



Annual Report 2018

Association of State Wetland Managers, Inc.

Our Mission...

The Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) is a nonprofit organization established in 1983 to promote and enhance protection and management of wetland resources, to promote application of sound science to wetland management efforts and to provide training and education for our members and the public. Membership is open to all.



Photo by Jeanne Christie

*It is not enough to understand the natural world;
the point is to defend and preserve it.*

- Edward Abbey

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Photo by Jeanne Christie

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In 2018, ASWM projects were supported by the McKnight Foundation, the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers along with members and private donors. The Association would like to express its gratitude to those who have supported its efforts to protect the nation’s wetlands through the application of sound science, training and education.

Thank you.

Multi-Year Projects

Healthy Wetlands, Healthy Watersheds

In January 2017, ASWM launched a new two-year project funded by a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Wetland Program Development Grant, entitled: “Healthy Wetlands, Healthy Watersheds: Leveraging state wetland restoration and protection programs to improve watershed health.” The project is scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2019.

The primary goal of this project is to identify ways to integrate state and tribal wetland programs with other federal, state and local water, habitat and floodplain programs, in order to protect, restore and improve wetland acreage and quality while simultaneously improving overall watershed health.

The first task required pulling together a 28-member interdisciplinary workgroup to provide expert advice and guidance. The workgroup includes representatives from federal, state and local government, NGOs, academics and private consultants. ASWM and the workgroup are currently in the process of completing:

- State Program Integration Case Studies
- Watershed Project Case Studies
- Identification of Barriers to Program Integration and Watershed Projects
- Identification and Document of Integration Best Practices and Lessons Learned

The information gathered from these efforts is being used in comparative analyses that will inform a final white paper. ASWM is also developing a website resource for states and tribes, hosting all the case studies, webinars and other project deliverables.

Webinars are an integral part of this project. The following three webinars were hosted, recorded, and posted on ASWM’s website in 2018 by ASWM through the [Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance](#) webinar series:

- [“Reaching Across the Border to Improve Water Supplies for People and Nature: The United States, Mexico, and the Colorado River”](#) on Jan. 9, 2018. Presented by Jennifer Pitt, Audubon.
- [“Wetlands by Design: A watershed approach for Wisconsin”](#) on May 15, 2018. Presented by Tom Bernthal, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Nick Miller, The Nature Conservancy.
- [“Floodplain Policies for Flood Survivors – A Conversation”](#) on July 10, 2018. Presented by: Sarah Wilkins, Thriving Earth Exchange & American Geophysical Union; Virginia Wasserberg, Stop the Flooding NOW!; Bob Jennings, Stop the Flooding NOW!; Lori Burns, RainReady Chatham; Gabriella Velardi-Ward, Coalition for Wetlands and Forests; and Ed Browne, Residents Against Flooding.



Photo by Maria Stelk, ASWM

Pipeline Permitting Project

In 2018, ASWM completed a multi-year project on improving state and tribal permitting of pipeline projects in the United States. ASWM worked in collaboration with states, tribes, energy permitting/licensing agencies and a variety of other stakeholders to explore a critical gap that exists for state permit reviewers around how to effectively engage in review, comment and conditioning processes which differ from one federal agency to another. ASWM developed a range of tools and resources to protect aquatic resources impacted by energy development through more informed and effective engagement in both the pre-application and §401 Certification phases of the permitting process.

In 2018, ASWM and its project workgroup members met monthly and completed:

- A needs assessment regarding common challenges, issues, needs and strategies to overcome them.
- A white paper on cumulative impact considerations for pipeline permit reviewers.



Photo credit: FERC

- Resources on language and terminology to improve communications between various pipeline development/permitting parties.
- Template process maps for federal and state natural gas pipeline permitting.
- Best practices for pipeline planning and construction to inform permit review and conditioning, as well as administrative processes for more effectively/efficiently reviewing applications.
- Checklists and other resources for state regulators to work more effectively with consultants that are assisting energy companies with permit planning and applications.
- Training webinars on energy project permitting for state wetland staff and other professionals working on state wetland issues.
 - o **Webinar 1:** [Pipeline Permitting 101: An Overview of Basic Oil and Gas Pipeline Permitting Processes and Concepts for Wetland Regulators](#) – November 7, 2018
 - o **Webinar 2:** [Cumulative Adverse Effects of Pipeline Development on Wetlands and Other Aquatic Resources](#) – July 24, 2018
 - o **Webinar 3:** [Horizontal Directional Drilling: Understanding Context when Reviewing Oil and Gas Pipeline Permit Applications](#) – October 29, 2018; and
 - o **Webinar 4:** [Improving the Information Pipeline: Working with Consultants during Oil and Gas Pipeline Permitting Processes](#) – July 18, 2018
- A dedicated webpage providing the resources listed above and information for state wetland programs on energy permitting issues.

The project was funded by a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Wetland Program Development Grant, the McKnight Foundation, and the Switzer Foundation.

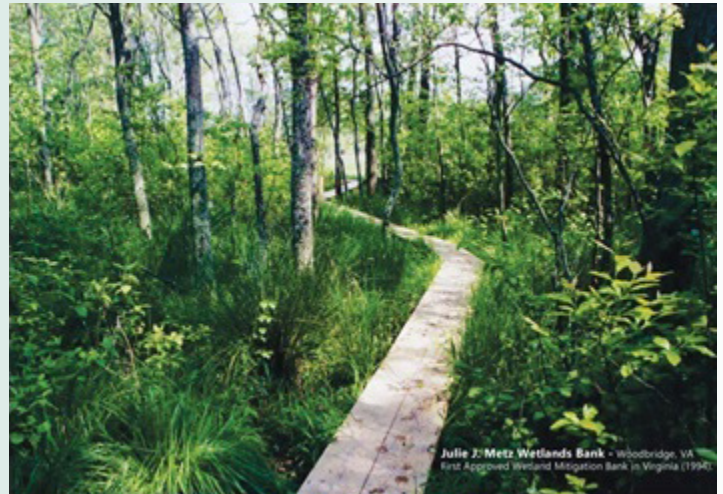
An Ecological Framework for Compensatory Mitigation

In 2018, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) contracted with the Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) to develop a webinar training series with topics that go beyond what is currently available at the National Interagency Review Team course or in Corps Regulatory Mitigation Workshops. The purpose of the contract between the Corps and ASWM is to develop and provide advanced training materials for current and future Corps regulatory staff engaged in reviewing, approving and monitoring compensatory mitigation. However, the audience also includes other people who are working with or running compensatory mitigation programs such as state agency staff, etc.

This multi-year project (to be completed in 2019) is intended to address all forms of compensatory mitigation, i.e., banks, in-lieu fee and permittee responsible. Upon completion of the full series of training webinars, each webinar module will include a quiz with questions and answers that allow for anytime, anywhere, self-paced training. These recorded webinars and quizzes will be available on ASWM's website for free.

In 2018, three training webinars were planned, coordinated, hosted, moderated, post-processed and posted on ASWM's website:

- **Webinar 1:** [An Ecological Framework for Reviewing Compensatory Mitigation: An Introduction](#) – June 19, 2018
 - o Module 1: Eric Stein, “An Ecological Framework for Reviewing Compensatory Mitigation”
 - o Module 2: Jeremy Sueltenfuss, “Introduction to Wetland Hydrology”
 - o Module 3: W. Lee Daniels, “Ensuring Soil Quality and Function in Wetland Creation and Restoration Efforts”
 - o Module 4: Matt Schweisberg, “An Ecological Framework for Reviewing Compensatory Mitigation – Biology (Mostly Plants)”



*Julie Metz Wetlands Bank - Woodbridge, VA
First Approved Wetland Mitigation Bank in Virginia (1994)*

- **Webinar 2:** [An Ecological Framework for Reviewing Compensatory Mitigation: Abiotic Processes](#) – July 16, 2018
 - o Module 1: Eric Stein, “An Ecological Framework for Reviewing Compensatory Mitigation”
 - o Module 2: Jeremy Sueltenfuss, “Introduction to Wetland Hydrology”
 - o Module 3: W. Lee Daniels, “Ensuring Soil Quality and Function in Wetland Creation and Restoration Efforts”
 - o Module 4: Matt Schweisberg, “An Ecological Framework for Reviewing Compensatory Mitigation – Biology (Mostly Plants)”
- **Webinar 3:** [An Ecological Framework for Reviewing Compensatory Mitigation: Biotic Processes](#) – August 29, 2018
 - o Eric Stein, “Linking Monitoring Indicators to Performance Standards”
 - o Mick Micacchion, “Performance Standards and Monitoring Protocols for Ohio Compensatory Mitigation Wetlands”
 - o Anthony Zemba, “Ecological Considerations in Wetland Mitigation Planning and Monitoring”

ASWM-NRCS Wetland Webinar Series

In 2018, ASWM worked in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop a new webinar training series targeting wetland-related learning for NRCS Conservation Planners and their partners. This series provides training participants with a general level of knowledge about wetlands and key wetland issues, as well as wetland restoration options and considerations. The training series includes advice on how to be more conversant about wetland issues, know what questions to ask when looking at restoration opportunities, and know when to contact or bring in outside experts.

ASWM worked closely with NRCS staff and the ASWM-NRCS Technical Advisory Committee to carefully craft training content and learning objectives with special attention to selecting experts to deliver each element of the webinar series.

Trainings tie in with the NRCS's nine-step planning process, focusing on Phase I collection and analysis steps: identify problems, determine objectives, inventory resources and analyze resource data.

In 2018, ASWM planned, delivered, recorded and post-processed the first four webinars in the series. While each webinar is designed to be able to function as a stand-alone resource, participants get the most benefit from the webinars by watching them in sequential order, as each webinar builds off the prior webinars in terms of building a foundation of knowledge.

Webinars in the Series

Webinar 1: [Introduction to Wetlands](#) - June 22, 2018

Webinar 2: [Wetlands in a Watershed/at the Landscape Scale](#) - August 15, 2018

Webinar 3: [Wetlands Ecology for Planners: How a Wetland Functions](#) - November 14, 2018

Webinar 4: [Wetland Ecology for Planners: Examples of Variation Across the United States](#) - December 14, 2018

As a result of completing these trainings, participants should:

- Know how to read the landscape
- Know how to recognize and capitalize on opportunities with landowners, both when the landowner wants their land altered or they want to restore it
- Have an awareness of which tools are available and for what applications
- Understand programmatic options (e.g. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Partner Programs)

Once completed, the training series will consist of nine individual webinars that are developed into smaller topic-specific online modules for incorporation into NRCS' AgLearn system. All webinar recordings and training modules are also available to the public free of charge on the ASWM website.



Photo credit: NRCS

Special Projects

State Wetland Mapping Summaries

Beginning in the fall of 2017 and continuing through July of 2018, ASWM performed active outreach for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) to twenty-five state wetland mapping programs distributed regionally across the United States. The goal of this effort was to:

- get updated staffing and contact information for each state wetland mapping program;
- gather information about current and/or future mapping activities, methods, and funding avenues;
- gather information on wetland status and acreage trends and potential drivers of change.

The project was completed in 2018 with a final report.

Key findings include:

- State wetland mapping programs vary dramatically from one another in multiple ways. Some states have dedicated programs, many do not. Some state mapping efforts are located within one agency while others are spread out among two or three agencies. Some state wetland mapping efforts are focused on voluntary wetland restoration and protection efforts while others are focused on regulatory permitting requirements.

- Political and administrative support for wetland mapping varies dramatically among the states interviewed with some states having robust financial and staffing support, while others do not even have the capacity to apply for and/or manage grants that could support mapping activities.
- Many states are investing in mapping wetland condition and function with attributes that are either based on Ralph Tiner's LLWW classification scheme or even go beyond LLWW with attributes for function that are unique for regional ecosystem variation and/or program and project goals.
- Most of the states interviewed have never performed a statewide status and trends study and rely on data and findings from the NWI Status and Trends reports.
- Combined with rapidly changing land use patterns and impacts on wetland resources either through dredge and fill activities, restoration activities, and/or climate change, the ability to discern drivers of change is proving to be very challenging if not impossible.



Photo by Marla Stelk, ASWM

Invasive Species Webinar Series

States, federal agencies and local communities are wrestling with the issue of how to effectively address invasive species. There is a great deal of research and experimentation already underway in this area; however, there is also much left to be done.

In 2016, ASWM hosted an EPA-funded webinar on “Managing Invasive Species in Wetland Restoration Projects: Considerations for Common Reed, Reed Canary Grass, Purple Loosestrife, Nutria and Feral Swine.” Over 500 individuals participated in the webinar. The webinar highlighted that while there is good information about how to manage for some invasive species, it has not been widely dispersed.

In light of this evidence, ASWM continued to pursue the topic, and in 2018, completed a series of webinars (supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program), on invasive species management, covering recent scientific studies and discoveries, best management practices, and lessons learned.

The list of available Invasive Species webinars produced in 2018 include:

- [“Managing Invasive Species in the Great Lakes: Establishing Goals & Objectives, Monitoring Programs, and Cooperative Management Areas in Michigan”](#) on January 11, 2018. Presented by: Gregory J. Norwood, Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Dr. Don Uzarski, Central Michigan University; and Ryan Wheeler, Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
- [“Phragmites australis: Current Research and Experiments in Control Strategies for Wetland Habitat Recovery”](#) on February 21, 2018. Presented by: Karin Kettenring, Utah State University; Christine Rohal, PhD Candidate, Utah State University; and Andrea Davalos, State University of New York.
- [“Invasive Species Databases: An In-depth Look at EDDMapS, the USGS Non-Indigenous Aquatic Species Database, and NEMESIS”](#) on March 21, 2018. Presented by: Chuck Barger, University of Georgia; Pam Fuller, U.S. Geological Survey, Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Program; and Gregory Ruiz, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.



Photo Credit: USDA

Collaborations

Wetland Mapping Consortium

ASWM is a founding member of the Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC). The WMC is an interdisciplinary group of wetland scientists and managers interested in mapping and monitoring wetlands using remote sensing and/or using the resultant products to better manage wetland resources. The consortium fosters collaborations and disseminates data and findings for the purpose of enhanced wetland mapping and monitoring.

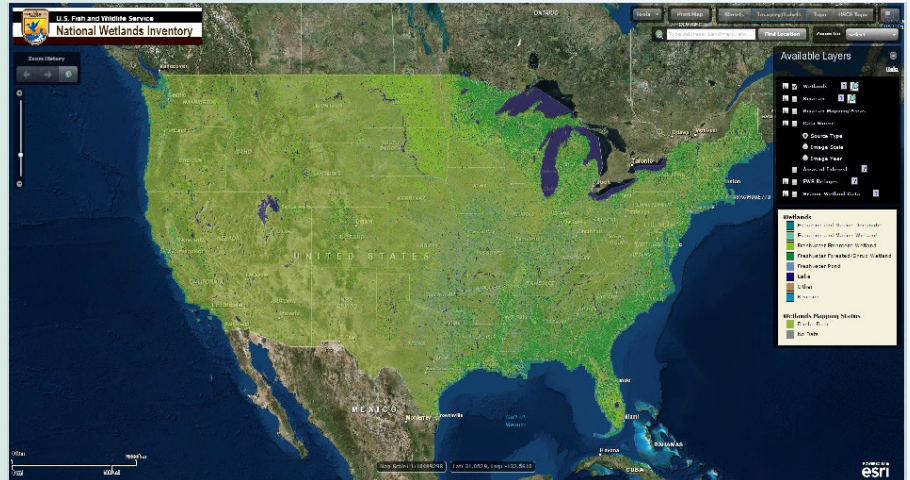


Photo Credit: USFWS



Photo by Jeanne Christie

to Improve Water Supplies for People and Nature: The United States, Mexico, and the Colorado River," "Green Infrastructure Resources for Coastal Flood Risk Management," "Wetlands by Design: A Watershed Approach for Wisconsin," "Floodplain Policies for Flood Survivors - A Conversation," and "Green Infrastructure Case Studies: How to Successfully Lower Risk in Your Community". Through NFFA, ASWM hosted three webinars and the Association of State Floodplain Managers hosted the other two. All were recorded and are available to the general public.

Joint Workshop

In 2018, the NFFA and WMC joined forces to develop and implement a workshop on "Exploring Opportunities for Integrated Mapping and Functional Assessment of Riverine and Coastal Floodplains and Wetlands." See page 15 for more information.

Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance

The Association of State Wetland Managers is a founding member of the Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA). The Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA) is an affiliation of nonprofit and private organizations, government agencies and individuals dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural functions of floodplains, including coastal areas. ASWM maintains an NFFA webpage on its website devoted to NFFA activities. In 2018 NFFA held five webinars on topics such as "Reaching Across the Border

Partnerships

The Association of State Wetland Managers works with other organizations on education, training, clean water advocacy and other wetlands-related issues. ASWM has worked with its partners in recent years toward a common goal of protecting wetlands and water resources through sound science and sensible public policy. ASWM is a membership organization; membership is open to anyone.

State Wetland Managers

ASWM has members who are State Wetland Managers from 38 states.

State Associations & Organizations

Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA)
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)
Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM)
Coastal States Organization (CSO)
Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)
Groundwater Protection Council (GWPC)

Foundations

Horne Family Foundation
McKnight Foundation
Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation

Non-profits & Academic Institutions

American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Planning Association
American Rivers
Center for Wetlands & Stream Restoration
Ducks Unlimited
Environmental Law Institute
Kenyon College
Louisiana State University
Michigan Wetlands Association
Midwest Biodiversity Institute
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
Muskie School of Public Service
(University of Southern Maine)
National Wildlife Federation
Pennsylvania State University & Riparia
Prairie River Network
Ramsar U.S.
Restore America's Estuaries
River Network

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Society of Wetland Scientists
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
Southern Illinois University
Stetson University College of Law
SUNY Buffalo Law School
The Nature Conservancy
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Water Institute of the Gulf
The Wetland Conservancy
Union of Concerned Scientists
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Virginia Tech
Wisconsin Wetlands Association

Federal Agencies

Federal Emergency Management Agency
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Department of Agriculture
- APHIS
- Forest Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- National Wetlands Inventory Coastal Program
U.S. Geological Survey

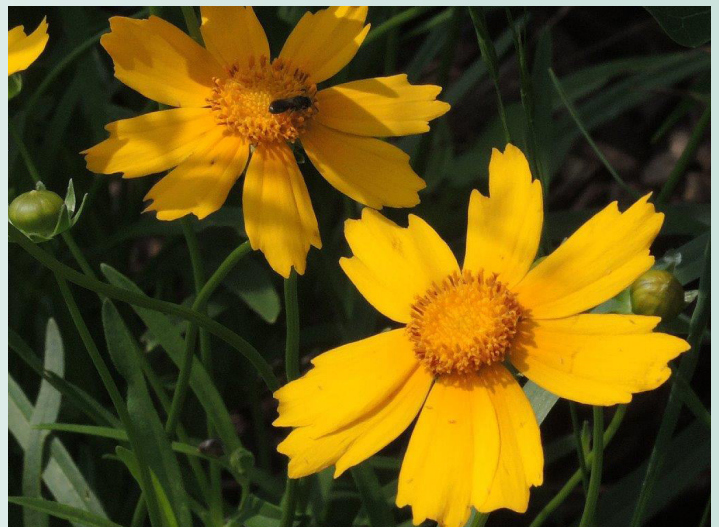
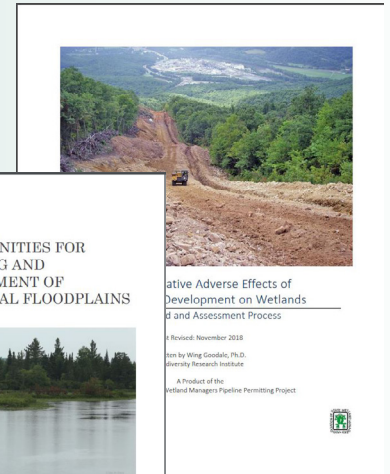
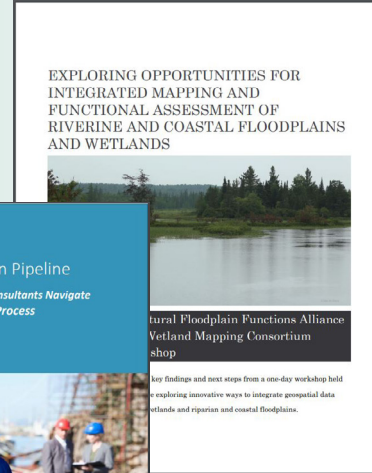
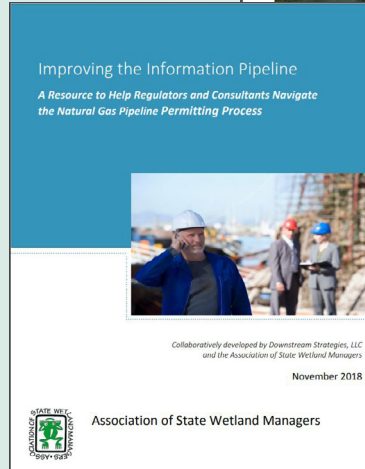


Photo by Jeanne Christie

Studies/Reports/Tools Published

- Improving Environmental Coordination of Oil and Gas Pipeline Permitting for State and Tribes: What Can be Done?
- Developing Process Maps for Oil & Gas Permitting Processes: A Guide for States and Tribes
- Considering Best Practices for Managing Pipeline Permitting
- The Cumulative Adverse Effects of Gas Pipeline Development on Wetlands
- Improving the Information Pipeline: A Resource to Help Regulators and Consultants Navigate the Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Process
- State Wetland Mapping Summaries
- Exploring Opportunities for Integrated Mapping and Functional Assessment of Riverine and Coastal Floodplains and Wetlands: Findings from Workshop #1, Making the Case
- Healthy Wetlands, Healthy Watersheds: Leveraging State Wetland Restoration and Protection Programs to Improve Watershed Health (final white paper in progress)



ASWM Approves New Five Year Strategic Plan for 2018-2022

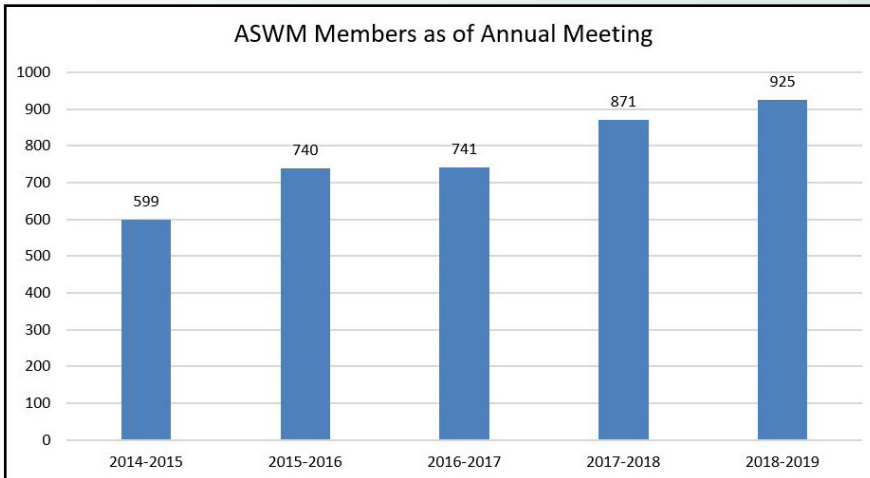
Every five years, the Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) reviews and renews its organizational strategic plan. ASWM's last strategic plan was in effect from 2013-2017. ASWM's strategic plan guides the work of the organization and serves as a tool to evaluate progress towards its goals.

[More information on the Strategic Plan can be found here.](#)

[The Strategic Plan Document can be found here.](#)



Engagement

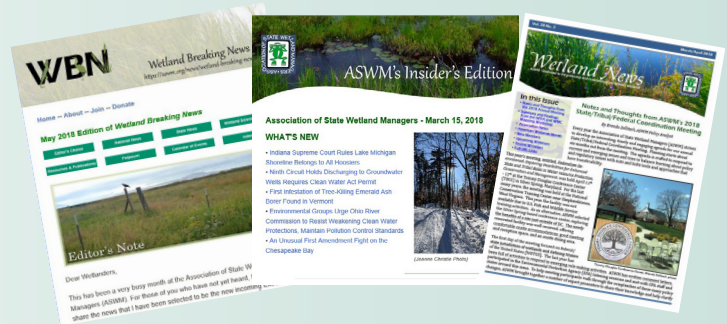


ASWM Membership Development in 2018:

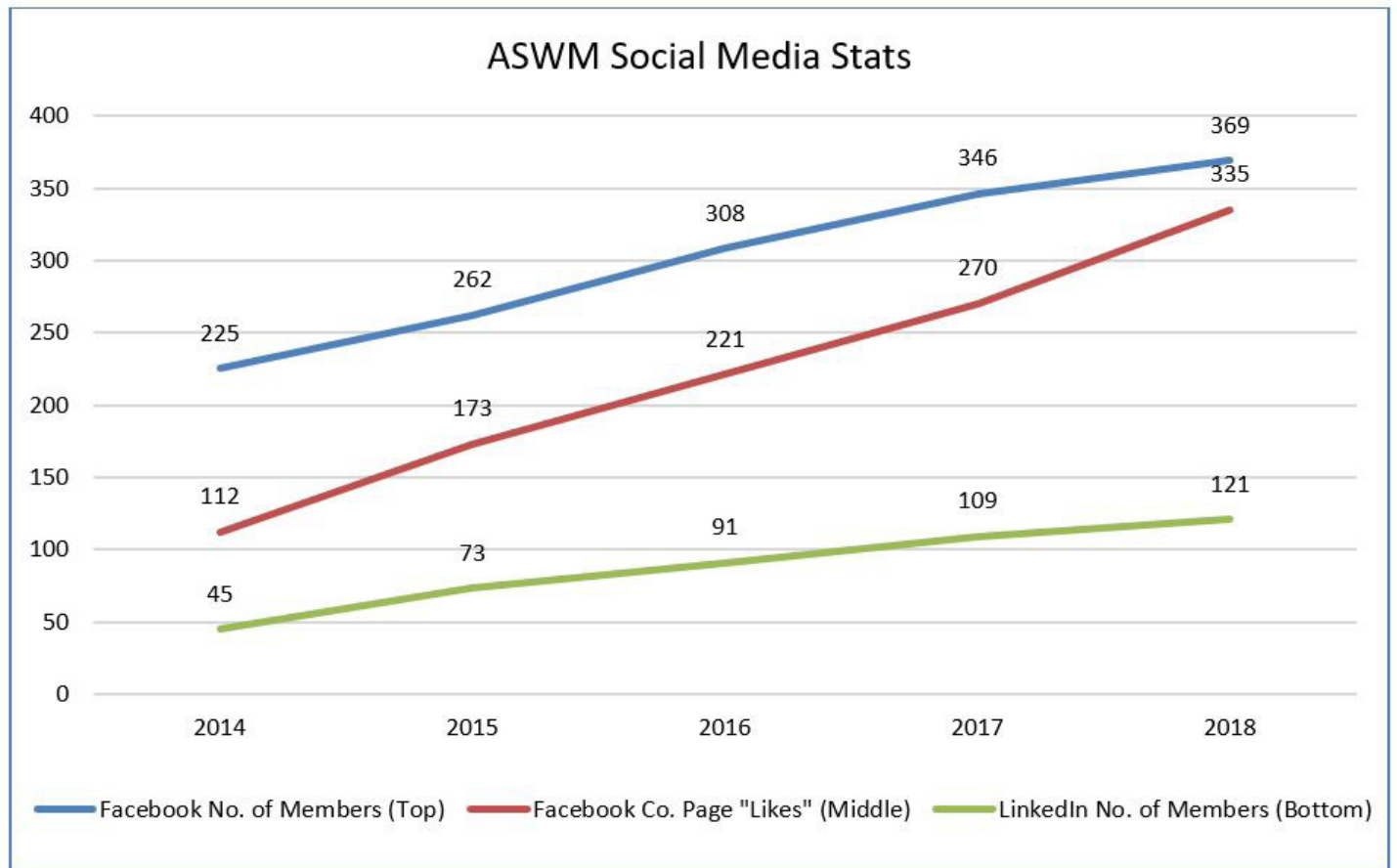
- In 2018 ASWM welcomed 288 new members
- Current number of members (April 2019): 925 members

ASWM Periodic Publications Ongoing in 2018

- Wetland Breaking News (monthly)
- Insiders' Edition (weekly)
- Wetland News (Bi-monthly)



Social Media Outreach:



ASWM Speaking Engagements/Presentations in 2018

- Association of Clean Water Administrators biannual meeting: Washington, DC
- Association of State Floodplain Managers Annual Conference: Phoenix, AZ
- National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference: Louisville, KY
- Southern Group of Forester's Conference: Richmond, VA
- Environmental Law Institute's National Wetlands Awards Ceremony: Washington, D.C.
- American Society of Landscape Architects Annual Conference: Philadelphia, PA
- NEBAWWG-MAWWG Joint Wetlands Workgroup Meeting: Cooperstown, NY

Formal Comment Letters Submitted in 2018

- On Potential Revisions to Clean Water Act Section 404(g)
 - Regarding Potential Revisions to CWA Section 401 (4 different letters)
 - In Support of H.R. 5787, Strengthening Coastal Communities Act
 - Regarding Federal Register Notice "Update to the Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act"
 - On the Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: "Definition of Waters of the United States" – Recodification of Pre-existing Rule
 - Regarding FERC Natural Gas Pipeline Certification Process
 - Request to Extend to 120 Days the Public Comment Period for the Proposed Rule, "Increasing Consistency and Transparency in Considering Costs and Benefits in the Rulemaking Process"
 - Supporting Inclusion of Natural and Nature-Based Infrastructure in the Next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)
 - Regarding Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA)
- ASWM's Policy Documents can be found [here](#).



Photo by Jeanne Christie

Workshops/Conferences

ASWM State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting

The Association of State Wetland Managers held a two-day meeting April 11-12, 2018 at the Tommy Douglas Conference Center in Silver Spring, MD. The topic of the Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting was “Federalism Re-envisioned: Exploring Possibilities for Enhanced State and Tribal Roles in Water Resources Protection, Conservation and Management.” There were 129 attendees onsite and 54 remote participants.



Photo by Brenda Zollitsch, ASWM

During this two-day meeting there were presentations and discussion on: federal/state jurisdiction of wetlands and defining Waters of the United States (WOTUS), and a wide range of special topics on cooperative federalism and integration. Following the meeting, the agenda and PowerPoints were made available to participants [here](#).

Exploring Opportunities for Integrated Mapping and Functional Assessment of Riverine and Coastal Floodplains and Wetlands



Photo by Brenda Zollitsch, ASWM

On Tuesday, April 10, 2018, the Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA) and the Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC) combined forces to host a workshop at the Tommy Douglas Conference Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. The overall goal of this workshop was to discuss current and potential opportunities to integrate wetland, floodplain, coastal and riparian geospatial mapping efforts, techniques and data on ecosystem functions in order to improve decision making and resource management, as well as reduce risk, and to create a roadmap for the future.

Case study presenters from L to R: Andy Robertson, Elliot Campbell, Mike Kline, Sinan Abood, Tim Beechie

EPA Region 5 State and Tribal Meeting

ASWM and EPA Region 5 held a State and Tribal Meeting on March 6-8, 2018 at the Pyle Center at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin. Agenda topics included: WOTUS Rule updates, Enhanced State and Tribal Program updates, and presentations on monitoring/assessment, mitigation, and restoration/protection. There were 52 participants at the meeting.

EPA Region 7 Wetland Restoration Project

The week of April 23, ASWM facilitated a wetland restoration/creation project at Kansas City Kansas Public Schools. One wetland was restored at JC Harmon High School and two vernal pools and a rain garden were created at FL Shlagle High School with direction and oversight by Tom Biebighauser. Throughout the week, high school students participated in experiential learning at the sites and assisted with wetland restoration and construction by seeding, planting, rolling out liners, spreading hay, moving woody debris and other activities.

Webinars

The Association of State Wetland Managers hosted a number of webinars in 2018 as part of ongoing projects to improve state wetland programs and to further the efforts of two collaborations: the Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance and the Wetland Mapping Consortium. ASWM utilizes webinars as a tool for communication and for reaching an audience that would not otherwise be able to travel to conferences or seminars. ASWM also hosts a monthly webinar series for members only. Topics alternate between science, policy and legal issues each month. ASWM also records and post-processes all webinars and they are available to view on the ASWM website. The 2018 webinar series are listed below.

Members' Webinars

ASWM held eight Members' Webinars in 2018 with a total of 611 participants. Some of the topics covered were: Living Shorelines, Wetland Restoration, The Clean Water Act, and Mapping Tidal Wetlands.

Hot Topic Webinars

ASWM held three Hot Topic Webinars with a total of 954 participants. Webinar topics were:

- Underwaters: Rising Seas, Chronic Floods and the Implications for US Coastal Real Estate
- ASWM American Wetlands Month Webinar: Measuring the Economic Benefits and Cost Effectiveness of Coastal Wetlands and Ecosystems
- What's next for Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS)?

Energy Permitting Webinars

ASWM held four Energy Permitting Webinars in 2018 with a total of 1,413 participants.

Compensatory Mitigation Webinars

In 2018 ASWM held the first three of nine Compensatory Mitigation Webinars. There were 1,582 participants.

Invasive Species Webinars

The Invasive Species Webinar Series wrapped up in 2018 with three webinars. There were a total of 612 participants.

ASWM-NRCS Wetland Restoration and Communication Webinars

In 2018 ASWM held the first four of nine ASWM-NRCS Wetland Restoration and Communication Webinars. There were 2,453 participants.

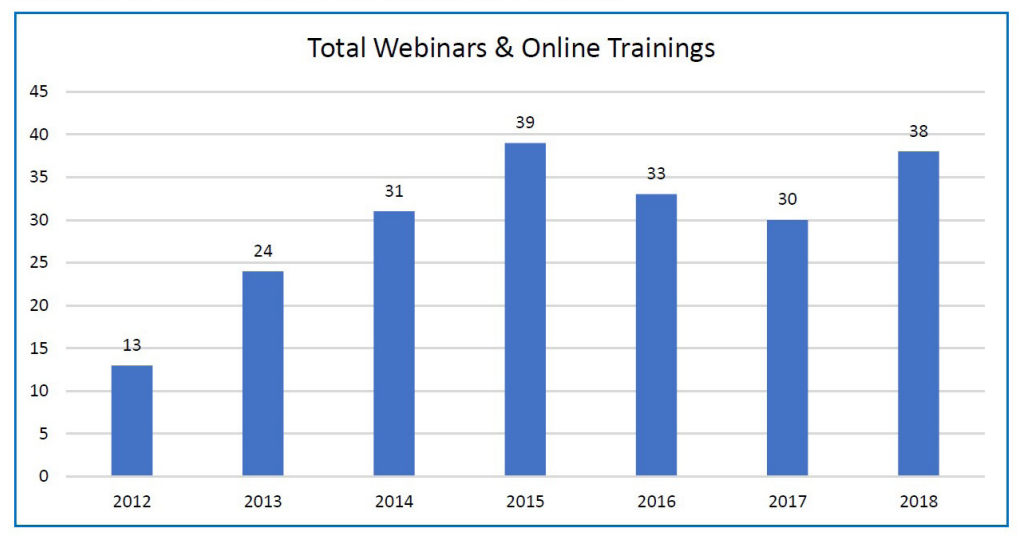
EPA Region 10 Tribal Wetland Program Webinars

One webinar was held for the EPA Region 10 Tribal Wetland Program Series in 2018 with 424 participating. The topic was "Cultural Values Based Planning for Integrated Wetland Management on a Watershed or Reservation Scale."

Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA) Webinars

This year ASWM held five NFFA Webinars with a total of 663 participants. Some of the topics were: Green Infrastructure, Floodplain Polices for Flood Survivors, and Wisconsin Watershed Approach.

Growth in Numbers of All Webinars Hosted



FINANCIAL REPORT

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash	452,944
Accounts Receivable, Net	15,199
Prepaid Expenses	56,460
TOTAL ASSETS	\$524,603

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accrued Expenses	34,549
Total Liabilities	\$34,549

Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	490,054
With Donor Restrictions	0
Total Net Assets	\$490,054
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$524,603

REVENUES and OTHER SUPPORT

Grant Income	647,414
Contributions	333
Program Fees	37,192
Membership Dues	42,302
Sponsorships	3,500
Interest Income	1,424
Miscellaneous	3,353
In-kind	16,827
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	\$752,345

EXPENSE

Compensation and Benefits	446,410
Program Expense	82,907
Occupancy	21,240
Travel Expense	26,894
Office Computers (IT)	24,920
Office Expenses	6,640
Bank Fees	2,081
Insurance	1,659
Professional Fees	4,075
Telephone	3,891
Miscellaneous	2,279
In-kind	16,827
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$639,854

Increase in Net Assets	112,491
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	377,563
Net Assets at End of Year	\$490,054

The Association of State Wetland Managers
is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit,
nongovernmental organization.



Photo by Jeanne Christie

Board of Directors

Officers:



Kenneth Murin, Chairman

Ken has 30+ years with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). He currently works within the Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, serving as the Chief for the Division of Wetlands, Encroachments and Training. Under this position Ken manages statewide implementation of the Commonwealth's environmental laws and regulations, and corresponding federal requirements relating to Erosion and Sediment Control, the NPDES Stormwater Construction Permitting, Submerged Lands License Agreements, Water Obstructions, Encroachments and Wetlands, and Environmental and Geological Services Programs. Ken is a graduate of West Virginia University, with a BS in Forest Resource Management, along with an accreditation as a soil scientist. He currently represents the PADEP as a board member to the Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership, and serves on the EPA Chesapeake Bay Urban Stormwater Workgroup.

Prior to working with PADEP, Ken worked for a private consulting firm preparing environmental permit applications, drafting, surveying and conducting water quality monitoring activities. He also worked for the USDA Forest Service where he worked with teams collecting data for the forest resource inventory in the state of Maine. Ken lives in the suburbs of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania with his wife Chris. He has two adult sons, and two grandchildren. Ken enjoys fishing, hunting, hiking, and DIY activities. He is also an avid Pittsburgh sports fan following the Pirates, Steelers and Pens teams.



Tom Harcarik, Vice Chairman

Tom is an environmental planner with Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance where he evaluates stream and wetland protection and restoration projects under the innovative Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program. Tom also assists communities by reviewing potential environmental impacts to streams and wetlands, threatened and endangered species, historic properties, and floodplains that may result from projects seeking financing through the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund and Water Supply Revolving Loan Account SRF programs.

Tom started his career at Ohio EPA as a summer intern in 1985 conducting surveys of fish and macroinvertebrate communities in rivers and streams throughout Ohio. Tom has since worked for Ohio EPA for over 29 years, including 18 years in the 401 Water Quality Certification program and Wetland Ecology Group. Additionally, Tom represented Ohio EPA in civil enforcement matters and served as a liaison to the Attorney General's Office for Ohio EPA's solid waste and unregulated hazardous waste programs.

Tom served in Ohio EPA's Wetland Ecology Unit, and was the lead author on a paper to quantify the benefits of restoring wetlands in urban watersheds to treat nutrients and reduce flooding. More recently, Tom co-authored a paper with colleagues at Ohio EPA developing a protocol to locate wetlands in agricultural landscapes to reduce nutrient loadings.

Tom received a B.S. in Conservation, with a focus on aquatic ecology, from Kent State University. Tom currently lives in Columbus, Ohio with his wife and two children. Tom coached his sons in little league baseball for 9 years while also serving as a league commissioner for 7 of those years. Tom enjoys backpacking, hiking, kayaking and just generally being outdoors with Marston, his four year old chocolate labrador retriever. Tom lives by the motto, "A bad day in the field always beats a good day in the office!"



Mark Biddle, Secretary/Treasurer

Mark is a lead wetland scientist with more than 23 years of experience working for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Currently, Mark is housed within the Watershed Assessment Section, Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program. Mark holds degrees in Natural Resource Management and Soil and Water Management and attended both Delaware State University and the University of Delaware. Residing in Dover, Delaware, Mark lives with his wife and two daughters. Mark enjoys his time with the family lab Gabby, and hopes that the future holds ample time for two of his other loves, hunting and fishing.

Members At Large:

Jill Aspinwall, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Jill Aspinwall has worked at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection since 2001. She has a background in watershed management, education and outreach, wetlands mitigation, ecosystem restoration, and policy. For the last five years, Jill has been working in the Office of Policy Implementation assisting in the development and implementation of New Jersey's land use regulations, including the Freshwater Wetland Protection Act Rules, Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules, and the Coastal Zone Management Rules. Jill manages the State's In-Lieu Fee Program and has also recently become the lead in the development and management of the New Jersey's Mitigation Banking Program. Jill currently serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of ASWM. She has a B.S. in Biology and Environmental Studies from Washington College, and an M.S. in Environmental Science from Rutgers/NJIT.



Denise Clearwater - Maryland Department of the Environment

Denise Clearwater has worked in Maryland's wetland programs since 1986. She has a background in developing and implementing a regulatory wetland program; a mitigation program; policy development; and special projects for program improvement and grant management. She has represented the Wetlands and Waterways Program in the Maryland Department of the Environment on numerous interagency work groups for regulatory, wetland monitoring, restoration, and preservation and is the co-chair of the Chesapeake Bay Program Wetland Work Group. She is also serving as an ex-officio Board member of ASWM and is a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists. Denise has a B.S. in zoology from the University of Maryland and an M.S. in wildlife management from Frostburg State College (now University).



Edward Clements, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Edward is employed by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management in Indianapolis, Indiana as an Environmental Engineer and has also worked for the State of Indiana, Indiana Department of Natural Resources in the capacity of Natural Resource Scientist. Edward has been involved with the underground injection control program for Class II injection wells and the Compliance and Technical Assistance Program, which provides technical compliance assistance on a wide array of environmental topics. Edward has been working for the State of Indiana since 2015. Edward has bachelors and master's degrees in geology from Indiana University, a master's degree in environmental engineering from Wayne State University, and a Master's degree in management from Davenport University. Edward's specialties include storm water management, assessment of groundwater resources, development and implementation of wetland mitigation plans as well as a diverse array of other regulated projects. Edward has 20 years of organizational leadership experience and a strong background in facilitation, training and project implementation and management. Edward is Vice Chair of the Earth Science section of the Indiana Academy of Science.



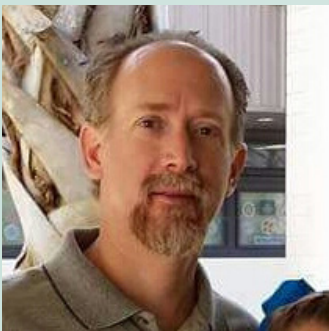


Lauren Driscoll, Washington State Department of Ecology

Lauren Driscoll is the manager of the wetlands program at the Washington State Department of Ecology, a position that she has held since 2005. She is responsible for ensuring statewide consistency in the implementation of 401 WQ certifications, technical assistance, and guidance for local wetland regulations. She is responsible for assisting and mentoring wetland technical staff statewide. She oversees the wetland compliance program and writes grants for wetland program activities. Since 2007 she has also served as the agency's wetland policy lead doing bill analyses and legislative briefings, tracking national issues, and providing guidance on local wetland ordinances and their implementation. Lauren specializes in wetland policy and mitigation options such as wetland banks, ILF and advance mitigation.

Lauren began work at Ecology in 1998 when she was hired to develop a wetland banking rule and establish the state's bank certification program. Before joining Ecology, Lauren worked for the Washington State Department of Transportation where she performed wetland studies on transportation projects statewide, designed mitigation sites, and participated in the development of the Washington Wetland Function Assessment model. Prior to that she worked for the two federal agencies: the US Forest Service doing trail work where she ran a pack string of mules; and the USFWS where she did Swampbuster work under the Farm Bill.

Lauren received her bachelor's in environmental studies from the Evergreen State College where she studied ecology, botany, organic agriculture and computer sciences. Lauren and her husband live in Yelm, Washington and they have two fledging adult children along with a dog and two indoor cats (who are enjoying their new patio.) She enjoys gardening, doodling, card making, hiking and any excuse to get outside.



Timothy Rach - Florida, Department of Environmental Protection

Timothy Rach is a Program Administrator in the Submerged Lands & Environmental Resources Coordination Program. He has been with DEP for over 22 years in various management and supervisory positions. Most of his time has been in the Environmental Resources Permitting program regulating development in wetlands and surface waters. Tim is responsible for overseeing the statewide implementation of the ERP rules and regulations within the Department, Water Management Districts and local delegated programs. He holds a BS degree in Marine Biology from Troy University and a MS degree in Ecology from Old Dominion University.

Prior to working for the state of Florida he interned with the dredge and fill section in the Norfolk District (VA) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers while he was working on his Master's Degree. Tim lives in Tallahassee, Florida with his wife Denise and their three kids. Tim enjoys camping, hiking, volleyball and brewing beer.



Photo by Jim Pendergast, ASWM Volunteer

ASWM Staff

Jeanne Christie, Executive Director

Jeanne was with ASWM since 1999 and Executive Director since 2001. Early in the year, Jeanne decided to take on a new role at ASWM as Senior Policy Advisor/Executive Director Emeritus and a new Executive Director was hired. Jeanne led projects to improve wetland restoration science, respond to proposed revisions to Clean Water Act jurisdiction, improve wetlands mapping methodologies and a host of other science and policy related projects. From 1995 to 1999 she was a Resource Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wetlands and Watersheds Division where she was national program leader for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. She worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wetlands Division (1988-1995) moving from the staff level to Section Chief and Acting Branch Chief. Responsibilities included working as a liaison with other federal agencies and state wetland program capacity building. As an environmental planner at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (1985-1988) responsibilities included the Green Bay Remedial Action Plan and the 208 Watershed Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin. She has a B.A. in Political Science and a B.S. in Environmental Science, both from the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Jeanne is a 2007 winner of the National Wetlands Award for Education and Outreach. During her spare time she does volunteer work with the Maine Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Maine Master Gardeners and the Maine Master Naturalists. She lives in an 1885 farmhouse in Windham, ME with her husband Larry and their 'rescued' animal companions Navia, Gabby and Connie. In December, Jeanne moved on to new adventures.

Marla J. Stelk, Policy Analyst / Executive Director

In April Marla was hired as the new Executive Director. There was a transition period from May through September and on October 1st she took on the role of Executive Director. Marla has been ASWM's project leader for two U.S. EPA wetland restoration grants and coordinates a national wetland restoration workgroup. She also facilitates the Wetland Mapping Consortium and the Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance webinar series. Marla is ASWM's Communications Team leader and the Editor of Wetland Breaking News. She represents ASWM on the Advisory Committee on the Water Information Water Resources Adaptation to Climate Change Workgroup. She comes to ASWM with a strong professional background in environmental issues, stakeholder engagement, facilitation, special events and communications. Marla earned her MA in Community Planning and Development with a focus on Land Use and the Environment at the Muskie School of Public Service and her BA in Environmental Issues from Colorado College. She enjoys hiking backcountry, getting out on the waters of Maine, art, gardening, cooking and music.

Peg Bostwick, Senior Staff Policy Analyst

Peg was Chief of the Wetland Lakes and Streams Unit in the Water Resources Division for the State of Michigan – Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Peg joined the (then) DNR in 1979 after completing a B.S. in fisheries and wildlife and additional graduate work in limnology at Michigan State University. With over 30 years of experience, Peg is also a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists, the Michigan Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society, and the Jacob Sheep Breeders Association. Peg lives with her family on a 40 acre farm near St. Johns, Michigan, where they raise Jacob sheep – an old heritage wool breed.

Brenda Zollitsch, PhD, Policy Analyst

Brenda is a Policy Analyst at the Association of State Wetland Managers. Brenda's areas of expertise include water resource policy, stormwater management, collaborative environmental policy implementation, and most recently, climate adaptation. At ASWM, Brenda conducts research and policy analysis on wetland and stream issues, manages projects; designs, coordinates and evaluates training for wetland professionals; coordinates webinars; publishes reports, articles and blogs; helps develop communications guidance; and is involved in conference planning and making presentations on ASWM's work to a variety of audiences. Brenda recently completed a national status and trends/state summaries project analyzing 50 state wetland programs across the United States and a national stream identification, delineation and mitigation study. She currently leads projects focused on increasing access to high quality wetland training and improving energy permitting

to protect wetlands. Brenda received her PhD in Public Policy from the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service in 2012, focusing on environmental policy and collaborative environmental management. She has her double Master's degree from Boston University and her bachelor's degree from the University of Maine. Brenda has 25 years of organizational leadership experience and a strong background in academic and action research, facilitation, training and communications. Brenda is a Switzer Environmental Fellow and has been instrumental in developing regional approaches to stormwater management in the State of Maine.

Dawn Smith, Communications Specialist

Dawn works on multimedia projects, focusing on webinars and short videos. After working in the corporate world for several years, she is redirecting creative energies towards social media, documentaries and short film communication formats. A lifetime resident of Maine, she has an appreciation for the preservation of local heritage and natural treasures, primarily from behind the lens. Working with ASWM, she has gained a greater appreciation for the local and national efforts to preserve and rebuild the wetland ecosystems that are all around us.

Michael Burton, Bookkeeper

Michael came to ASWM with over twentyfive years of professional experience in accounting and technical administration. Michael has many years of experience in federal/ state contract administration and financial management. His undergraduate degree was in business administration/aviation management and he holds a FAA Commercial MEL/Instrument pilot's license and is a Certified Flight Instructor. Michael is a retired PSIA Level II Alpine ski instructor and you can find him at either Sunday River or Sugarloaf USA, on the wickedest of snow-days. Michael lives alone on his twenty-five acre homestead in the foot-hills of Maine where he tends to his flock of sweet, Finn sheeplets and spends time working in his greenhouse. In November, Michael moved on to new adventures.

Marti Northover, Bookkeeper

Marti was hired in October as the new bookkeeper. Marti has over 30 years of professional experience in accounting, logistics and advertising. Marti has an undergraduate degree in Geography from Framingham State University in Framingham, MA and masters degree in Environmental Science from Clark University in Worcester, MA. Professionally Marti has taught environment related courses at colleges in MA, was owner of an historic inn, worked as the Director of Accounting and HR at a logistic company in MA and a homeless shelter in ME. Six years ago Marti moved to Alfred, ME, where she lives with her husband Vernon, enjoying the lake life and her chickens, ducks and nice garden. Currently Marti is the Treasurer of the Parson's Memorial Library Board of Trustees and is an Associate Member of Alfred Conservation Commission.

Laura Burchill, Program Assistant

Laura is the program assistant in the Windham office and has been with the Association since 2004. She is responsible for maintaining the membership information; assisting with the many tasks involved in preparing for webinars and workshops, Association publications as well as general office duties. She has 30+ years experience in graphic design and also works part-time for *Parent & Family*, a local publication. She lives in Windham, Maine with her husband Dave and their canine companion Jay.

Sharon Weaver, Webmaster

Sharon is the Publications Specialist and Webmaster for the Association in the Berne, New York office, where she has worked for the past 20+ years. Along with general office tasks, she works on the layout and design of Association publications, reports, and brochures. She helps coordinate ASWM workshops and symposia. She manages the ASWM website, which includes daily updates and prepares and designs new webpages. When she is not entertaining company, she enjoys some alone time with her husband, Ken, and grown children Karla and Pieter. She adores her cat and three dogs, who complete the family nest.

Jon Kusler, Associate Director, Emeritus

Jon is a lawyer, writer, and educator with more than 35 years of experience with wetlands, floodplains and riparian areas. In addition to a law degree, he holds a M.S. in Water Resources Management and an interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Land and Water Management from the University of Wisconsin. He helped found the Association of State Wetland Managers in 1983 and served as its Executive Director from 1990 to 2001. He received EPA's National Wetland Lifetime Achievement Award in 1990, the Gilbert White award in floodplain management in 1979, and the Society of Wetland Scientist's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. He has authored many books and reports concerning wetlands, such as *Our National Wetland Heritage: A Protection Guide*, *Regulating Sensitive Lands*, and *Wetland Creation and Restoration*.

Starsha Schiller, Intern

Starsha is currently pursuing a master's degree in Policy, Planning and Management from the Muskie School of Public Service (the Muskie School), at the University of Southern Maine (USM). Prior to attending the Muskie School, Starsha worked in the nonprofit sector in both Maine and New York City focusing on fundraising, event planning, program development and community organizing. Her studies at USM have concentrated on policy analysis and program evaluation. Upon completing her degree in May 2019 she hopes to work as a consultant supporting organizations and communities develop, implement and evaluate their programs and policies. Starsha loves living in the beautiful state of Maine and enjoys exploring its splendor while hiking and kayaking. She is thrilled to be working with the team at ASWM and looks forward to supporting their important work this summer. Some of her projects include conducting a comparative analysis of regulatory best practices and assisting in ASWM's website review and update.

Sean Seary, Intern

Sean is currently working on his Master's of Policy, Planning, and Management from the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine with a concentration in sustainable development. Sean aspires to work in environmental policy and community outreach and so being able to get experience at an organization renowned for its efforts in presenting comprehensive science and policy was an opportunity he couldn't pass on. Being able to bridge the gap and cooperate with other organizations, nonprofits, and government institutions is a critical aspect in developing sustainable initiatives and so that's the reason why he chose to intern with ASWM. Sean's projects include gathering news articles and publications for ASWM's News of Interests stories and Wetland Breaking News and assisting ASWM staff with the Healthy Wetlands, Healthy Watershed projects, as well as ensuring that presentations and materials are Section 508 compliant.



Photo by Jeanne Christie



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