamWatch Schools program where students study water quality at nearby streams, compare data with other classrooms throughout the watershed, and implement positive action on behalf of the environment.

Watershed Planning through GIS Tools

- 
Dave Arcscott, Ph.D. - *President and Executive Director, Stroud Water Research Center*
- 
Kevin Pretti - *GIS Specialist, Office of Environmental and Public Health Analysis, NJ Department of Environmental Protection*
- 
Robert Schuster - *Watershed Coordinator, Office of the Assistant Commissioner, NJ Department of Environmental Protection*
- 
Richard G. Lathrop, Jr. Ph.D. - *Johnson Family Chair in Water Resources and Watershed Ecology, Rutgers University*
- 
Moderator - Priscilla Oliveira - *Outreach & Inclusion Manager, The Watershed Institute*

New Jersey is a data rich state with a significant amount of information available to environmental professionals. The state's NJADAPT, Stroud Water Research Center's Watershed 'Mapping Tool and New Jersey's Environmental Justice mapping tool are a few of the outstanding resources available to visualize watersheds and plan solutions. Learn about these tools and how they can be utilized to better understand and inform watershed approaches.

***PE Professional Engineering Credits (1.25)**

***APA/AICP CM (1.25)**

***CFM Certified Flood Plain Manager (1.25)**

AFTERNOON SESSION 3 DESCRIPTIONS (3:45 - 5 p.m.)

Watershed Planning at Multiple Scales

- 💧 **Angela Knowles, AICP, PP** - Professional Planner
- 💧 **Carlos Rodrigues, FAICP, PP** - Principal, Design Solutions for a Crowded Planet LLC.
- 💧 **Donna Rendeiro** - Executive Director, Office of Planning Advocacy, NJ Department of State
- 💧 **Thomas G. Dallesio, AICP, PP, CPM, FRSA** - Executive Director, Musconetcong Watershed Association
- 💧 **Moderator - Susan Bristol** - Municipal Policy Specialist, The Watershed Institute

This panel is discussing current and future opportunities for Watershed Planning at multiple scales. Watersheds, land areas that drain to a body of water, are not confined to political boundaries and require a regional approach. We will hear how NJ is updating the State Plan and how counties have the potential for regional watershed planning. Municipalities can improve their watersheds with master plans, zoning and land use. All NJ municipalities are now in the NJ DEP MS4 permitting program that requires Watershed Improvement Plans (WIPs). How can they collaborate with their upstream or downstream neighbors? Watershed Planning is important to improve water quality, reduce flooding and enhance quality of life.

It is a 'Regional and Multijurisdictional' area of planning practice that is becoming more important, not only because of climate change, but ever-increasing development pressures. This panel will share planning tools, practices and case studies that can improve Watersheds at multiple scales.

**APA/AICP CM (1.25)*

Embracing a Growth Mindset for Effective Flood Buyouts

- 💧 **Vanessa Tropiano**, - Research Project Manager for the Environmental Analysis and Communications Group (EAC) at Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy
- 💧 **Courtney Wald-Wittkop**, -Manager, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Blue Acres Program
- 💧 **Moderator - Michael L. Pisauo, Jr. Esq** - Policy Director, The Watershed Institute

The severity and frequency of rain events and severe storms are leading to more inland and coastal flooding which results in a range of losses. One way to permanently eliminate the emotional and financial consequences of flooding is through reimagining the floodplain through buyouts. Given the effectiveness of this tool, individuals and communities across the country are looking towards buyouts as a probable solution to chronic and devastating flooding. In this session, learn about how NJDEP, in coordination with Rutgers University and the Regional Plan Association, embarked on a collaborative research effort to identify areas and issues that could improve the work of NJ's Blue Acres buyout program. The research looked at local experience with buyouts, equity indicators, and the impact that buyouts have on property values. The session will provide an overview of the program and the research, share high-level outcomes, highlight local government and homeowner experiences with the program, and explore improvements in buyout coordination and planning. Blue Acres is poised to launch an online survey to gauge public receptiveness to post-buyout land use visioning. In addition to some Q&A, the session will include interactive polling.

Regional Conservation Partnerships: A Flexible Model for Watershed Protection

- Andrew B. Szwak, AICP** - *Mid-Atlantic Program Manager, Land Trust Alliance*
- Tricia Aspinwall** - *Land Conservation Manager, The Nature Conservancy*
- Moderator - Kory Dudash** - *Conservation & Sustainability Director, The Watershed Institute*

Regional conservation partnerships ("RCPs") provide a useful framework for building momentum around regional and watershed-scale initiatives. RCPs leverage complementary capabilities of diverse partners, agencies and organizations under flexible partnership structures to pursue mutual goals. RCPs are deployed effectively in New England, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Western U.S. to pursue large landscape conservation, water quality improvement, community resiliency and more. New Jersey has pioneered its own RCPs to protect large, complicated landscapes in the Meadowlands, Pinelands and Highlands regions. Now, new and expanded federal and private programs currently target RCPs for support, and their potential to additionally advance conservation at local and regional scales is greatly increasing in Mid-Atlantic states.

This session will discuss ongoing RCP efforts in the New Jersey Appalachians and Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Session participants will learn about these initiatives, their formation process, resources available to RCP conveners and opportunities to utilize the RCP model in other places.

**APA/AICP CM (1.25)*

Valuable Ecosystem Services Associated with Watershed Management that Everyone Should Care About

- Amy McNamara, EIT** - *Project Engineer, Princeton Hydro*
- Fred S. Lubnow, Ph.D.** - *Senior Director of Ecological Services, Princeton Hydro*
- Jake Dittes, PE** - *Water Resources Engineer, Princeton Hydro*
- Moderator - Steve Tuorto** - *Science Director, The Watershed Institute*

Ecosystem services are the many and varied benefits to humans provided by the natural environment and healthy ecosystems. These services contribute toward stormwater mitigation, the removal of pollutants, protecting potable water supplies, increasing biodiversity, and enhancing the recreational and ecological value of our natural resources. This session will review some of these ecosystem services and why they are important in watershed management. The focus will be to identify these natural ecosystem services and why they should be protected or even created as various Best Management Practices, with a particular emphasis on Green Infrastructure. The actual creation or restoration of whole ecosystems will also be reviewed, and their services will be discussed.

**CFM Certified Flood Plain Manager (1.25)*
**PE Professional Engineering Credits (1.25)*

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Here's to the continued success and outstanding work of The Watershed Institute!



KEYNOTE

**Daniel J. Van Abs,
PhD, FAICP/PP**

*Rutgers, The State University
of New Jersey
School of Environmental
and Biological Sciences
Department of Human Ecology*

Dan Van Abs is a Professor of Professional Practice for Water, Society & Environment at Rutgers University, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, where he focuses on planning and management policy for water infrastructure, water supply, wastewater and watershed protection. Previously, he served in New Jersey state government for over 26 years, as: Senior Director for Planning & Science with the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (NJ), where he managed staff efforts regarding implementation of the Highlands Regional Master Plan; Director of Watershed Protection, NJ Water Supply Authority; and with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for 12 years, six as manager for statewide water resources planning. Dan was Technical Director of the Passaic River Coalition. He holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He is a licensed Professional Planner in New Jersey and a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Dan is co-editor with Karen O'Neill of a Rutgers University Press book (June 2016) Taking Chances: The Coast After Sandy. See www.danvanabs.com for more details.



**The Honorable
Bob Smith**

*NJ State Senator of
the 17th Legislative District*

State Senator Bob Smith proudly represents the rights and interests of the citizens of the 17th Legislative District, a dynamic and ever-changing community, which includes parts of Middlesex and Somerset Counties. Having served in the New Jersey State Legislature since 1986, first as a State Assemblyman and in 2002 as State Senator, Bob Smith is considered one of the State's leading environmental lawmakers. Currently, Senator Smith is the Chairman of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee as well as a member of the State House Commission.

Senator Smith's legislative accomplishments include the Highlands Preservation Act, Site Remediation Reform (LSRP), Barnegat Bay cleanup, including the most stringent fertilizer law in the United States, the Recycling Enhancement Act, Electronic Waste Management Act, the most recent \$400 million Green Acres Initiative (approved by New Jersey voters in 2009) and a host of legislation stimulating solar and alternative energy in New Jersey.

Senator Smith has a long record of public service having served as Mayor of Piscataway Township from 1981-1986 and was a member of the Township Council from 1977-1981, serving as Council President and Vice President. From 1991-1992 he served as the Chairman of the Middlesex County Democratic Organization. He also served as Chairman of the New Jersey Democratic Task Force on the Environment in 1987 and was counsel to the New Jersey State Democratic Platform in both 1987 and 1989. From 1995-1996 he served as Deputy Minority Leader in the General Assembly.

Senator Bob Smith is a uniquely qualified legislator. Prior to becoming an attorney in private practice, Senator Smith was a Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Science at Middlesex County College. He holds Master's degrees in Chemistry from the University of Scranton and Environmental Science from Rutgers University, as well as a J.D. in law from Seton Hall University.

He and his wife Ellen live and work in Piscataway Township. They are parents to two grown daughters and are proud grandparents of five grandchildren.



**The Honorable
Shawn LaTourette**

*Commissioner of the
New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection*

Governor Philip D. Murphy appointed Shawn M. LaTourette in June 2021 as New Jersey's Commissioner of Environmental Protection. Commissioner LaTourette is responsible for formulating statewide environmental policy while directing programs that protect public health and ensure the quality of New Jersey's air, land, water, and natural and historic resources.

Commissioner LaTourette was born and raised in New Jersey. Commissioner LaTourette graduated magna cum laude from Rutgers University and earned his law degree summa cum laude from Rutgers Law School. The Commissioner has vast experience and a deep commitment to equity and protecting vulnerable communities while facilitating public infrastructure development and advocating for environmental protection.

SPEAKERS



Jamie Anderson, Coordinator,
*Eastern Delaware County
Stormwater Collaborative*



Anika Andrews,
*Director, Division of Watershed Protection
and Restoration, NJ Department
of Environmental Protection*



David B. Arscott, Ph.D.,
*President and Executive Director,
Stroud Water Research Center*



Tricia Aspinwall,
*Land Conservation Manager,
The Nature Conservancy*



Rick Balla,
*Supervisor, Watershed Management
Branch Water Division USEPA Region 2*



Lee Clark,
*Program Manager,
New Jersey Future*



Thomas Dallessio,
*AICP, PP, CPM, FRSA/Executive Director,
Musconetcong Watershed Association*



Jake Dittes, PE,
*Project Manager,
Princeton Hydro*



Gail Farmer,
*Executive Director,
Wissahickon Trails*



Michael Flood,
*Watershed Management Specialist,
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2*

SPEAKERS



Brian Friedlich, PE
*Managing Engineer,
One Water Consulting, LLC.*



Jeff Hoagland,
*Education Director,
The Watershed Institute*



Roberta Howard Hunter, Ph.D.,
*Education Program Manager,
New Jersey Audubon*



Nick Johnson, PE,
*Johnson Environmental Engineering
& Wyomissing Creek Watershed
Stormwater Coalition*



Angela Knowles, AICP, PP,
Professional Planner



Richard G. Lathrop, Jr. Ph.D.,
*Johnson Family Chair
in Water Resources and Watershed
Ecology, Rutgers University*



Fred S. Lubnow, Ph.D.,
*Senior Director of Ecological
Services, Princeton Hydro*



Dr. Lauren Madden,
*Professor of Elementary Science
Education at The College of New Jersey*



Gabe Mahon, PE,
*Bureau Chief, Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater
Permitting and Water Quality Management, Division
of Watershed Protection and Restoration, NJDEP*



Kendra McKoy,
*Community Engagement Manager,
The Watershed Institute*

SPEAKERS



Amy E. McNamara, EIT,
*Technical Project Manager-
Princeton Hydro*



Lucia Middleton,
*Community Water Advocate,
The Watershed Institute*



Dana Patterson,
*Director of Marketing &
Communications, Princeton Hydro*



Michael L. Pisauro, Jr. Esq,
*Policy Director,
The Watershed Institute*



Kevin Pretti,
*GIS Specialist, Office of Environmental
and Public Health Analysis, NJDEP*



Donna Rendeiro,
*Executive Director, Office of Planning
Advocacy, NJ Department of State*



Jaclyn Rhoads, Ph.D.,
*Assistant Executive Director,
Pinelands Preservation Alliance*



Carlos Rodrigues, FAICP, PP,
*Principal, Design Solutions
for a Crowded Planet, LLC*



Robert Schuster,
*Watershed Coordinator, Office of the
Assistant Commissioner
Watershed and Land Management, NJDEP*



Drew Shaw, AICP,
*Environmental Planning Section Manager,
Montgomery County Planning Commission*

SPEAKERS



Donna Somboonlakana,
*Environmental Engineer,
US Environmental Protection Agency,
Region 2*



Julia M. Somers,
*Executive Director,
NJ Highlands Coalition*



Benjamin L. Spinelli,
*Executive Director, New Jersey Highlands
Water Protection & Planning Council*



**Andrew B. Szwak, AICP, Mid-Atlantic Program Manager,
Land Trust Alliance**



Steve Tambini,
*Executive Director,
Delaware River Basin Commission*



Vanessa Tropiano,
*Research Project Manager at the
Center for Urban Policy Research
at Rutgers University*



Beth Uhler,
*Pennsylvania Director,
Center for Watershed Protection*



Courtney Wald-Wittkop,
Manager, NJDEP Blue Acres

SPEAKERS

Jamie Anderson, Coordinator, Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative

Jamie Anderson has been the Coordinator for the Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative since 2012 with previous experience at the Delaware County Planning Department and the Delaware County Conservation District. Jamie's work focuses on water quality related to stormwater management with a focus on residential outreach, small scale GSI implementation, and large scale GSI retrofit projects. Jamie has a Masters in Geography and Planning from West Chester University and a B.S. in Environmental Science from Muhlenberg College.

Anika Andrews, Director, Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration, NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Ms. Anika Andrews earned dual Marine Science and Environmental Studies Bachelor of Science degrees from Stockton University. Ms. Andrews serves as the Director of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration. This Division focuses on the health of New Jersey's watersheds. She began her career with the Department, twenty-two years ago, working as an Environmental Specialist within the Division of Land Resource Protection. During her tenure, she has worked in multiple program areas, including project management, endangered and threatened species, and wetland mitigation.

Prior to her start with the Department, Anika worked as an environmental educator at both the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Philadelphia and, the Audubon Society's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Naples, Florida. She also worked as a research technician with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida as part of an ongoing monitoring project focused on endangered loggerhead sea turtles. Ms. Andrews moved on to work as an environmental consultant, where she was responsible for conducting endangered and threatened species habitat assessments for herpetile and avian species.

Anika is a South Jersey native who now resides in Philadelphia with her family. She enjoys the Phillies, traveling, and spending time at the shore with her two daughters.

David B. Arscott, Ph.D., President and Executive Director, Stroud Water Research Center

Arcott serves as President and Executive Director of Stroud Water Research Center, an independent, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit that seeks to advance knowledge and stewardship of freshwater systems through global research, education, and watershed restoration.

Arcott joined the Stroud Center in 2003 to coordinate a 6-year, multi-disciplinary research project, focused on understanding threats to water quality in streams, rivers, and reservoirs feeding the New York City drinking water supply. From 2006-2009, he served as a freshwater ecologist at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (New Zealand). He returned to the Stroud Center in 2009 as Assistant Director and became Executive Director in 2017.

He co-leads the development of WikiWatershed.org, a web toolkit designed to help conservation practitioners, researchers, educators, and students advance knowledge and stewardship of fresh water. The WikiWatershed toolkit includes Model My Watershed, a watershed-modeling app that provides open-access to analyze land use and soil data in watersheds throughout the US and then to estimate stormwater runoff and water-quality impacts using professional-grade models.

Arcott holds a Ph.D. from the Swiss Federal Institute for Environmental Science and Technology (Zurich), a M.S. in Water Resources Management from the University of New Hampshire, and a B.S. from Central Michigan University.

Tricia Aspinwall, *Land Conservation Manager, The Nature Conservancy*

Tricia joined The Nature Conservancy in August 2021. She directs our work in Bobcat Alley and our preserve transfers, plays a leadership role in the New Jersey Conservation Blueprint, and is further developing our relationships and work with the Ramapough and Nanticoke-Lenape Peoples. Earlier in her career, Tricia served as a Project Manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, managing projects in watershed management, navigation, ecosystem restoration, and storm damage reduction in coastal, estuarine and inland systems. Prior to the Army Corps, she was a Land Preservation Specialist and Planning Manager for the Morris Land Conservancy, now known as The Land Conservancy of New Jersey. Tricia has also run her own photography business. She is a dedicated community volunteer, serving on her town's Green Team and as volunteer lead for a nonprofit that provides support service to her local farmers' market. Tricia earned a Master of Arts in Environmental Management from Montclair State and a Bachelor of Science in Public Health, Economics Minor from Rutgers University.

Rick Balla, *Supervisor, Watershed Management Branch Water Division USEPA Region 2*

Rick Balla is an environmental engineer and has been with EPA's New York City office since 1984. For his entire career, he has been involved in water issues, ranging from water quality standards and nonpoint source pollution control to comprehensive watershed management (especially the Long Island NY Peconic Bays System). He has a particular interest in estuaries and nutrient issues. Rick currently serves as the Supervisor of the Water Division's Watershed Management Branch, working with 30 engineers and scientists, with responsibilities including wetlands protection, water quality assessments, nonpoint source management and watershed based conservation and restoration efforts for five national estuary programs (Long Island Sound, New York New Jersey Harbor and Estuary, Delaware Bay, Barnegat Bay and Peconic Estuary), the Great Lakes (including the Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers), Chesapeake Bay, Lake Champlain, Onondaga Lake and the urban waters program.

In 2016, Rick served as the Acting Deputy Director of the Clean Water Division, which, like the Watershed Management Branch, serves New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and eight federally recognized Indian Nations. He worked closely with the Division Director to manage a team of 70 water program staff members.

Lee Clark, *Program Manager, New Jersey Future*

Lee is responsible for managing the New Jersey Future Funding Navigator program, a statewide effort to help under-resourced localities access funding for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater needs. His primary focuses are engaging with municipal officials and stakeholders and designing solutions for water utilities serving overburdened communities.

Before joining New Jersey Future, Lee worked in the Green Acres program at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, negotiating land acquisitions and project contracts on behalf of the state of New Jersey. Prior to entering state government, Lee worked at the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, managing their environmental justice policy agenda, conducting municipal outreach, and stormwater advocacy.

A municipal elected official and an Adjunct Professor of Communication at Kean University, Lee holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, concentrating in Political Communication, and a Master's degree in Business Communication from Rider University. Lee also holds a Board Leadership & Governance Certificate from the University of Pennsylvania through the DiverseForce Program.

Thomas Dallessio, AICP, PP, CPM, FRSA/Executive Director, Musconetcong Watershed Association

Tom has over three decades of experience in public policy and land use planning at the local, regional and state levels, and has taught at two major research universities and directed several nonprofit organizations.

At the Musconetcong Watershed Association, Tom leads a professional staff dedicated to protecting and improving the quality of the Musconetcong Watershed and its waters for people and nature. He created a new strategic plan with the Board that will advance the organization's mission through planning, education, advocacy and stewardship.

Tom is also a Lecturer at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, where he teaches seminars and studios in Comprehensive Planning, Land Use Administration and Transportation.

Tom is a licensed professional planner and is accredited by the American Institute of Certified Planners. He is a Certified Public Manager and a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. He serves as Vice President of Policy at the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association. Tom has a Bachelor's degree from Rutgers College, a Master's degree from the Eagleton Institute and a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from Rutgers University.

Jake Dittes, PE- Project Manager, Princeton Hydro

Jake Dittes feels privileged that he can get paid to play in water and restore its resources. Licensed as a professional civil engineer with 8 years of experience, Jake specializes in aquatic habitat restoration. His passion for aquatic resource restoration projects has engaged him in riverine and estuarine systems, including dam removals, fish passage, and coastal restoration projects.

To this point in his career, Jake has been or is actively involved in 22 Dam Removal designs, of which 11 have been successfully removed. Jake is involved and manages all aspects of these projects, from the initial field work of site reconnaissance, geomorphic assessment, and sediment probing and sampling to the engineering design. He is adept at utilizing the US Army Corps of Engineers HEC-RAS program to model, inform, and interpret restoration designs to ensure fish passability.

Jake enjoys working and learning from his fellow ecologists, environmental scientists, and other engineers as he strives for innovative and comprehensive designs focused on providing the most possible ecological uplift. Outside of the office, Jake loves to explore new places on bike, foot, or boat and is rejuvenated by being outdoors.

Gail Farmer, Executive Director, Wissahickon Trails

Gail brings to Wissahickon Trails 22 years of experience in the environmental nonprofit sector. When asked to summarize her role in a single word, she said "relationships." She spends her time in partnership with staff, board, donors, and other community leaders to ensure that Wissahickon Trails can effectively fulfill its mission today, tomorrow, and for many years to come.

Gail currently serves on the Montgomery County Planning Commission's Open Space Board, the Board of Directors for WeConservePA, the Water Quality Advisory Committee of the Delaware River Basin Commission, and is an advisor to the Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership. She is a Senior Fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program and a Community Scholars Fellow of the University of Pennsylvania. In 2018, she received PennFuture's Woman of Community Engagement and Environmental Education Leadership Award. Gail earned her M.Sc. in Environmental and Forest Biology from the S.U.N.Y College of Environmental Sciences and Forestry in 2001.

Michael Flood, Watershed Management Specialist, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2

Michael Flood is a Watershed Management Specialist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 office in New York City and joined the Agency in 2019. He provides oversight to New York's nonpoint source pollution program (under Clean Water Act Section 319) as well as technical assistance to New Jersey, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Island's programs. He also oversees the Interstate Environmental Commission's water quality monitoring programs (under Clean Water Act Section 106) for shared waters among New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut; provides water quality management planning assistance to New York and New Jersey (under Clean Water Act Section 604(b)); and supports nutrient, agriculture, Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) and decentralized wastewater efforts within the region.

Prior to joining EPA, Mike earned his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Ramapo College of New Jersey and a Master of Science in Earth and Environmental Science from Montclair State University in New Jersey.

Brian Friedlich, PE, Managing Engineer, One Water Consulting, LLC.

Brian Friedlich has more than 15 years of expertise in the field of water resources engineering. His focus has been on stormwater management, watershed planning, wastewater treatment and collection system rehabilitation. He has led the design, permitting and construction administration for many large-scale infrastructure improvement projects throughout the region. Brian has also developed a specialty in green infrastructure technologies for compliance with NJ stormwater management regulations. He regularly gives presentations at conferences and continuing education courses on topics related to stormwater management and permitting. Brian holds a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from Tufts University and a master's degree in environmental engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of New Jersey.

Jeff Hoagland, Education Director, The Watershed Institute

Jeff joined the Watershed Institute in 1984, beginning his tenure here at the Watershed Nature Camp. He provides vision and direction to the Watershed Environmental Education program, working with a talented team of educators to promote a deeper understanding of science and our environment through direct engagement. Much of his work is flavored with a deep love of the natural world. Prior to this Jeff worked at the Nature Center at Washington Crossing State Park and the Point Reyes Bird Observatory in California. Jeff earned a BS in Natural Resource Management – Wildlife Science from Cook College, Rutgers University. Jeff has earned numerous distinctions for environmental leadership including the Patricia F. Kane Lifetime Achievement Award for Environmental Education for the Alliance for Environmental Education, the Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award from the Garden Club of America, and the National Medal of Conservation from the Daughters of the American Revolution. Jeff has had a lifelong love affair with nature and has a special fondness for aquatic habitats, the nocturnal world, National Parks, and sharing the joy of nature. He is an internationally published haiku poet. His first book, *scent of juniper* was published 2023.

Roberta Howard Hunter, Ph.D, Education Program Manager, New Jersey Audubon

Before joining New Jersey Audubon as an Education Program Manager working with EcoSchools, Roberta was a Research Associate for the Teaching Science Outdoors – Urban Partnerships project at Michigan State University. TSO-UP studied how best to support urban educators in teaching science in their schoolyards in a way that is culturally relevant and place-based. She is an experienced educator who taught in many settings, helping connect children with the environment across the country, including Maryland, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and NJ for twenty years. She has a M.S. in Environmental Education from Southern Oregon University and a PhD in Education from Rutgers University. Her current work focuses on helping teachers teach in, about, and for the environment in ways that advance equity and leverage the power of place; advocating for getting children outdoors; and practicing hope in climate education.

Nick Johnson, PE, Johnson Environmental Engineering & Wyomissing Creek Watershed Stormwater Coalition

Mr. Johnson has a BS Degree in Civil Engineering and a Minor in Environmental Engineering from Penn State University. He worked for a municipal engineering firm for 14 ½ years, and has since operated his own firm for over 2 years. He is a third-generation water resources professional and is passionate about environmental stewardship and providing practical solutions to stormwater, wastewater, and potable-water related problems. He is a native of Shillington, near Reading, Pennsylvania, where his business is based and his family resides. He helped form the Wyomissing Creek Watershed Coalition to meet the MS4 TMDL requirements of eight municipalities, and has served as the WCWC's engineer since its inception. He is active in numerous industry organizations including the Berks County MS4 Steering Committee, the Berks County Public Works Association, the Berks County Water and Sewer Association, EPWPCOA, PWEA, and ASCE's Reading Branch. He is also a Volunteer Firefighter with the Shillington Fire Department and serves as their Treasurer. Mr. Johnson is honored to be representing the WCWC on this panel discussion and hopes that our insights can assist others in their MS4 compliance efforts.

Angela Knowles, AICP, PP, Professional Planner

Angela holds a B.S. from Keene State College, Keene, NH and a Masters of Urban & Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. She is currently working with the APA-NJ as the Outreach Coordinator on the NJ State Plan Update, among other planning projects. She was most recently the Deputy Director for the Somerset County Office of Planning, Policy & Economic Development and has worked as a planning consultant to municipalities in the private sector as well as in grassroots organizations for the past 20 years.

Angela's work has always focused on community visioning, and she is committed to planning for sustainable communities. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the NJ Chapter of the American Planning Association and serves as the organization's VP of Conference Services. She resides in Union County with her husband and two kids where she is a member of her town's Board of Adjustment and Walk/Bike Advisory Board.

Richard G. Lathrop, Jr. Ph.D., *Johnson Family Chair in Water Resources and Watershed Ecology, Rutgers University*

Dr. Richard G. Lathrop Jr., Johnson Family Chair in Water Resources and Watershed Ecology at Rutgers University, serves as Director of the Walton Center for Remote Sensing & Spatial Analysis and is Professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution & Natural Resources. Dr. Lathrop's research program works to integrate insights of landscape ecology and geography with the application of geo-spatial information technology to improve our understanding of the structure and function of coupled human-environmental systems. Working with partners, he attempts to translate that understanding into effective and appropriate techniques to improve 'on-the-ground' natural resource management and land use planning.

Fred S. Lubnow, Ph.D., *Senior Director of Ecological Services, Princeton Hydro*

Dr. Fred S. Lubnow is the Senior Director of the Ecological Services at Princeton Hydro, and the office manager of the Exton, Pennsylvania office. Dr. Lubnow received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from Susquehanna University (1988), his Master's degree in Environmental Sciences (1992) and his Ph.D. in Limnology (1994), both from the University of California Davis. Dr. Lubnow has been an environmental consultant for 30 years. His areas of expertise include the management of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and their associated cyanotoxins, in-lake management strategies and the development of watershed-based management. Dr. Lubnow is an adjunct professor at Delaware Valley University, Doylestown, PA where he has been teaching a course and laboratory on Watershed Management since 2016. He is also an adjunct professor at Villanova University, PA where he teaches a graduate course on Freshwater Ecology.

In addition, Dr. Lubnow developed a professionally-credited course on the Management and Monitoring of HABs and Cyanotoxins in Raw Water Supplies. Finally, Dr. Lubnow is one of the members of New Jersey's HAB Expert Team who are conducting data and literature reviews on HABs in order to develop strategies on how to holistically address such conditions in freshwater systems in New Jersey.

Dr. Lauren Madden, *Professor of Elementary Science Education at The College of New Jersey*

Dr. Lauren Madden holds a BA in Earth Sciences-Oceanography, MS in Marine Science and PhD in Science Education. Dr. Madden's work advocates for scientific literacy and the health of our planet through teaching and learning. Her research has been supported by grants from the New Jersey SeaGrant Consortium, National Science Foundation, and US Environmental Protection Agency. She has written a textbook on Elementary Science Teaching Methods along with more than 40 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. She was named the 2021 Outstanding Science Teacher Educator of the Year by the Association for Science Teacher Education and served as the inaugural iCAN STEM Role Model Award by the New Jersey STEM Pathways Network. In recent years, her work has focused directly on K-5 climate change education, and she was the lead author on the New Jersey School Boards' Association & Sustainable Jersey For Schools' Report on K-12 Climate Change Education Needs in New Jersey. Her expertise in climate change education in New Jersey has been featured prominently in many media outlets including the New York Times, Washington Post, The Guardian, NPR, and the Star Ledger.

Gabe Mahon, PE, Bureau Chief, Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting and Water Quality Management, Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Gabriel Mahon, P.E. graduated from Lafayette College in 2004 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and he is currently a licensed professional engineer in both Pennsylvania and Delaware. He began his career as an environmental engineer in the office of Land Use Regulation within the NJDEP. As the Bureau Chief of the Bureau of NJPDES Stormwater Permitting and Water Quality Management in the newly created Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration, he is responsible for managing the Water Quality Management Planning Program, the NJPDES Industrial Stormwater Permitting Program, the Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program, which includes the Stormwater Management rules (N.J.A.C. 7:8) and the NJPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permitting Program.

Kendra McKoy, Community Engagement Manager, The Watershed Institute

Kendra McKoy joined The Watershed Institute in May 2021 as the Delaware River Advocate and with time, her role has evolved and she is now the Community Engagement Manager. Prior to that, Kendra was STEM Enrichment Specialist for the Liberty Science Center with her specialty being climate change, sustainability and earth science programming. She applies her teaching experience and her formal science background in paleoclimatology and sea level to her work engaging the communities in the greater Trenton area. She applies the same philosophy to community partnerships that she keeps in her personal life: All relationships are about respect and reciprocity. Without those two principals, no relationship, whether it is professional, personal or a partnership, will be sustainable or productive for one or both parties. When she is not working, Kendra can be found playing cozy video games, preparing for her next Dungeons and Dragons session or spoiling her 10-year-old Tibetan Terrier.

Amy E. McNamara, EIT, Technical Project Manager- Princeton Hydro

Amy McNamara is a 2006 graduate of Delaware Valley University with her B.S. in Agronomy and Environmental Science and a 2009 Montgomery County Community College graduate with her A.S. degree in Engineering Science. Amy has been working at Princeton Hydro for nearly 16 years now and specializes in construction management and bid management, stormwater management design, ecological restoration design, and onsite wastewater design. Amy is often involved in projects from the watershed management planning stages through implementation which include site identification, grant support, design, permitting, bid documents, cost estimating, construction oversight, and maintenance recommendations as well as collaboration with other experts within Princeton Hydro and on the project team.

When not working, Amy enjoys spending time with her husband, twin daughters, and dog especially outdoors. This may mean exploring PA, attending car shows, camping, Girl Scouts, or just sitting outside enjoying Bucks County.

Lucia Middleton, *Community Water Advocate, The Watershed Institute*

As the Community Water Advocate, Lucia's work involves educating Spanish-speaking communities in central New Jersey on relevant local environmental issues, such as flooding and clean water. Her role is to bridge the language barrier and ensure that the voices of Spanish-speaking communities are heard in public hearings, roundtable discussions, and community outdoor initiatives. She also works with local municipal governments to address the gaps in knowledge pertaining to flooding, stormwater management, and green infrastructure. In both groups she aims to raise the environmental literacy so that Spanish-speaking communities can be their own advocates, and so that municipal officials can better serve their districts.

Prior to The Watershed, Lucia did multiple internships in the Peruvian Amazon, Chilean Patagonia, and Maine doing data analysis, fieldwork, and site patrol in both English and Spanish. She earned a double major in Environmental Science and Latin American Studies from Colby College. Outside of The Watershed, Lucia enjoys playing for her local rugby team, reading, lifting weights, and travelling off the beaten path.

Dana Patterson, *Director of Marketing & Communications, Princeton Hydro*

Dana Patterson Grear is Princeton Hydro's Director of Marketing and Communications and is a passionate environmental communicator who brings a strong mix of diverse stakeholder engagement experience and values-based communication strategy. She specializes in branding, marketing, proposal management, grant writing, and digital media strategy and has held a variety of digital media positions in the nonprofit and academia sectors. She earned her Master of Environmental Management from Yale University's School of the Environment where she focused on communication strategies around climate change and wildlife conservation and holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She previously served a five-year nonprofit role where she empowered dozens of individuals in environmental justice communities; taught thousands of students about wetlands, wildlife, and watersheds; and served a leadership role on a half dozen Community Advisory Groups providing technical guidance. She is an active board member of Sustainable South Jersey and the Society of American Military Engineers NJ Post, and sits on the American Sustainable Business Council's "Clean Water is Good for Business" Steering Committee. On weekends, you can find Dana bird watching in parks, capturing nature's beauty through photography, and exploring new trails.

Michael L. Pisauo, Jr. Esq, *Policy Director, The Watershed Institute*

Mike Pisauo is a practicing attorney with over 25 years of experience. As the Advocacy Director for The Watershed Institute, Mike engages with state and local officials to improve and protect New Jersey's watersheds. He wrote The Watershed Institute's enhanced model stormwater ordinance. This effort helped guide municipalities in better protecting local communities from flooding and improve water quality. In past years, he has worked on a campaign to overturn the Christie administration's weakening of the Flood Hazard Rules as well as efforts leading to the enactment of New Jersey's Clean Stormwater and Flood Reduction Act. He appears regularly before zoning and planning boards to comment on development applications.

Prior to joining the Watershed, he ran his private practice concentrating on environmental work for citizen and environmental organizations. He was a lobbyist for the New Jersey Environmental Lobby for nine years. Mike has served on the Hopewell Valley Green Team and was an appointed board member for the New Jersey Licensed Site Remediation Board. Mike received his B.S. in Economics from James Madison University and a J.D. from the University of Richmond.

Kevin Pretti, GIS Specialist, Office of Environmental and Public Health Analysis, NJDEP

Kevin Pretti is a GIS Specialist at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) in the Office of Environmental and Public Health Analysis. Throughout his career, Kevin gained experience in topics such as environmental justice, emergency management, environmental health, watershed management, and ecology. Since beginning in 2022, Kevin has been a part of a wide range of projects at NJDEP. These projects include maintaining the Environmental Justice Mapping, Assessment, and Protection (EJMAP) tool, serving as part of the WatershedNJ Steering Committee, helping publish Healthy Community Planning New Jersey (HCPNJ), and several other projects. Previously, he worked on several municipal watershed management plans and a flood mitigation study at the Stockton University Coastal Research Center. Kevin obtained a degree in Environmental Science and a GIS certificate from Stockton University.

Donna Rendeiro, Executive Director, Office of Planning Advocacy, NJ Department of State

Donna Rendeiro was named Executive Director and Secretary of the State Planning Commission and the Executive Director of the Office of Planning Advocacy within the Department of State in July 2019. Previously, she served as Chief of Administration for the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, as well as Chief of Staff. She also oversaw New Jersey’s Homeless Management Information System, managed through HMFA. Donna was the Director of Community Planning at the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority, Acting Executive Director of the Office of Smart Growth, and Brownfields Policy Director. She has worked with the Governor’s Office of Economic Growth on urban policy. Previous experience includes redevelopment and shared services at the municipal and county levels. Donna is a former Vice President at Citibank as Chief of Staff to the Senior Credit Officer in the credit card division and was a Branch Manager. She has a Bachelor of Science in marketing from Pace University.

Jaclyn Rhoads, Ph.D., Assistant Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Jaclyn received a Ph.D. in environmental policy from Drexel University and joined PPA’s staff in 2004. She also teaches environmental studies and policy at Drexel and Widener University. She serves on the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters political committee, the executive committee for the New Jersey Keep it Green Coalition, and as president of the Darby Creek Valley Association and Friends of the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Pennsylvania where she lives. Jaclyn was awarded Woman of the Delaware River Watershed by Penn Future in 2018 and Environmental Advocate of the Year by the New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners in 2017.



Carlos Rodrigues, FAICP, PP, *Principal, Design Solutions for a Crowded Planet, LLC*

Carlos Rodrigues is a Princeton, NJ based urban designer, professional planner, writer and educator.

His planning practice represents, or has represented, federal, state, county and local government, the Territory of Macao (now part of China), foundations and other charitable organizations, real estate developers, property owners, religious congregations, neighborhood groups, environmental groups, and civic organizations involved in (re)development and preservation projects of merit.

He is an architect (Dipl. Arch. 1978) and a planner (MCRP Rutgers, 1982) and has taught graduate and undergraduate planning courses and studios at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers, in the Landscape Architecture Department at Rutgers and in the Graduate Planning School at Columbia University.

He has worked in senior management positions in the private, public and non-profit sectors, including 10 years with the New Jersey Office of State Planning / Office of Smart Growth, where he also served as Interim Executive Director.

He served as Director of Land Use and Regulatory Affairs at the New Jersey Builders Association, Vice President and New Jersey Director at Regional Plan Association, Director of Planning for Looney Ricks Kiss Architects and special advisor to PlanSmart New Jersey.

He is a charter member of the Congress for the New Urbanism and a recipient of its 2001 Charter Award; a past President of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association; a past board member of Preservation New Jersey and of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History; and past Chair of the Princeton Township Zoning Board of Adjustment. He is a current board member of the Witherspoon Jackson Development Corporation and sits on the Council for Princeton Future.

He is the author of *Designing New Jersey* and *Employment and Community*, the design companions to the 2001 New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan, for which he also made extensive contributions; *A Guide to Form-Based Codes in New Jersey* and *Form-Based Codes: a Users Manual*; *Out and About – a Guide to Local Circulation Planning*; and editor of the 2018 edition of the *Complete Guide to Planning in New Jersey* published by the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association.

He currently serves on the American Institute of Certified Planners Task Force that is re-writing the AICP entrance exam. He recently served on the Planning Accreditation Board standards review working group, which rewrite the accreditation standards for planning programs in the United States, with a view towards promoting greater diversity, equity and inclusivity.

He has appeared as an expert witness on land use matters before New Jersey Superior Court, presented expert reports to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey and to the United States Department of Justice – Civil Rights Division, and testified on land use matters before both the New Jersey Legislature and the Pennsylvania Legislature, as well as numerous state agencies and local planning and zoning boards.

More detailed bona-fides can be found at <http://rodriguesurbandesign.com/index.html>

Robert Schuster, *Watershed Coordinator, Office of the Assistant Commissioner Watershed and Land Management, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection*

Bob Schuster is the Watershed Coordinator at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Office of Assistant Commissioner, Watershed and Land Management. He has over 30 years in sample collection; and chemical, biological, and microbial analysis, as well as data assessment of all State waters. This includes data from ambient and routine monitoring networks, real-time continuous monitoring, beach testing, and NJDEP special projects (storm water monitoring and microbial source tracking) and the EPA National Aquatic Resource surveys, with a focus on utilizing data for remediation actions and management policy decisions.

Drew Shaw, *AICP, Environmental Planning Section Manager, Montgomery County Planning Commission*

Drew Shaw is the Environmental Planning Section Manager for the Montgomery County Planning Commission. A planning commission staff member since 1985, he has worked on varied projects focusing on protecting and enhancing the county's natural assets, addressing issues such as climate change, hazard mitigation, and water quality, and developing programs and plans for managing stormwater, providing utilities, and recycling/waste management. Drew received his Master of Regional Planning degree from Penn State University, and before that earned a B.S. in Environmental Studies/Geology from Binghamton University.

Donna Somboonlakana, *Environmental Engineer, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2*

Donna Somboonlakana is an environmental engineer with the EPA, who has been working with the section 319 Nonpoint source water pollution control program for 28 years. Her longevity in the program enabled her to work closely with HQS to write several sections of the latest national guidelines for the section 319 program. These guidelines provide information and direction for states to utilize their annual funding so they can maximize their ability to improve water quality. In her spare time, Donna started a company called, Express Reality, and writes poems and books about nature. She enjoys playing piano, speaking different languages, and surprisingly, has been taking care of local feral cats.

Julia M. Somers, *Executive Director, NJ Highlands Coalition*

Julia has been the Executive Director of the New Jersey Highlands Coalition since the launch of the organization in 2006. Julia provides the comprehensive strategic direction and financial management for the Coalition. Julia's enriched experience includes having been the first Executive Director of the Great Swamp Watershed Association, a not-for-profit environmental organization founded to preserve and protect the 36,000 acres of the Great Swamp watershed. Julia is Chair of the Board of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, a Board member of the New Jersey Environmental Lobby, and recently was appointed by the Governor to serve as a Public Member of the New Jersey State Planning Commission.

Benjamin L. Spinelli, Executive Director, New Jersey Highlands Water Protection & Planning Council

Ben Spinelli's career spans both the private and public sectors including 20 years as a trial attorney, three terms as the elected Mayor of Chester Township, Morris County, and several senior-level roles in government at the local, state, and federal levels.

Prior to joining the Highlands Council, Ben co-founded and led Greener By Design, a consulting venture that provides regulatory and policy guidance to businesses, landowners, and government entities in New Jersey, as well as multi-national corporations and energy partnerships. He has also served on numerous committees and boards including the Garden State Preservation Trust, State Agricultural Development Committee, and the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust Board. He was an original member of the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council, serving from 2004 to 2006.

Ben's experience also includes serving as Senior Policy Adviser for the President Barak Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, and as Executive Director of the New Jersey Office of Smart Growth and is currently an adjunct professor at Kean University in the School of Environmental and Sustainability Sciences.

A self-proclaimed "Jersey guy," Ben has managed to visit each of New Jersey's 565 municipalities.

Andrew B. Szwak, AICP, Mid-Atlantic Program Manager, Land Trust Alliance

Andrew Szwak manages mid-Atlantic programming at the Land Trust Alliance. His 20+ years in conservation spans the eastern U.S. and includes managing governmental affairs for a Chicago-based land trust, managing the Georgia State land protection program, and consulting on planning projects for land trusts in New Jersey. Andrew is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Notre Dame as well as a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University. He lives in Baltimore City with his wife, son and daughter.

Steve Tambini, Executive Director, Delaware River Basin Commission

Steve Tambini is the fourth Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), a federal-interstate agency created in 1961 by compact legislation. As the Executive Director, Steve develops and implements plans, policies and projects adopted by the five-member Commission relating to the water resources of the Delaware River Basin. Steve has over 40 years of experience in water supply engineering and water resource planning, management, and operations. Prior to joining DRBC in 2014, Steve held various engineering and leadership positions at American Water in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and several other states. Steve holds a B.S. degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and a M.S. degree in Environmental Engineering, both from Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y. He is a registered professional engineer in New Jersey and New York.

Vanessa Tropiano, Research Project Manager for the Environmental Analysis and Communications Group (EAC) at Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy

Vanessa Tropiano is a Research Project Manager for the Environmental Analysis and Communications Group (EAC) at Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy. She specializes in outreach, training, and stakeholder engagement related to climate change resilience and coastal hazards. As part of the leadership team for the New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center, Vanessa leads outreach and develops trainings for the NJADAPT suite of online tools. Vanessa previously served as the Coastal Training Program Coordinator at the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, leading stakeholder engagement on a broad portfolio of projects focused on coastal planning, resilience, and risk communication. She also worked for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection where she helped develop the NJ Climate Change Resilience Strategy and led communications and outreach at the Miami-Dade County Office of Resilience. She is an alumnus of Rowan University and has a Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Ecology from University of Florida.

Beth Uhler, Pennsylvania Director, Center for Watershed Protection

Beth is the Pennsylvania Director for the Center for Watershed Protection. She has been working in water resources for over 20 years, specializing in stormwater management, watershed planning, GIS solutions, and wetland science and permitting. Her expertise is in developing and implementing Stormwater Management Programs for local governments, NPDES MS4 permitting, and stormwater management policy and regulation. She has a Bachelor of Science in Geo-environmental Studies from Shippensburg University. She serves on PA DEP's Water Resources Advisory Committee and other steering committees throughout the state.

Courtney Wald-Wittkop, Manager, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Blue Acres Program

Ms. Wald-Wittkop leads the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Blue Acres Program, which incorporates climate resilience planning into the design and execution of proactive, voluntary flood buyouts. During her 19 years at NJDEP, she has applied for and secured over \$400 million in federal grants. She is a committed bridge builder, who has worked with various state and federal agencies, communities, and partners to protect and enhance New Jersey's natural resources, and to expand open space and outdoor recreation opportunities across the state. She has a background in project management, planning, land preservation, and grant management. Courtney is a proud graduate of the University of Colorado, Boulder, and she has a Master 's degree from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick.





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