The 9th Annual NJ Watershed Conference

February 26 & 27, 2026

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Multidisciplinary Approaches For Watershed Resilience

Download the Digital Program

NEW JERSEY • DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION •

The Watershed Institute

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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

This conference, hosted by The Watershed Institute and the New Jersey Department Of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is New Jersey's forum focused on water, watershed health, and environmental solutions for municipal, county, and state elected officials, staff, NGOs, environmental professionals and community members.

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All Hands on Deck: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Watershed Resilience

The Watershed Institute's conference theme, All Hands on Deck, reflects the pressing need for collaboration and shared leadership in addressing New Jersey's water challenges. From increasing climate impacts and aging infrastructure to emerging contaminants and habitat loss, the future of our waters depends on coordinated action across sectors.

Log into the Conference Zoom Event Hub to access resources, recordings, and more.

WELCOME

The Watershed Institute is delighted to bring the 9th Annual NJ Watershed Conference back to The College of New Jersey, and we're thrilled to gather once again with such an inspiring community of speakers and participants. Your commitment to protecting and restoring our watersheds continues to drive meaningful progress across our region.

The theme of this year's conference—All Hands on Deck: Multidisciplinary Approaches for Resilient Watersheds—underscores the need for collective action. Building resilient watersheds calls for the expertise and creativity of scientists, engineers, planners, policymakers, educators, and community members alike. No single discipline or organization can meet these challenges alone. Together, we can bridge boundaries, share solutions, and chart a course toward lasting restoration.

We are honored to collaborate with so many dedicated leaders from federal, state, and local government, regional commissions, academia, nonprofits, and environmental consulting. The diversity of experience represented at this conference every year is a testament to the strength of our field and the shared passion that unites us.

The issues we face—water pollution, flooding, and drought—cross all municipal and county lines. Building resilience depends on cooperation, communication, and coordinated planning. By bringing all hands on deck, we can leverage every skill and perspective to strengthen our watersheds and create a healthier, more sustainable future for our communities.

Thank you for being part of this essential work. We look forward to meaningful learning, collaboration, and inspiration.

Jim Waltman

The Watershed Institute

Thank You to Our Watershed Warrior!

GUEST WI-FI

- Connect to the “Welcome-To-TCNJ“ Network
- Choose “Click Here” Under “TCNJ Guests”
- Enter your Name, Phone #, Carrier, Email and Click “Register”
- You will receive a Text Message and Email with your Login Credentials.
- When the page refreshes, enter the Username (Email Address that you provided), as well as the password provided to you by the system.

Conference

Tracks

This conference offers a comprehensive look at watershed protection and management, bringing together perspectives on environmental regulations, scientific research, community engagement, and nature-based solutions. Sessions explore both the challenges facing our watersheds and practical strategies to protect, restore, and sustain them for the future.

Policy

Science

Science/ Stewardship

Education

AGENDA DESCRIPTIONS

February 26 (Virtual on Zoom Only)

CEUs Summary: 5 Certified Flood Manager (credits counted for the full day of attendance) | 1.25 Professional Engineer

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement (9 - 9:15 a.m.)

- **Jim Waltman** | *Executive Director, The Watershed Institute*

How NYCDEP Advances Green Infrastructure with the South Jamaica Houses Cloudburst Pilot Project
(9:15 - 10:30 a.m.)

- **Kimilya Ann Spaulding** | *Project Manager, NYC DEP*
- **Andres Garcia** | *Director of Stormwater Resiliency, NYC DEP*

This presentation highlights recent green infrastructure advancements by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), featuring the South Jamaica Houses Cloudburst Pilot Project. Originally focused on reducing combined sewer overflows, the Green Infrastructure Program is now piloting strategies to manage larger, climate-driven storm events and reduce flooding. The South Jamaica Houses project also integrates placemaking opportunities to improve public amenities. The presentation concludes with an interactive Q&A session.

Reimagining Brownfields for Healthy Watersheds: An Interactive Workshop
(10:45 a.m. - noon)

- **Elise Molleur** | *Brownfield Redevelopment Specialist, NJIT Center for Community Systems / NJIT TAB*
- **Jesika Tixi** | *Environmental Sustainability Planner, NJIT Center for Community Systems / NJIT TAB*

In Bloomfield, NJ, a former brownfield was cleaned up and transformed into a restored wetland capable of holding 10 million gallons of stormwater, creating habitat, improving runoff quality, and protecting nearby communities. How could this approach be adapted at different scales in other urban New Jersey communities? Participants will explore landuse considerations and the site cleanup process through hands-on activities, including map and data analysis, role-playing, and decision-making exercises. Led by facilitators from the NJIT Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities (TAB) Program, the workshop will provide insight into the priorities and approaches involved in resilient brownfield reuse.

CEUs: Applied for APA Planner Credits

New Technologies Advancing Watershed Understanding And Protection (1 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.)

- **Polly Pierone** | *Project Manager, FloodNet*
- **Fred S. Lubnow, Ph.D.**| *Senior Technical Director of Ecological Services, Princeton Hydro*
- **Jürgen Hackl, Ph.D.** | *Assistant Professor of Complex Infrastructure Systems, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Princeton University*

How can we put new technologies to use to advance watershed protection? This session will include real world examples of innovative approaches. FloodNet deploys ultrasonic sensors to monitor hyperlocal street level flooding in real time. Learn how data is used for real time monitoring and response, infrastructure planning, public awareness, and more.

Princeton Hydro and Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space are using drones to predict harmful algal blooms through remote sensing, field sampling, and spatial data analysis to collect and interpret detailed environmental data.

Learn about research at Princeton University that is developing new AI-driven tools combining data from many sources with advanced modeling to help communities better understand risks, overcome barriers to action, and make more informed decisions about climate adaptation and resilient systems. How can these approaches help communities turn data into action and build safer, more resilient, and more sustainable places?

CEUs: 1.25 PE Credits

Watershed Health Assessment Training: Getting the Most Out of the Online Interactive WatershedNJ Mapping Tool
(2:30 - 3:45 p.m.)

- **Janine Barr** | *Senior Research Specialist, Environmental Analysis and Communications Group, Rutgers University*
- **Kate Douthat, Ph.D.** | *Senior Research Specialist, Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis, Rutgers University*
- **Michelle Stuart** | *Application Developer, Center For Urban Policy Research, Rutgers University*

Rutgers, in collaboration with NJDEP, has developed an online interactive mapping tool called the Watershed Health Assessment (WHA). The WHA is the first of several tools within the WatershedNJ suite designed to support watershed education and management activities statewide.

The WHA gathers important datasets regarding watersheds and water quality from a wide range of sources and summarizes the information for a selected area of interest. In this session, WHA developers will provide a walk through of the tool and conduct an interactive training session. Attendees will learn the basics of WHA functionality and gain insights regarding incorporating the WHA into daily work.

AGENDA DESCRIPTIONS

February 27 (Virtual and In-person at TCNJ)

CEUs Summary: 5 Certified Flood Manager (credits counted for the full day of attendance) | 3.75 Professional Engineers

Welcome & Keynote:
All Hands On Deck: Working Together in Challenging Times **ROOM 100**
(9 - 10:30 a.m.)

Jim Waltman
Executive Director, The Watershed Institute

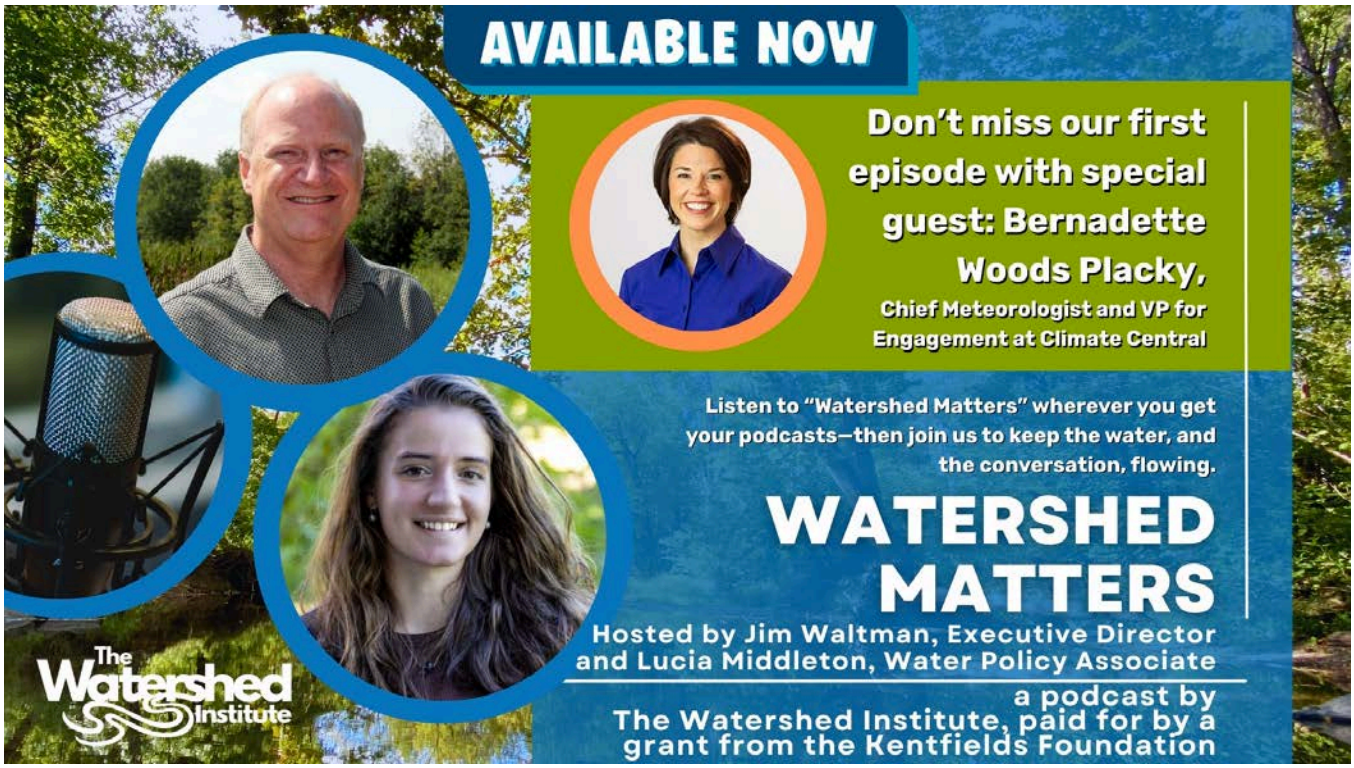
The Honorable Bert H. Steinmann
Mayor of Ewing Township, NJ

Andrea Welker, Ph.D., PE., F.ASCE., ENV SP.
Dean of Engineering, TCNJ

Henry Gajda
Chief of Staff, NJDEP

NJDEP Staff Q&A Room (All Day) **ROOM 216**

NJDEP staff from Watershed and Land Management, Stormwater, Source Water, and Municipal Finance for Water will be available throughout the day to answer your questions and share information about the recently adopted REAL Rule.


AVAILABLE NOW
Don't miss our first episode with special guest: Bernadette Woods Placky,
Chief Meteorologist and VP for Engagement at Climate Central
Listen to "Watershed Matters" wherever you get your podcasts—then join us to keep the water, and the conversation, flowing.
WATERSHED MATTERS
Hosted by Jim Waltman, Executive Director and Lucia Middleton, Water Policy Associate
a podcast by
The Watershed Institute, paid for by a grant from the Kentfields Foundation
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SESSIONS BLOCK 1 (10:45 A.M. - NOON)

Environmental Justice and Water Quality in New Jersey — ROOM 224

- **Claire Huang-Lindabury** | *Environmental Specialist, Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration, and Standards, NJDEP*
- **Yaso Sivaganesh, PE** | *Section Chief, Division of Water Monitoring, Standards and Pesticide Control, Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration and Standards, NJDEP*

Environmental justice requires fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Robust water quality data and access to information help both the state and the public better understand and improve water quality, particularly in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution. This presentation will explore how New Jersey incorporates environmental justice into water quality monitoring, assessment, and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), highlighting actions the state has identified and prioritized to improve water quality for all NJ residents.

Examples will focus on equitable water quality monitoring, inclusive stakeholder process, restoration efforts, citizen science, education, and outreach, and how they contribute to water quality successes. The presentation will delve into NJ's customized Recovery Potential Screening (RPS) tool that compares watersheds and helps establish restoration priorities as part of the Integrated Water Quality Assessment Report. The tool identifies assessment units with best potential for improving water quality with optimize resources for restoration.

Green or Gray? Stormwater Solutions in Constrained Watersheds — ROOM 225 E

- **The Honorable Andrew Nowick** | *Mayor of Lambertville*
- **Jamie Feinstein, RLA** | *Project Manager, Princeton Hydro*
- **Sean Walsh, PE** | *Senior Project Manager, Princeton Hydro*

Erosion from unstable drainage paths and streams within developed environments presents a complex challenge for water resource managers, engineers, property owners and governments. This presentation will explore three case studies that address this issue with site-specific solutions, each involving conditions of active erosion and migrating excessive sediment downstream. In many cases, decision-makers must choose between nature-based stabilization methods and hard infrastructure solutions, such as piping. While nature-based approaches are often preferred, this preference can be misaligned in highly developed environments where constraints and risks differ from natural settings and flow regimes.

Through the lens of the three case studies, we will examine how surrounding land use, site constraints, and stakeholder priorities influence the optimal design solution, whether that is a nature-based intervention, engineered infrastructure, or a hybrid approach. Each project featured successfully stabilized erosion, improved downstream water quality, and resolved localized flooding issues, and yet arrived at its outcome through different strategies. These examples highlight the importance of context-driven design in managing erosion in developed watersheds.

CEUs: 1.25 Professional Engineers

What Does "Restoration" Mean?: Impairment, Stressors, and Implications for Streams and Watersheds

ROOM 225W

John Jackson, Ph.D. | *Senior Research Scientist and Stream Ecologist & Aquatic Entomologist, Stroud Water Research Center*

Matthew Ehrhart | *Director of Watershed Restoration, Stroud Water Research Center*

Stream degradation across the United States is still far more common than we might have hoped when the Clean Water Act passed in 1972, 54 years ago. That is not to say we have not made significant progress – rivers do not burn, the water does not smell bad and is not slimy or strangely colored, and we do not have dead fish lining the banks. Where we could use permits to control pollutants, we have used engineering and avoidance to significantly reduce pollutant loads and toxic conditions that result from how we use land and water. However, there is still much to do, and the progress we measured in the 1970s to the mid 1990s has proven hard to sustain since then.

Over the past 25 years, the United States has delisted a relative handful of streams impaired by non-point source issues. Reexamining impairment and causes of impairment provides an important first step towards altering our approach. If we have been unsuccessful, has our treatment been incorrect? Have we not created enough change? Have we underestimated the time necessary for recovery? Addressing watershed-scale impacts to our rivers and streams requires watershed-scale solutions and cannot be accomplished by simply working within the channel or riparian zone; it requires a holistic watershed approach to restoring water quality. This means communities working together with landowners — particularly along small headwater streams — to address all sources of pollution by implementing as many effective BMPs as possible: gray infrastructure, soil health practices, streamside forests, etc.

As we develop restoration strategies and approaches for our stream networks and watersheds, we recognize the need for resilient and dynamic systems that can respond to changing landscape cover and the realities of climate change driven shifts in storm frequency and intensity.

Communicating Risk and Resilience to Empower Individual Action — ROOM 104

Megan Bushlow, EIT, CFM | *Resilience Planner, Arcadis U.S., Inc.*

Nicholas Mitch, AICP, LEED Green Associate | *Resilience Planner, Arcadis U.S., Inc.*

As local leaders evaluate resilience measures, community engagement too often focuses exclusively on receiving feedback. Resilient NJ is an NJDEP program that has supported the development of Regional Resilience Action Plans for municipalities and regions across the state.

These plans not only improve the implementation of resilience projects, but also reimagine outreach efforts with a focus on education and capacity building to empower individuals who participate in the process and increase understanding of how climate-related flooding affects the places most important to them. The program also emphasizes youth engagement through public art projects, gamified educational programming, and community advertising campaigns. This session shares lessons learned from community engagement efforts across two regions spanning Hudson, Essex, and Middlesex counties, and provides a roadmap for communities. Following an introductory presentation, participants will break into small groups for a hands-on workshop to explore how these lessons can be applied to their own work.

CEUs: 1.25 Professional Engineers - Applied for APA Planner Credits

SESSIONS BLOCK 2 (1:15 - 2:30 P.M.)

Stormwater Utilities Are Here! - Implementation Considerations For New Jersey Municipalities — ROOM 224

- **Anthony Dill, PE** | *Associate Vice President, Arcadis U.S., Inc.*
- **John Tully, A.S.** | *Supervisor of Engineering, IT and Stormwater Utility, Township of Raritan*
- **Michael K. Drulis, MPA** | *City Administrator, City of New Brunswick*
- **Patrick Wherry, MPA, QPA** | *Business Administrator, Township of Maplewood*

Effective stormwater management requires a consistent source of dedicated revenue. This interactive session offers insights into the benefits and challenges associated with implementing a stormwater utility (SWU) under New Jersey's 2019 Clean Stormwater and Flood Reduction Act ("enabling legislation"). This session will commence with a 15-minute presentation describing the requirements of the enabling legislation relevant to SWU creation, SWU growth across the country, typical stormwater fee ranges, credit policy requirements, and how a credit policy can facilitate enhanced stormwater mitigation on private property. It will also include lessons learned from the implementation of SWUs in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Using their experience implementing SWUs in 2024, the City of New Brunswick, the Township of Raritan, and the township of Maplewood will each present a case study regarding the implementation of an SWU in their community, including their stormwater challenges, utility evaluation process, decision-making process for moving forward, implementation timeline, benefits, and lessons learned. Following the case studies, a panel discussion will be held to answer audience questions and prepared questions related to SWUs.

CEUs: 1.25 Professional Engineers

Mining Past Studies for Watershed Improvement Plans — ROOM 225 E

- **Brian Friedlich, PE** | *Managing Engineer, One Water Consulting*
- **Christopher Obropta, PE, Ph.D.** | *Professor and Director, Rutgers Water Resource Program*
- **Daniel Van Abs, Ph.D., PP/FAICP** | *Professor (retired), Rutgers University*
- **Richard Lathrop, Ph.D.** | *Professor and Director, Rutgers-Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis (CRSSA)*
- **David Arscott, Ph.D.** | *President and Executive Director, Stroud Water Research Center*

All municipalities are required to complete a Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP) by December 2027, either alone or in collaboration with neighboring municipalities through regional programs. Creating a robust WIP, including modeling and monitoring, is beyond the required scope of a WIP and the capacity of most municipalities. Therefore, municipalities are encouraged to make use of existing information to develop their WIP, including NJDEP-approved watershed management plans, TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) documents and models, and online tools such as Model My Watershed from the Stroud Water Research Center (https://wikiwatershed.org/model/) and the WatershedNJ site being developed by Rutgers University under contract to the NJDEP. This workshop will provide specific ideas on how to use these tools in a municipal or regional WIP.

CEUs: Applied for APA Planner Credits

Nature's Timeline: What a Decade of Monitoring Tells Us About River Restoration

ROOM 225 W

Chloe Pearson | *Freshwater Science Specialist, The Nature Conservancy*

While some effects of river restoration may be observed shortly after implementation, it can take years to identify the full scope of the impacts. Therefore, long-term monitoring can be a necessary and powerful tool to demonstrate conservation project success and guide future work. Chloe Pearson will discuss the decade-long monitoring program in the Paulins Kill Watershed, where The Nature Conservancy worked with partners to collect scientific data in relation to river restoration efforts such as dam removals and floodplain restoration. She will give an overview on the findings of this program and will discuss how the data collected helps advance river restoration science. She will also discuss how this project was designed from the beginning to be complimentary to work done by partners, creating a more comprehensive, ecosystem-wide dataset.

Engaging Environmental Science Experiences for Classrooms and Beyond **ROOM 104**

- **Jessica McDermott** | *Assistant Education Director, The Watershed Institute*
- **Gabrielle Flora** | *Educator, Trenton 9th Grade Academy*
- **Zuzka Mulkerin** | *Voices of Water Program Manager, Biodiversity for a Livable Climate*
- **Jan Pokorný, RnDr., CSc.** | *Enki, Applied Solar Research And Watershed Restoration*

Join a diverse set of educators to learn about the development of new, real-world curricula to engage students, teachers, and community members in the science of ecosystem services. Two international educators will introduce tools to communicate how plants can cool local climates and heal the water cycle.

Participants will be empowered with strategies to effectively redesign and restore landscapes and precipitation feedback loops in the face of climate change. Then hear from two local educators about lessons learned that have allowed for three semesters of Trenton ninth graders to experience different sites throughout the Assunpink watershed, practice skills in water quality assessment, collect data, then interpret that data back in the classroom.

This meaningful watershed experience aims to grow STEM skills, exposure to Environmental Science, and connections to local watersheds for students from historically under-resourced areas. Together we will discuss the development process of teaching tools like these to best fit a variety of audiences.

SESSIONS BLOCK 3 (2:45 - 4 P.M.)

CSOs - Ten Years Later **ROOM 224**

- **Joe Mannick** | *Section Chief, Bureau of Surface Water and Pretreatment Permitting, NJ Department of Environmental Protection*
- **Susan Rosenwinkel** | *Director of the Division of Water Quality, NJ Department of Environmental Protection*
- **Michele Langa, Esq** | *Staff Attorney, Hackensack Riverkeeper & NY/NJ Baykeeper*
- **Nicole Miller** | *Principal, MnM Consulting*

A panel reflecting on a decade of Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) regulations and advocacy in New Jersey. Our conversation will touch what CSOs are, how we got here, the wins and losses of addressing the CSO problem (i.e., cost, aging infrastructure, community health), and the role of advocacy in getting the regulatory process to its present state.

Building Skills, Building Resilience: Engaging Spanish-Speaking Landscapers in Green Infrastructure — ROOM 225 E

- **Lucia Middleton** | *Water Policy Associate, The Watershed Institute*
- **José Bautista** | *Owner, Plantlife Landscaping*
- **Beth Ginter** | *Executive Director, Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council*
- **Christine Symington** | *Executive Director, Sustainable Princeton*

In New Jersey, most outreach initiatives focus on educating municipal officials and private landowners about the benefits of green infrastructure. However, far less outreach has targeted landscapers—especially Spanish speaking ones. In partnership with Sustainable Princeton, The Watershed Institute launched a green infrastructure workshop series designed for Spanish-speaking landscapers in 2023.

Since then, our workshops have reached over 60 landscapers using a combination of traditional lectures and hands-on activities. Since 2016, the Chesapeake Bay Landscaping Professional Certification program has offered one-day, hands-on course for landscape crews and crew leaders who maintain stormwater best management practices (BMPs). Designed for maximum engagement, this stormwater BMP training combines field-based learning with real-world scenarios and is offered in English and Spanish.
This panel will offer lessons learned from two successful outreach programs created for the landscaping community, with a focus on Spanish speakers.

Together, we will share diverse perspectives on engaging Spanish-speaking landscapers in green infrastructure, from outreach and translation methods to lessons learned and opportunities for replication.

Watershed Assessment Report: The Guidance You Need — ROOM 225 W

- **Brian Friedlich, PE** | *Managing Engineer, One Water Consulting LLC*
- **Mark Gallagher** | *Vice President & Restoration Ecologist, Princeton Hydro*
- **Mike Pisauro, Esq.** | *Policy Director, The Watershed Institute*

All municipalities are in the mist of developing their Watershed Improvement Plans: how to reduce flooding and improve water quality. In 2026, municipalities must develop their Watershed Assessment Report. This report will outline what will be done in your community to improve water quality, implement Total Maximum Daily Loads and reduce flooding.

The Watershed Institute with One Water Consulting and Princeton Hydro has developed a guide on how to develop these plans. Join us at the session to learn best practices and how to develop the most effective plan for your community.

CEUs: 1.25 Professional Engineers

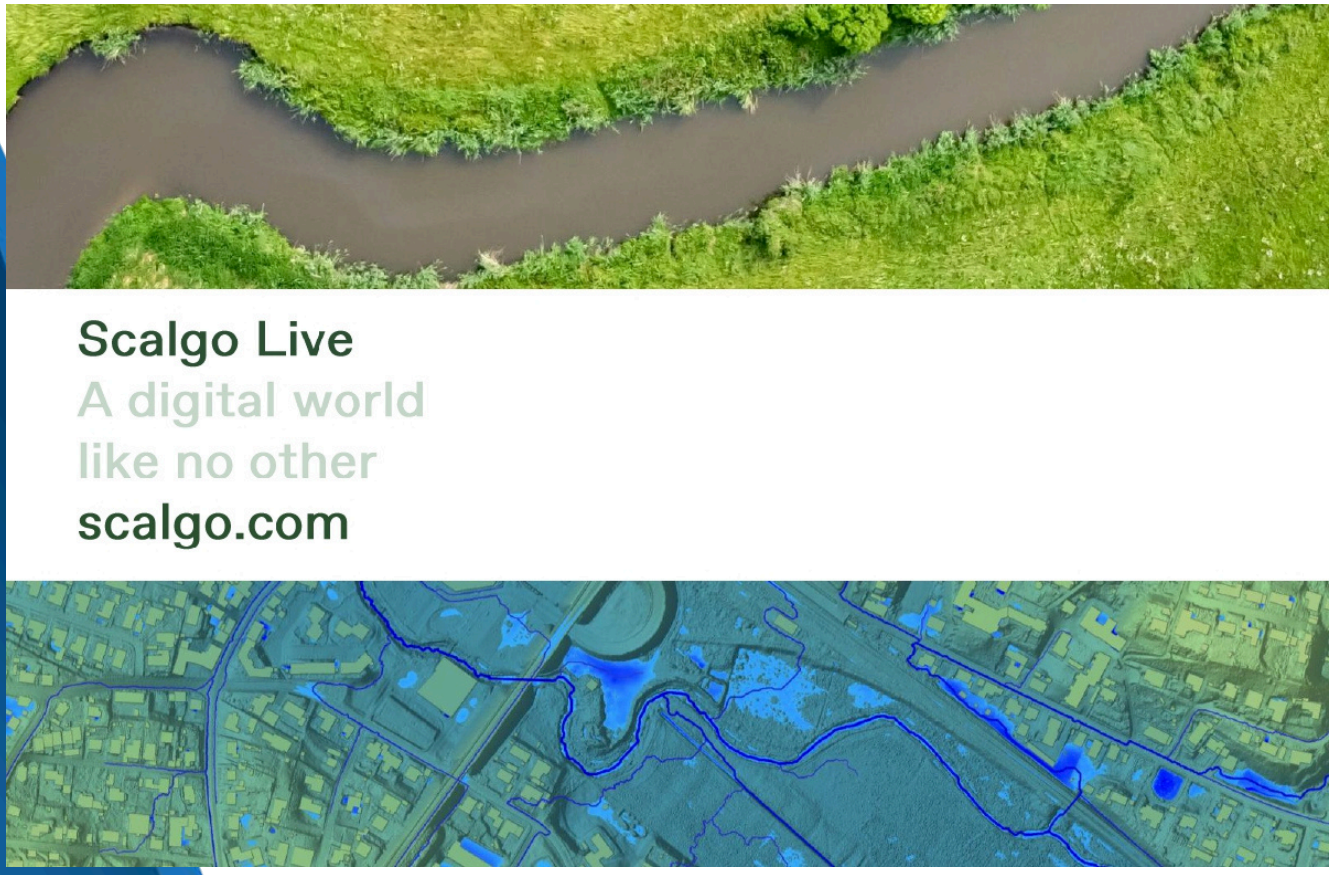
Inspiring Action & Promoting Student Engagement Through Environmental Education

ROOM 104

- **Davis Bush** | *StreamWatch Schools Coordinator, The Watershed Institute*
- **Jennifer Smolyn** | *Biology & Research Teacher, Princeton High School*
- **Jeanne Muzi** | *Director of Student Achievement, Equity, and Opportunity, Lawrence Township Public Schools*
- **Kate O'Brian** | *LS STEM Teacher, Technology Innovation Specialist, and Service-Learning Coordinator, Stuart Country Day School*

Our youth are becoming increasingly interested in addressing climate and other environmental impacts, stepping up as local advocates among their friends, families, and communities. To become the local leaders of tomorrow, our students need a strong foundation of environmental education today and helping them develop an affinity for the natural world is a crucial step.

Our panelists will discuss various hands-on and place-based efforts to engage students in environmental learning, including habitat analysis, water quality assessments, and stormwater mitigation. This session will also highlight collaborations between formal and informal educators to foster robust connections between our youth and the environment.



KEYNOTE BIOS

Bert H. Steinmann
Mayor of Ewing Township

As Mayor, Bert H. Steinmann is committed to fostering equitable treatment and inclusivity for the increasingly diverse community of Ewing. Mayor Steinmann envisions a township where the rich diversity of its residents is reflected in its workforce, businesses, and government. He strives to create an environment where every member of the community feels valued and represented, and where opportunities for growth and participation are accessible to all.

Mayor Steinmann is dedicated to enhancing community services, supporting programming for youth, and promoting initiatives that celebrate and uplift the unique contributions of every Ewing resident. Through collaboration and proactive leadership, Mayor Steinmann aims to build a more inclusive, vibrant, and prosperous Ewing Township for current and future generations.

Andrea Welker, Ph.D., PE., F.ASCE., ENV SP
Dean of Engineering, TCNJ

Dr. Andrea Welker is the Dean of the School of Engineering at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), a role she began in 2022. She is a civil and environmental engineering scholar with extensive experience in higher education leadership, teaching, and research, particularly in water resources, geotechnical engineering, and engineering education.

Prior to joining TCNJ, she spent over two decades at Villanova University, where she served as a professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, leading undergraduate programs, diversity and inclusion initiatives, and international partnerships. Dr. Welker holds a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and earned her BS and MS in civil engineering from Drexel University. She is a licensed Professional Engineer and a nationally recognized educator.

Henry Gajda
Chief of Staff, NJDEP

Gajda is a veteran of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU), where he most recently served as Chief of External Affairs, overseeing the Communications, Legislative Affairs, and Ombudsperson divisions. He also served as Deputy Chief of Staff, helping lead the NJBPU's efforts to apply over $650 million in federal clean energy grant funding while managing key state policy and research initiatives.

Gajda was a Public Policy Director for a climate and clean energy advocacy organization, where he advanced environmental policy through strategic advocacy and coalition building. He holds a Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management from The New School and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Policy from Rutgers University.

SPEAKER BIOS

David B. Arscott, Ph.D.

President and Executive Director, Stroud Water Research Center

Arscott 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.

Arscott 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.

Arscott 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.

Janine Barr

Senior Research Specialist, Environmental Analysis and Communications Group, Rutgers University

Janine Barr is a Senior Research Specialist with the Environmental Analysis and Communications Group at Rutgers in the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. Janine's work focuses on natural resources management and policies, science communication, and stakeholder engagement. Janine earned a B.S. in Biology and Environmental Studies from Gettysburg College and a M.S. in Oceanography from Rutgers University, where she obtained a Coastal Climate Risk and Resilience certificate. She has over four years of Federal work experience, most recently as a Sea Grant Knauss Fellow.

José Bautista

Owner, Plantlife Landscaping

José Bautista is a professional landscaper with over 10 years of experience. He is the owner of Plantlife Landscaping LLC, a landscaping company based in Princeton. He participated in several of the green infrastructure workshops hosted by The Watershed Institute and Sustainable Princeton.

Davis Bush

StreamWatch Schools Coordinator, The Watershed Institute

Davis joined The Watershed Institute in 2023. He studied marine science and sustainability studies at Stony Brook University, where he developed his love for the environment both on land and in the sea. Davis is passionate about empowering young people to fight for social changes they want to see and helping them get the tools and knowledge they need to do so. When not at The Watershed, Davis can be found hiking, reading, writing, coloring, and researching different kinds of sharks.

Megan Bushlow, EIT, CFM

Resilience Planner, Arcadis U.S., Inc.

Ms. Bushlow is a resilience planner at Arcadis who has contributed to a broad range of climate risk assessment and climate adaption projects, including leading community and stakeholder engagement processes. She is a certified floodplain manager and holds a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and a Bachelor Science in Engineering in Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering from the University of Michigan.

Anthony Dill, PE

Associate Vice President, Arcadis U.S., Inc.

Mr. Dill is a stormwater utilities leader for Arcadis and manages engineering programs for municipal stormwater and wastewater systems. His experience includes rate evaluations for new stormwater management fees, preparation of credit policies encouraging private investment in stormwater management facilities, leading stakeholder and public engagement meetings, and condition assessment and rehabilitation of municipal sewer systems. He is a member of Pennsylvania Water Environment Association's Stormwater Committee and recipient of their Golden Rain Drop Society Award for contributions to the committee. He has presented to numerous conferences and hearings in New Jersey regarding the implementation of stormwater utilities. He recently completed stormwater utility studies for New Jersey communities under an NJDEP grant program, which included the first three stormwater utilities in the State. He is currently providing implementation support for newly formed stormwater utilities.

Kate Douthat, Ph.D.

Senior Research Specialist, Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis, Rutgers

Kate Douthat is a Senior Research Specialist in the Rutgers Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis. She focuses on wetlands, watershed planning, and land use change. She works closely with NJDEP on WatershedNJ, a project to bring the information and tools necessary for watershed planning together in one digital platform to improve the planning process and outcomes. Within WatershedNJ, Kate focuses on data, GIS analysis, and connecting data to user needs. Kate got her Ph.D. in the Rutgers program of Ecology and Evolution in 2022. Her research focused on plant biodiversity and invasive species in artificial stormwater wetlands in New Jersey. The research goals were to understand how plant communities change after initial planting in order to improve stormwater BMP planting design and practices and to increase our understanding of how stormwater BMPs contribute to or detract from native biodiversity. Through this work she is familiar with stormwater infrastructure and best management practices and how they work on the ground. Before her graduate work at Rutgers, Kate started her career in the field working on a NJ organic farm and as a residential landscaper. She ran a small native plants landscaping business called Dogtooth Gardens. Kate can be reached at kate.douthat@rutgers.edu

Michael K. Drulis, MPA

City Administrator, City of New Brunswick

Michael K. Drulis, City Administrator of New Brunswick under Mayor Cahill, is an accomplished municipal executive and public sector finance expert with leadership in operations, utility rate setting, strategic planning, and fiscal management. His career spans roles from Public Information Officer to Assistant Business Administrator, Acting City Administrator, and Acting Finance Director before his 2021 appointment.

He has served in the Mayor's Office, Planning, Community & Economic Development, and Finance, gaining deep policy and operational expertise. Holding an MPA in Finance from Rutgers, he excels in budgeting, capital financing, and long-term planning, fostering transparency, efficiency, and innovation in governance.

Matthew Ehrhart

Director of Watershed Restoration, Stroud Water Research Center

Matt Ehrhart is the Director of Watershed Restoration at the Stroud Water Research Center. Matt leads a restoration program that integrates science and technology into watershed restoration, seeking how to maximize ecological and water quality outcomes while serving the needs of farms and communities. The team integrates resiliency, other climate-based concerns, and market driven funding into research and implementation efforts in stream and watershed restoration. Matt is also engaged in state, regional and national policy issues.

Jamie Feinstein, RLA

Project Manager, Princeton Hydro

Ms. Feinstein is a registered landscape architect with over 18 years of project management experience in a variety of collaborative, professional practice contexts, including government, the private sector, and non-profit organizations. At Princeton Hydro, Ms. Feinstein incorporates a design-forward approach that is rooted in science, stewardship, cooperation, and sustainability.

She is responsible for design of restoration and management solutions for multiple ecosystem types and in a variety of landscape contexts involving wetland, river, floodplain, and coastal restoration as well as watershed based best management practices. She takes great joy in providing planting and grading strategies that enhance the experiential quality of projects. Ms. Feinstein also provides construction oversight, project management, cost estimates and evaluation and improvements to designs for constructability and budget, on a variety of projects.

Gabrielle Flora

Educator, Trenton 9th Grade Academy

Gabrielle Flora has dedicated her life to science, sustainability, and shaping young minds! She is a certified educator in Biology, Chemistry, Special Education, and Sheltered Instruction in New Jersey. Her journey began with the Americorps where she served 2 terms of service as their environmental curriculum designer. She began teaching in Jersey City where she helped the high school earn its Green Flag Award and was recognized with Jersey City's Conservation Award.

Five years ago, she brought her passion to Trenton's 9th Grade Academy, leading them to their own Green Flag distinction - the first Green Flag award in the City of Trenton. In addition to her role at TNGA, Gabrielle is a Professor of Chemistry at Ocean County College. When Gabrielle isn't busy as an educator, she's busy taking care of her young son, travelling, or reading. She's visited over 20 countries so far and dreams of seeing them all. Credentials: She holds a dual degree in Environmental Science and Journalism, with a minor in Environmental Policies, Institutions, & Behaviors. She studied for a Masters in Ecology and Environmental Policy from Johns Hopkins University and earned another Masters in Chemistry from NJCTL.

Brian Friedlich, PE

Managing Engineer, One Water Consulting, LLC.

Brian Friedlich brings more than 20 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.

Andres Garcia

Director of Stormwater Resiliency, NYC DEP

Andres Garcia is a Director working for the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP). He holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering as his educational background and has worked for over a decade in the Green Infrastructure group at DEP. In his current role as Director for Stormwater Resiliency with the NYC DEP, he is largely focused on oversight and execution of DEP's Green Infrastructure On-site program, as well as leader for DEP's Cloudburst initiative and the Construction Oversight and Inspections group. His direct reports manage teams who oversee capital GI contracts from design through construction, create/update/review green infrastructure standards, provide constructability reviews, GI design/construction plan reviews, construction inspections, and enforcement inspections.

Prior to his role as Director for Stormwater Resiliency, he served as Deputy Director for the Stormwater Permitting unit at the DEP where his duties included: application of hydraulic and hydrologic engineering principles for BMP analysis and review, presentations to potential Stormwater Permit applicants and stakeholders, drafting of regulatory documents, interpretation and guidance of regulatory compliance rules, SWPPP reviews, participation in environmental compliance hearings, and inspection of on-site and ROW Erosion & Sediment Control and Post-Construction Stormwater Management Practices. Roles prior to his work as Deputy Director for the Stormwater Permitting unit included four years as Accountable Manager, leading a team of project managers overseeing several concurrent Green Infrastructure implementation contracts; preceded by three years as Project Manager for the very same program.

Beth Ginter

Executive Director, Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council

Beth became CCLC's first executive director in January 2020. Based in Silver Spring, Maryland, and working across the mid-Atlantic region, CCLC educates and supports professionals to implement sustainable landscapes and green infrastructure practices for a healthy and resilient Chesapeake Bay watershed. She helped develop and also direct CCLC's Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) certification initiative.

Previously, Beth was the founding principal of a landscape consulting & design firm, and she directed scientific communications programs in the corporate sector. She earned a Masters in Sustainable Landscape Design at The George Washington University and a B.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Mark Gallagher

Vice President & Restoration Ecologist, Princeton Hydro

Mr. Gallagher is a founding Partner of Princeton Hydro and oversees all wetland and terrestrial ecological projects. He is a visionary for wetland and stream restoration/mitigation projects and whenever possible, integrates nature-based solutions, wildlife habitat, and green infrastructure into his designs. He has a comprehensive understanding of regulatory compliance and permitting including the preparation of state and federal permit applications and environmental impact statements.

This includes pertinent administrative and policy directives of regulatory agencies such as USACE, NJDEP, PADEP, and USFWS. He has also completed survey and habitat assessments for threatened and endangered species. His expertise has led to his providing expert testimony before numerous local and regional planning authorities on the potential impacts to natural resources. Mr. Gallagher is an Adjunct Professor who teaches Wetland Ecology at Temple University's Tyler School of Art and Architecture.

Jürgen Hackl, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Complex Infrastructure Systems, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Princeton University

Dr. Hackl is an Assistant Professor of Complex Infrastructure Systems at Princeton University's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. His research spans the interface between network science and complex infrastructure systems, focusing on spatial-temporal networks, uncertainty quantification, and digital twin technologies. He obtained his Ph.D. from ETH Zürich in 2019 and subsequently served as a senior researcher at the University of Zürich's Department of Computer Science from 2019 to 2022

In 2020, he was appointed as an Assistant Professor at the University of Liverpool, where he focused on urban risk and resilience assessments. Dr. Hackl later joined the University of Cambridge as a Research Assistant Professor for Digital Twins in 2022 before moving to Princeton in 2023. His work bridges theoretical advancements in network science with practical applications in infrastructure systems, offering insights into dynamic processes in power grids, transportation systems, and multi-layered, spatially embedded networks. A key focus of his research is the quantification and propagation of uncertainties within these complex, interconnected systems, enabling more accurate risk assessments and resilience strategies. This approach is particularly crucial for addressing the impacts of climate change while also fostering integrated solutions to tackle the pressing challenges facing our cities and society.

Claire Huang-Lindabury

Environmental Specialist, Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration, and Standards, NJDEP

Claire Huang-Lindabury is an Environmental Specialist at NJDEP's Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration, and Standards. She received her bachelor's degree in Geology from Geneseo State University and her master's degree in Geospatial Information Science and Technology from North Carolina State University. She has been working in the field of water quality science with NJDEP for approximately 5.5 years. Her primary responsibilities are comprised of all the components necessary to perform water quality assessments and to assemble New Jersey's Integrated Report.

John Jackson, Ph.D.

Senior Research Scientist and Stream Ecologist/Aquatic Entomologist, Stroud Water Research Center

John Jackson, Ph.D., is a Senior Research Scientist and Stream Ecologist/Aquatic Entomologist at the Stroud Water Research Center. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Delaware. His research team focuses on the effects of human activities on pollution-sensitive freshwater species like mayflies, and has sampled about 100 sites per year over the last 20 years. Their restoration experiments now span 10 to 25 years.

Michele Langa, Esq.

Staff Attorney, Hackensack Riverkeeper & NY/NJ Baykeeper

Michele Langa is the Shared Staff Attorney for Hackensack Riverkeeper and NY/NJ Baykeeper, where she plays a pivotal role in legal advocacy and policy. With a background in environmental and public interest law, Michele previously served as a Legal Intern for both organizations, demonstrating her commitment and expertise in the field of nonprofit advocacy.

She also Co-Chairs the Passaic River Superfund Community Advisory Group, sits on the Hudson River PCBs CAG, and is actively working with EPA on the early stages of the Lower Hackensack River Superfund cleanup process. Additionally, Michele is an active member of Jersey Water Works, Co-Chairing the CSO Committee and participating in several others, and sits on the advisory board of Sewage Free Streets and Rivers.

Richard G. Lathrop, Jr. Ph.D

Professor and Director, Rutgers-Grant F. Walton Center for Remote Sensing & Spatial Analysis (CRSSA)

Rick Lathrop's research program works to integrate insights regarding 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 at broader landscape to regional scales.

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. He holds a Ph.D. in environmental monitoring and MS in both forestry and environmental monitoring from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the inaugural Johnson Family Chair in Water Resources & Watershed Ecology and Professor of Environmental Monitoring at Rutgers. As Director of CRSSA, he leads a team of faculty and staff who seek to advance the development and application of geospatial information science and technology (remote sensing, geographic information systems, global positioning systems, computer simulation modeling) to address issues in the built and natural environment both locally and globally. As a multi-disciplinary research center their objective is to bring the best information to bear in place-based decision-making with the broader goal of promoting sound land, coastal and marine planning, natural resource and agricultural management.

Fred S. Lubnow, Ph.D.

Senior Technical Director of Ecological Services, Princeton Hydro

Dr. Fred S. Lubnow is the Senior Technical Director of 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 plans. 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

Joe Mannick

Section Chief, Bureau of Surface Water and Pretreatment Permitting, NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Joe Mannick is a Section Chief in the NJDEP Bureau of Surface Water and Pretreatment Permitting. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering with minors in Mathematics and Philosophy from Penn State University. He has over 30 years of experience in surface water discharge permitting at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, with over 10 years of experience in the Combined Sewer Overflow Program. Over the last 10 years the CSO Program has grown and changed from general to individual permits that are beginning to include facility-specific CSO abatement projects. Joe has dedicated his career to improving water quality and looks forward to further enhancing the waters of New Jersey

Jessica McDermott

Assistant Education Director, The Watershed Institute

Jessica McDermott is a curious and passionate leader with over two decades of experience in youth development and STEM education. She started her career working with the teen youth program at The Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts in Harrisburg and teaching Environmental Education at camps in the Poconos. After Graduate school, she spent the next 15 years at The Franklin Institute Science Museum. There she honed her skills in informal science curriculum development and program management. She spent almost 10 years working with the summer camp program, becoming the Camp Director. In 2021, her love of the outdoors brought her to The Watershed Institute as their summer camp director. Jessica has been working with Gabrielle to craft the Watershed Experience curriculum since 2024. Credentials: Jessica has a BS in biology from Lebanon Valley College and an MA in Museum Education from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Lucia Middleton

Water Policy Associate, The Watershed Institute

Lucia Middleton started at The Watershed Institute in 2022, where she works with both Spanish-speaking communities and municipalities on educating them about relevant local environmental issues, such as stormwater management and flooding. This includes presenting at community meetings and conferences, organizing advocacy trainings, and collaborating with local partners.

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.

Nicole Miller

Principal, MnM Consulting

Nicole Miller, Principal of MnM Consulting, is a communications professional with nearly two decades of experience creating targeted publicity and marketing campaigns for a range of clients in private industry and the nonprofit sector. MnM Consulting specializes in media development, digital and print publishing, brand strategy, content creation, and clean energy/sustainability education for business and general audiences.

MnM Consulting works with several small business, government, and non-profit clients on brand development, project management, event coordination and product deployment. Ms. Miller has a BA in Arts, Media, and Culture from the University of Washington and a Master of Science in Publishing from Pace University in New York. Ms. Miller is a resident of Newark, NJ, a member of the Newark Environmental Commission advising the Mayor and City Council on sustainability issues, Chair of the Newark Green Team, and Co-Chair of NewarkDIG (Doing Infrastructure Green), which is dedicated to resilient and sustainable municipal stormwater management.

Nicholas Mitch, AICP, LEED Green Associate

Resilience Planner, Arcadis U.S., Inc.

Mr. Mitch is a certified Urban Planner with experience coordinating the development and advancement of resilience plans. He has led and supported community and stakeholder engagement efforts for projects throughout the Northeast including for municipalities, regional coalitions, public utilities, and state agencies. He is a graduate of Bowdoin College and the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

Elise Molleur

Brownfield Redevelopment Specialist, NJIT Center for Community Systems / NJIT TAB

With a background in due diligence and environmental consulting, Elise assists communities in understanding the technical phases of brownfields redevelopment while providing guidance and support through communal plans and actions. Elise's responsibilities as a Brownfield Redevelopment Specialist range from the analysis and clarification of technical reports and regulatory requirements to engaging communities and stakeholders in enthusiastic events to create connections and the drive to tackle complex brownfield challenges.

She strives to dedicate her knowledge and passion to assisting communities, organizations, and individuals in successfully remediating and redeveloping their brownfield sites into community assets. She received her bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Philosophy and is currently pursuing a Professional Science Master's in Sustainability Science with a Sustainability Leadership concentration at Montclair State University

Zuzka Mulkerin

Voices of Water Program Manager, Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

Zuzka Mulkerin is a well-respected nature advocate born in former Czechoslovakia, living in New Jersey since 1999. With years of experience as a program coordinator for various environmental organizations and a proven track record as an accountant and financial analyst, Zuzka is well-equipped to address economic and ecological challenges in caring for our common home.

Her passion for water and ecology has led her to collaborate with: People and Water, Water Holistic, Ecorestoration Alliance, and Enki, where she assists with rainwater retention analysis, blue and green infrastructure assignments, watershed restoration, and climate adaptation education. She works as an educator and a program director for the Voices of Water program at the Biodiversity for a Livable Climate.

Jeanne Muzi

Director of Student Achievement, Equity, and Opportunity, Lawrence Township Public Schools

Jeanne Muzi has been a member of Lawrence Township Public Schools since 2002. She has served her students and families as a first grade teacher, Enrichment Specialist, Supervisor, Principal and Director. Jeanne's passion is building project based learning experiences for all children, helping students develop creative problem solving skills and partnering with families to provide students with what they need to be safe, successful and happy. Jeanne has been a NOAA Teacher At Sea, National Geographic Grosvenor Teaching Fellow and a Voya Unsung Hero recipient.

She has served on many education committees, commissions and panels, presenting on topics including Early Literacy, Cultivating Creativity, Building Outdoor Learning Programs, Supporting Multilingual Students and Nurturing the Whole Child Inside and Outside of School.

The Honorable Andrew Nowick

Mayor of Lambertville

Andrew Nowick has been the Mayor of Lambertville since January 2022. During his first term, Mayor Nowick oversaw extensive efforts to rebuild the City following the devastation of Hurricane Ida as well as championing a wide range of resilience and stormwater management initiatives. His administration has been awarded more than $3M in federal, state and county grant funding for restoration of streams, roadways, stormwater infrastructure, and resilience planning. Under his direction, the City has completed a Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study as well as a comprehensive Municipal Resilience Action Plan.

Kate O'Brian

LS STEM Teacher, Technology Innovation Specialist, and Service-Learning Coordinator, Stuart Country Day School

Kate O'Brian is the LS STEM Teacher, Technology Innovation Specialist, and Service-Learning Coordinator at Stuart Country Day School in Princeton, NJ. She is a passionate environmentalist committed to empowering the next generation of environmental stewards through purpose-driven, project-based learning.

Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., PE

Professor and Director, Rutgers Water Resource Program

Chris Obropta is the Extension Specialist in Water Resources with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and he is a Professor with the Department of Environmental Sciences at the School of Environmental & Biological Sciences, Rutgers University. He has a doctorate in Civil Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology, an M.S. in Civil Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology, and a B.S. in Civil Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Prior to joining Rutgers, Dr. Obropta was an environmental consultant for 12 years at Omni Environmental Corporation. Dr. Obropta has a background in watershed management, water quality modeling, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, and coastal engineering. His specific experience includes watershed restoration, onsite wastewater treatment system design and management, wasteload allocations and TMDL studies, stormwater management, wetland design, effluent dilution analyses, longshore sediment transport, computer-aided design, and geographic information systems (GIS). He teaches Bioresource Engineering Design I & II, where he directs student design teams to develop solutions to complex real-life engineering problems. With his extensive and impressive background, Dr. Obropta leads his highly specialized team of professional staff who are determined to create innovative solutions to water quality issues in New Jersey.

Chloe Pearson

Freshwater Science Specialist, The Nature Conservancy

Chloe Pearson is currently the Freshwater Science Specialist at The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey. She oversees the 10-year water quality monitoring program in the Paulins Kill and is tasked with synthesizing and communicating the findings of the program. She also regularly works with partners to provide opportunities for community volunteer involvement in the Paulins Kill. Chloe has her master's degree in marine biology from The University of New Hampshire, where she studied the migration patterns of a native diadromous species of concern, rainbow smelt.

Polly Pierone

Project Manager, FloodNet

Polly Pierone is the Project Manager for FloodNet NYC, a collaboration between CUNY, NYU, and city agencies to install hundreds of hyperlocal, ultrasonic flood sensors across New York City. In this role, Polly has coordinated across team units, gathering input from hundreds of NYC residents and project stakeholders and incorporating this input into a GIS-based analysis to guide the placement of flood sensors across the city.

Polly has long been interested in how the built environment reifies social inequities, particularly as climate change stretches systems thin. Her past work has included researching the disparate impacts of drought on Cape Town residents and analyzing tree removal data for neighborhoods across Los Angeles, where Polly was raised. Polly holds a B.A. in Physics and Science in Society from Wesleyan University, and is passionate about interdisciplinary collaboration shaping STEM research. She is based out of the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay at CUNY Brooklyn College.

Michael L. Pisauro, Esq.

Policy Director, The Watershed Institute

Mike Pisauro 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. Along with helping state officials update New Jersey's stormwater management rules, 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.

Jan Pokorný, RnDr., CSc.

Applied Solar Research and Watershed Restoration

Jan Pokorný is a botanist and visiting professor at universities in the Czech Republic, Finland, and the Netherlands. He is the author of 250 publications, with a focus on solar radiation distribution in landscapes and the evaluation of water cycle.

He has served on the scientific and technical panel of the Ramsar Agreement, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the preparation team of PolicyBrief on role of Forestsfor the Paris COP21 conference. In these roles, he documented the importance of forests in both local and global climates, as well as in water circulation. His work Trees, Forest, and Water: Cool Inside for a Hot World served as an basis for several UN Policy Documents and for the new USGS Water Cycle Diagram.

Susan Rosenwinkel

Director of the Division of Water Quality, NJDEP

Susan Rosenwinkel is the Director of the Division of Water Quality at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The Division of Water Quality has a primary responsibility for protecting New Jersey's surface and ground waters from pollution caused by improperly treated wastewater and its residuals through the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program.

The Division of Water Quality also administers financial assistance programs for wastewater treatment facilities as well as the Treatment Works Approval, Capacity Assurance, and Sewer Ban Programs. Susan has been with the Department for 35 years. Susan has a degree from the College of Engineering at Rutgers University.

Yaso Sivaganesh, PE

Section Chief, Division of Water Monitoring, Standards and Pesticide Control, Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration and Standards, NJDEP

Yaso Sivaganesh has expertise in environmental engineering and regulatory policy, with over 35 years of experience in environmental protection. A Professional Engineer with degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering, Yaso brings with her experience in Science and Engineering in private consulting and government regulation.

Currently serving as Section Chief, at the NJDEP's Division of Water Monitoring, Standards and Pesticide Control, Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration and Standards, Yaso oversees the TMDL and Beach Monitoring program units as well as the Community Water Monitoring and the AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Programs. Prior to assuming this role, Yaso worked in the DEP's Division of Air Quality, with supervisory responsibilities in Title V Air pollution control permitting (major facilities) in conformance with the federal Clean Air Act, compliance and appeal negotiations, environmental policy development, environmental justice, etc.

Jennifer Smolyn

Biology & Research Teacher, Princeton High School

Jennifer Smolyn is in her eleventh year teaching at Princeton High School in Princeton, NJ, where she teaches all levels of freshman biology and AP Biology, as well as the multi-year Research program. Her approach to teaching her Research classes draws heavily on her lab experiences, both from her undergraduate work at Rider University and her Masters in Cell and Developmental Biology from Rutgers University

. She has also completed a program in educational leadership, obtaining her K-12 principal and supervisor certificates to pursue her interests in curriculum development. She is currently an NSTA Fellow in the "Scaling Up for STEM" program and has presented her efforts in integrating data science into her classes at the National Data Science Education conference. She collaborates with educational researchers at Rutgers and UPenn on her data literacy efforts as well. In addition to her work in the classroom and her professional learning, she is a coach for the boys and girls Cross Country and Track & Field teams at PHS.

Kimilya Ann Spaulding

Project Manager, NYC DEP

Kimilya Spaulding project manager for Onsite Green Infrastructure projects at New York City Housing Authority and school properties. Has been a major assistant with ensuring a smooth design process with the pilot Cloudburst projects which are the first to be constructed in NYC.

Michelle Stuart

Application Developer, Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers University

Michelle Stuart is an Application Developer for the Center for Urban Policy Research. In this role, Michelle collaborates with the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and various non-profits in the region to develop web applications and decision support tools that address a host of topics ranging from citizen-science reporting of tick encounters to state-wide watershed planning.

Prior to joining the CUPR, Michelle worked as a molecular field biologist for Rutgers, Oregon State University, and the University of Maryland, gathering DNA from clownfish in the Philippines and from microbial communities in the Artic. In the past she was a high school chemistry, biology, and marine science teacher. Michelle holds a BS in Biology from Western Michigan University and a MS in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington where she studied the chromosomes of the red tide algae Karenia brevis and its close relative, Karenia papillionacea.

Christine Symington

Executive Director, Sustainable Princeton

Christine is the Executive Director of Sustainable Princeton, where she leads community-based efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect local ecosystems, and strengthen climate resilience. She guides the organization's programs, partnerships, and public engagement, and represents Sustainable Princeton in key community initiatives.

Jesika Tixi

Environmental Sustainability Planner, NJIT Center for Community Systems / NJIT TAB

Jesika is the Environmental Sustainability Planner at the Center for Community Systems (CCS) within the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). In this role, she supports the EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities (TAB) program across Regions 2 and 4, along with other CCS initiatives

She brings with her experience across public service, community engagement, transportation, planning research, and environmental sustainability. As a planner dedicated to supporting communities in achieving healthier and more resilient outcomes, she has applied her expertise across various roles, including private, public, academic, and nonprofit sectors. Jesika holds a Master's in Urban Planning from New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and a Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Natural Resources from Rutgers University.

John Tully, A.S.

Supervisor of Engineering, IT and Stormwater Utility, Township of Raritan

Mr. Tully is the Township's NJDEP Stormwater Program Coordinator. He has served as a designer and project manager for civil engineering firms of various sizes. His role in the public sector encompasses supervising the Engineering Department as well as IT and now the Township's new Stormwater Utility. He was the project lead for the Stormwater Utility feasibility study and implementation. A.S. from Raritan Valley Community College with 15+ years in private land development design & 9 years in municipal government

Daniel Van Abs, Ph.D., PP/FAICP

Professor (retired), Rutgers University

Dan Van Abs was a Professor of Professional Practice for Water, Society & Environment at Rutgers University, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, from 2012 to 2024, 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.

Sean Walsh, PE

Senior Project Manager, Princeton Hydro

Mr. Walsh is a licensed Professional Engineer with over 20 years of civil engineering experience with public and government clients. Mr. Walsh has worked variety of civil engineering and water resources projects and regularly focuses on mitigating interior and localized flooding issues in developed areas, provides expert testimony for review of civil development projects for objectors, and retrofits existing stormwater basins into more naturalized systems. Mr. Walsh is also the Township Stormwater Engineer for New Jersey townships including Peapack-Gladstone, Mendham and Readington.

Patrick Wherry, MPA, QPA

Business Administrator, Township of Maplewood

Patrick Wherry is the Business Administrator for the Township of Maplewood, where he directs the day-to-day operations of all municipal departments, oversees a $60 million budget, and manages personnel, risk management, and townwide initiatives. Patrick was part of a team that setup Maplewood's stormwater utility, which was only the second stormwater utility in the state of New Jersey.

Patrick has a served in government for a decade. He previously served as Administrator in the Borough of Waldwick and prior to that he was Assistant Business Administrator for the City of Hoboken. Patrick holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Scranton, a Master of Public Administration degree from Rutgers University, and is a Qualified Purchasing Agent and Affordable Housing Professional certified by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

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