



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Julia Anastasio** joined the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) in May 2014 as the Executive Director and General Counsel. ACWA is an independent, nonpartisan, national organization of state and interstate water program managers, who, on a daily basis, implement the water quality programs of the federal Clean Water Act. At ACWA, Ms. Anastasio focuses on working with state water program directors and EPA’s Office of Water on ensuring that the states have the resources they need to implement the Clean Water Act in their home states. Ms. Anastasio has over two decades of experience in government, administrative and environmental law and federal policy development. She began her career with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as an Executive Policy Specialist and returned to Washington, DC in 2005 to work for the America Public Works Association (APWA). While at APWA, she focused on environmental sustainability and infrastructure development at the local, state and federal levels. Ms. Anastasio earned her B.A. from Franklin Marshall College, her Master’s in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School, and her J.D. from American University.

**Andy Beaudet** is the Program Manager for the Regulatory Program at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has worked in the Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) since 2007. His Corps career includes experience working at the district level on permittee responsible mitigation and mitigation bank reviews in Minnesota and Maryland, and as a regulator evaluating permit applications associated primarily with commercial, industrial, residential, and transportation projects. Mr. Beaudet has worked at Corps Headquarters for two years, providing guidance and direction to districts and division regulators across the nation, developing policy guidance, and leading rulemaking activities specific to issues regulated by the Corps of Engineers under section 404 of the Clean Water Act and section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. In addition to being the 401water quality certification point of contact at Corps Headquarters, Mr. Beaudet is also the point of contact for mitigation, and the regulatory national SOP.

**Whitney Beck** is a Biologist in EPA’s Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds in the Office of Water. She joined the Office of Water in 2019 and currently works primarily on topics related to “waters of the United States.” Whitney holds a PhD in Ecology from Colorado State University and a BS in Environmental Science and Policy from the University of Maryland.

**Mark Biddle** is an Environmental Program Manager with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist. Mark has more than 30 years of wetland work involving: restoration and creation, monitoring and assessment, mitigation, permitting, comprehensive watershed planning, and use of best management practices to address environmental impairments. Mark has conducted multiple wetland mapping efforts and also serves as Board Chair for NAWM.

**Mariah Black Bird-Perry** is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, born and raised. She holds a Juris Doctorate with a certificate in Indian Law from ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law (21) and is the Tribal Mitigation Fellow at the Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC). Mariah's focus at EPIC is on compensatory mitigation policy and tribal participation - specifically, what policy changes can be made to be inclusive to tribes as mitigation sponsors or partners. On her off time, Mariah also enjoys beading, weightlifting and the outdoors.

**Jacob Blandford** is the Climate Adaptation Program Manager with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. He works with state fish and wildlife agencies to incorporate climate adaptation into fish, wildlife, and habitat management plans.

**Jessica Bryzek** is a M.S. student at West Virginia University earning her degree in Wildlife & Fisheries Resources. Her current research delves into the role woody vegetation plays in restored wetland ecosystems and the potential to be used as performance standards for wetland mitigation. Jessica is more broadly interested in understanding the relationship between the natural and built environments. She aspires for a career advocating for adoption of a new ecological paradigm that recognizes the Rights of Nature. She earned her B.S. in Biology from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana in 2018. Prior to attending graduate school, she completed an AmeriCorps service term with Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area, then worked in the non-profit sector in aquatic resource conservation with Trout Unlimited in West Virginia. She is a member of the Ecological Society of America (ESA) and was a recipient of ESA's 2022 Katherine S. McCarter Graduate Student Policy Award.

**Mike Callahan** began nonlethally resolving beaver-related flooding issues by co-founding the Pioneer Valley Wetland Volunteers with his wife Ruth in 1998. Wanting to expand this pioneering work, in 2000 he started his business, Beaver Solutions LLC. He soon left his medical career as a Physician assistant to do Beaver Solutions work full time. Since 1998 he has resolved over 1,900 beaver-human conflicts. In 2017, seeing the need for a national organization to expand progressive beaver management and beaver advocacy he founded the Beaver Institute Inc. The Beaver Institute promotes science-based coexistence with beavers for watershed restoration, biodiversity, and building climate resilience. Since 2017 the Beaver Institute has implemented a series of successful programs. Among these are the BeaverCorps, the first and only professional nonlethal beaver management training program, a new national landowner cost-share program to incentivize nonlethal beaver management, the national Beaver Climate Coalition, a landmark Municipal Beaver Management study, and more. He also teaches beaver workshops and webinars and started an online [Beaver Management Forum](#) on Facebook which has over 2,500 members. In his spare time, he loves being outdoors, reading, disc golf, spiritual pursuits, and time spent with friends and family.

**Elisabeth Cianciola** is currently in her third year serving as the Aquatic Mitigation Specialist for the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game's In-Lieu Fee Program. She holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from Trinity College and an M.S. in Natural Resources from the University

of New Hampshire. Prior to joining the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, she has worked for several environmental consulting firms and watershed associations.

**Denise Clearwater** has worked in Maryland's wetland programs since 1986. She has a background in developing and implementing programs in wetland regulation, wetland training, and mitigation, as well as managing special projects for grants and program improvement, and assisting in policy development. 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, preservation, and stream health, and is a past co-chair of the Chesapeake Bay Program Wetland Work Group. She is also 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).

**Richard Darden** is an Ecologist with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Planning and Environmental Review (HQ) with over 30 years of experience in the environmental permitting world. At FHWA Richard serves as the HQ SME for wetlands and waters of the U.S. and works closely with the National Transportation Liaisons at USACE and USCG. Richard's previous experience includes positions as a Regulatory Project Manager in the Corps of Engineers Charleston (SC) and Alaska Districts as well as Program Manager at Corps of Engineers headquarters. In these positions, Richard was principally involved in regulatory NEPA compliance, One Federal Decision, and other infrastructure-related efforts, as well as leading Charleston District jurisdiction practices since the 2006 Supreme Court opinions in Rapanos-Carabell and continuing through the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule (and back). Richard has managed lead and cooperating agency Environmental Impact Statement preparation for major mining, nuclear and coal-fired generation, highway and rail terminal transportation, pipelines, and mixed-use developments. Richard earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Arkansas Tech University, a Master of Science in Zoology from Northwestern State University (LA) and a Ph.D. in Biology from University of Southern Mississippi.

**Sindupa De Silva** is a Ph.D. student at West Virginia University working towards a doctorate in natural resource sciences. Currently, he is assessing wetlands across West Virginia to understand how watershed-scale anthropogenic land-use practices influence wetland ecosystem health and consequently their ability to perform their functions and ecosystem services. Prior to West Virginia University, Sindupa received a B.S. in Wildlife Conservation Biology (2014) and an M.S. in Environmental Science (2016) from Southeast Missouri State University. He also worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation (2014–2019) in several roles and across numerous aquatic ecosystems: from subterranean streams to the Mississippi River studying fish populations, habitat, and water quality. From Kandy, Sri Lanka; Sindupa aspires to conserve and protect freshwater ecosystems, through education, research, advocacy, and management recommendations, with an overall goal of sustaining clean and accessible freshwater resources.

**Donna Downing** is the Senior Legal Policy Advisor at the National Association of Wetland Managers. Donna was the Jurisdiction Team Leader in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds from 2007 to 2020. Donna worked on a variety of issues at EPA, with a focus in recent years on the geographic scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) in light of the U.S. Supreme Court decisions. She also served as EPA's staff lead for CWA section 401 water quality certification and wetland-related legal issues. Prior to joining EPA in 1998, Donna worked for the U.S. Congress Office of Technology Assessment and in private law practice. She has a BA *magna cum laude* from Harvard University, an MPP from the University of California at Berkeley, a JD *cum laude* from Georgetown University Law School, and an LLM in

Environmental Law *summa cum laude* from George Washington University Law School. Donna has been an adjunct professor at George Washington University Law School since 1996, teaching environmental law. In what's left of her time, she moonlights as a professional potter and an unprofessional horse trainer. Donna also enjoys traveling and has traveled by reindeer sled in the Swedish Arctic, gone winter camping with dog sleds in Minnesota's Boundary Waters Wilderness Area, and bicycled the Burma Road in China.

**Mindy Eisenberg** is the Associate Director of the Oceans, Wetlands and Communities Division with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA). The Division is responsible for rulemakings, policy development, implementation activities, and grants involving such issues as the definition of "waters of the U.S."; the Marine, Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act; Clean Water Act sections 312, 401 and 404; building state and tribal wetland program capacity; and partnership programs including Urban Waters, the National Estuary Program, and Trash Free Waters. Mindy has worked for the EPA for 26 years.

**Chad Fizzell** works as a GIS Specialist in the Wetlands, Lakes, and Streams Unit within the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Chad is the Department expert in the Landscape Level Assessment of Wetlands, Wetland Inventory, and Remote Sensing. Chad is also the lead in coordinating National Wetland Inventory (NWI) updates for the State, as well as developing and adapting the NWI+ methodology and LLWFA process in Michigan and applying these concepts to watershed management in the State. He also serves on the Statewide Hydrography Advisory committee, assisting with technical guidance on the ongoing NHD Update project and coordinating with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited on the NWI Update happening concurrently in the State.

**David C. Fowler** has spent 36 years with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District working on a variety of water resource issues. He is most proud of the Flood Management work removing more than 300 residential and commercial structures from the regulatory flood plain, design and construction of eight major flood management projects, restoration and rehabilitation of more than 15 miles of channelized urban streams, and his role in starting the MMSD Green Seams program a land acquisition program to protect natural flood storage. He retired from the MMSD in May and is currently working at the nonprofit Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) as a Senior Project Manager. He has been active with ASFPM for over 20 years and has served in numerous leadership positions. He is a founding member of the Wisconsin ASFPM state chapter. In 2005 Dave was awarded the River Networks "River Hero" Award at their annual conference in Keystone Colorado, and in 2016 he was awarded the Louthain Award for Distinguished Service to ASFPM and the Individual Watershed Award at the Sweet Water Clean Rivers Clean Lakes conference in Milwaukee.

**Mat Halliday** is a GIS / Remote Sensing Analyst with the Ducks Unlimited Great Lakes / Atlantic Region based in Dexter, Michigan. Mat is the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) mapping program lead and has been producing spatial data and overseeing projects in a wide variety of ecoregions for the NWI for 10 years. He has been focused on developing and employing Object-based Image Analysis and machine learning mapping techniques to meet federal standards while increasing the efficiency and accuracy of wetland mapping for the NWI. Mat has also been developing suitability models and web mapping applications aimed at the facilitation of partner collaboration for targeted wetland restoration and protection efforts in FWS refuges.

**Tom Harcarik** 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 (WRRSP) that is funded through Ohio's wastewater State Revolving Fund program. As part of his duties, Tom reviews nominations to determine which projects to fund, reviews restoration and protection plans, and oversees project implementation and post-implementation monitoring. Tom also assists project implementers by reviewing potential environmental impacts to streams and wetlands, threatened and endangered species, historic properties, floodplains and other environmental resources for projects seeking funding through the WRRSP. 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 37 years including 18 years in the 401 Water Quality Certification program and Wetland Ecology Group where he worked on several U.S. EPA wetland program development grants. Tom has co-authorized several Ohio EPA reports including how the strategic restoration of wetlands in agricultural landscapes may be used to reduce nutrient pollutant loading into streams and lakes and how wetlands may be integrated into the TMDL process. Tom's career also includes representing Ohio EPA in civil enforcement matters and previously serving as the technical liaison to the Attorney General's Office Environmental Enforcement Section. Tom received a B.S. in Conservation with a focus on aquatic ecology from Kent State University and completed course work in Environmental and Public Policy at the Ohio State University. Tom is an avid backpacker, and lives by the motto, "*A bad day in the field always beats a good day in the office!*"

**Alexes Juarez** currently serves as the Wetland Program Coordinator for the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. She is an aquatic ecologist focused on decolonizing science and promoting STEM communication within underserved communities. She received a BS in Evolution, Ecology, and Biodiversity and a BA in Chicano Studies from the University of California Davis. Her research focused on finding sustainable solutions for the California Aquaculture industry. Following graduation, she worked as an Environmental Educator teaching inner city kids from Los Angeles land stewardship and community science in both English and Spanish.

**Lauren Kasparek** is a Biologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., and has been at the EPA since 2017. She primarily works on section 401 water quality certification and Ramsar but has also previously worked on waters of the U.S. and state assumption of section 404. Lauren holds a BS in Coastal Environmental Science from Louisiana State University, a JD from Tulane Law School, and an MPH from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

**Kathleen Kutschenreuter** is an Environmental Scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Water Headquarters in Washington D.C. She has over 25 years of domestic and international experience in the areas of environmental research, policy, program development, management, and communications. Since joining EPA in 1997, Kathleen has worked within the Office of Sustainable Ecosystems and Communities and the Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds to advance local, state, tribal, national, and international environmental protection, and restoration efforts, serving an interim year as the Acting Wetlands Program Manager for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Kathleen also served as a U.S. Delegate to the Ramsar International Treaty on Wetlands for two decades. She holds a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University and Bachelor of Science degrees in Zoology (aquatic ecology) and Natural Resource Management (environmental science/ethics) from The Ohio State University. Kathleen served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Central America and with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources prior to joining the EPA. She is a certified diver, an avid

photographer, fluent in Spanish, and delights in exploring all things outdoors with her spouse, curious young daughter, and beloved canine companion!

**Ted LaGrange** has worked as the Wetland Program Manager for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for 28 years. As Wetland Program Manager he works on a wide variety of wetland issues throughout Nebraska including partnerships, private land restoration programs, public lands management, research, regulations, and outreach. Prior to moving to Nebraska, he worked for eight years as a Waterfowl Research Technician for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Ted received B.S. and M.S. degrees in wildlife biology from Iowa State University. His professional interests are in prairie wetlands and waterfowl/water bird ecology.

**Megan Lang** is Chief Scientist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Wetlands Inventory Program and Team Lead for the U.S. FWS Wetlands Status and Trends Project. Dr. Lang is an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland Department of Geographical Sciences. She serves as an Associate Editor for the journal *Wetlands* and has published over 100 scientific articles and book chapters. Before working for the U.S. FWS, Dr. Lang led the U.S. Department of Agricultural Mid-Atlantic Regional Wetland Conservation Effects Assessment Project. She has been working to support the conservation and management of aquatic ecosystems through field and remote sensing-based assessments for over two decades.

**Jessica Lewis** serves the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as an Environmental Scientist in the Office of Environmental Protection. She is the program lead for the tribal Wetlands Program and several other environmental programs. Jess has been an FAA licensed drone pilot for three years and uses aerial photography for many program areas including wetland identification, mapping, and evaluation.

**Laurie Machung** is the Chief of Natural Resources in the Bureau of Water Supply in the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. She oversees Forestry, Wildlife Management, Aquatic Ecology, Wetlands, and Invasive Species Programs in the watershed that provides drinking water to New York City. Previously, she managed the Wetlands Protection Program for New York City's water supply watershed. She was also a wetland soil scientist for the Illinois Natural History Survey. She received her Master's degree from Penn State in 1994, studying soil properties of reference and created wetlands under the mentorship of Dr. Robert P. Brooks.

**Andrew MacKenzie** is a current graduate student at West Virginia University, pursuing an M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources and a University Teaching Certificate. Before seeking his M.S., Andrew received his B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources at West Virginia University with minors in Agriculture and Natural Resources Law and Conservation Ecology. Andrew was a technician for Dr. James (Jim) Anderson's lab. As a technician, Andrew had the opportunity to assist several graduate students in data collection and processing samples for their projects. The opportunities as a technician led Andrew to pursue his passions of teaching higher education and conducting wetland research. Andrew's graduate research aims to assess the ecological impacts of wetland restoration techniques used in West Virginia riparian wetlands. Andrew is quantifying the changes in community composition of anurans, birds, fish, macroinvertebrates, turtles, small mammals, and vegetation by collecting abundance and diversity data during and after wetland restoration and comparing his data to previously collected pre-restoration data. He is assessing the impacts of a soil amendment, 10% biochar and 90% compost, on the growth rates and survival of woody vegetation planted during the wetland restoration. Andrew's research will provide insight into biological and ecological responses from riparian wetland restoration for several taxonomic groups. This research aims to provide insight into the effectiveness of several wetland restoration

practices. Andrew enjoys birding, fishing, hiking, and waterfowl hunting in his free time. You can often find Andrew around various hiking trails and ponds with his fiancé, Tara, and two dogs, Scout and Smokey.

**Robb Macleod** is the National GIS Coordinator for Ducks Unlimited. He has been working for Ducks Unlimited in the GIS and Remote Sensing field for over 28 years. His current duties include coordinating all geospatial activities for Ducks Unlimited. Robb has played an active role in mapping wetlands throughout his career.

**Michael McDavit** retired from federal service in 2020 as the Chief of the Program Development and Jurisdiction Branch, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. His unit oversaw "Waters of the US" jurisdictional matters under the Clean Water Act and administered technical/financial assistance for enhancing state and tribal aquatic resource programs. Mike holds a BS in Environmental Science from the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay and an MPA from The George Washington University. His 38-year federal career spanned many environmental functions, including regulation of pesticides, management of hazardous waste, and air and water pollution control. He currently teaches part time at Montgomery College, Germantown, MD.

**Olivia McDonald** grew up in southern Delaware as a beach kid and had love for its waterways and wildlife. After graduating from University of Delaware in 2014, her career started with Delaware Nature Society as an educator and visitors center guru. She spent four years with Delaware State Parks as a Programs Coordinator and Park Interpreter, leading outreach efforts and assisting with natural resource management. Currently, with Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program (WMAP) as the Education and Communications Specialist, she works with the public and government partners alike to expand communication and focus on promoting the efforts of WMAP. In the field or office setting, a main goal of hers is to develop the knowledge and passion for Delaware's wetland resources.

**Karen Menetrey** is on the Board of Directors of Rio Grande Return, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring New Mexico's rivers, streams, and wetlands. Karen has been employed with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for 30 years as an Environmental Scientist in various surface water and groundwater quality protection programs. For more than a decade she managed the NM River Stewardship Program that restores rivers, wetlands, and riparian areas, and worked in the Wetlands Program on wetland mapping, planning, and restoration projects. She currently manages a program focused on remediation of contaminated groundwater and Brownfields revitalization through environmental assessment and cleanup. Karen has a BA in Geological Sciences from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and she completed graduate level Hydrogeology coursework at the University of Wyoming.

**Erik Michelsen** is a Deputy Director for Anne Arundel County's Department of Public Works, heading its Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration. He works to facilitate the recovery of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries through supporting robust restoration projects and rigorous scientific monitoring efforts, bolstered by diverse stakeholder partnerships. Erik has an extensive background, having worked as a project manager for an environmental consultant and then as the Executive Director for the non-profit Arundel Rivers Federation (formerly the South River Federation). Erik has been working for Anne Arundel County since 2014, as the County builds up the environmental assessments, restoration implementation, and ecological evaluation to support

the County's clean water obligations under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit and the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

**Rick Mraz** is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist who works as the Wetland Policy Lead for the Washington Department of Ecology. He began his career identifying and delineating wetlands in Lee County, Florida in 1987. He has worked as a field biologist, educator, and environmental planner with local, state, and federal agencies in Washington since 2001. Rick has degrees in Geology, Fish and Wildlife Management, and Humanities.

**Ken Norton**, an enrolled member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, is Director at Hoopa Valley Tribal Environmental Protection Agency (TEPA). Ken has expertise in water quality and development of water quality standards, having worked in environmental protection since 1980. Over 40 years, Ken has worked as a fishery technician, fishery biologist, water quality coordinator, and director at Hoopa Valley Environmental Department. His educational degree is a Bachelor of Science in Fishery Management. As a fisheries expert, Ken understands the water quality needs of healthy salmon and other river life and is experienced in watershed restoration. As TEPA Director, Ken oversees an array of Tribal water programs and other tribal environmental programs. Between 2004 and 2009, Ken had the honor to serve as Vice-Chair of the National Tribal Operations Committee and lead spokesperson for Tribes on national Tribal/EPA water issues. Currently, Ken serves as the chair of the National Tribal Water Council and advocates for the health and sustainability of clean and safe water for Indian communities, Alaska Native Tribes, and Alaska Native Villages.

**Portia Osborne** is a Project Manager at the National Association of Wetland Managers, where she provides program support including managing and implementing individual projects, coordinating overall project schedules, tracking project deadlines and outputs, delivering workshops and trainings, facilitating and coordinating various work groups, and moderating webinars. Portia has a decade of experience working as a biologist and project manager in environmental consulting in Texas and Maine. During that time, she conducted natural resource assessments, wetland delineations, conditional and functional assessments of aquatic resources, and threatened and endangered species habitat assessments. She prepared state and federal-level permit applications for transportation, oil and gas, and renewable energy projects located across the country, including permit applications under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act in ten different U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) districts. Portia also wrote Biological Assessments for consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as well as portions of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents for multiple Environmental Assessments and two Environmental Impact Statements. Portia earned her MS in Ecology and BS in Environmental Biology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF).

**Becky Pierce** spent the first half of her life in Florida learning how to love the natural world and acquiring a wildlife and ecology degree from the University of Florida. She traded the humidity and mosquitos for the milder climate of Colorado and became a public servant in 2004 as the wetland program manager for the Colorado Department of Transportation. Her responsibilities are varied but primarily include project field work, Clean Water Act permitting, and statewide program responsibilities. Becky is the current president of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists, for which she enjoys organizing events and bringing people together around wetlands. Becky spends most of her free time outside playing with her husband and dog, entertaining her cat, gardening, cooking, and traveling as much as possible. She also has almost 100 house plants.



**Anisa Pjetrovic** works with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency State Revolving Fund as a Project Officer. She has a BA in Environmental Studies and a MA in Sustainability and Development. During college she researched storm water quality as well as species of migrating birds to stormwater impoundment areas. Her interests and research involve project management funding and community development, habitats, water quality, drinking water, communicating environmental law with culture and arts/videos, sustainable design, and human health and the environment. Current interests involve the design of green bridges, real time water sensors, and drinking water quality.

**Staci Pomeroy** got her start with Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC) through a University of Vermont (UVM) internship in 1995, working with the Lakes Program. While continuing her schooling, Staci worked part time in the Watershed Management Division's Lay Monitoring Program and the Biomonitoring and Aquatic Studies Program for a few years. She graduated from UVM in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Conservation. After graduating, she started with the Vermont's Rivers Program in 2000. Work with the Rivers Program ranges from working with communities for flood resiliency efforts to working with watershed groups to do river restoration. It is the beauty of VT's rivers, the range in the type of work and the mix of wonderful people she gets to work with that has kept Staci working on VT's rivers all these years. When she is not out looking at other people's rivers, she is playing on the river that crosses their land, camping in the woods, canoeing, or knitting on those days when she cannot be outside.

**Daniel Redgate** is the Water Resources Program Manager in the Environmental Division of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). In this position, he is responsible for implementing VDOT's water quality regulatory permitting program, establishing statewide policies and practices regarding federal and state jurisdictional waters, and serving as a liaison to federal, state and local agencies. Dan represents VDOT on the Virginia Stream Barrier Task Force and developed an initiative exploring collaborative methods for funding enhanced aquatic passage at road-stream crossings. Prior to joining VDOT in 2013, Dan was an environmental consultant for 17 years, working in wetland mitigation bank development, stream and wetland restoration, GIS/GPS data gathering and analysis, permitting, and wetland delineation. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Ecology from the Pennsylvania State University in 1991 and a Master's degree in Marine Science from the College of William and Mary's College of Marine Science/Virginia Institute of Marine Science in 1997. His graduate research in wetland hydrology involved the analysis of water budgets for mineral flat and sinkhole wetlands in southeastern Virginia.

**Adam Riggsbee** is the founder and President of RiverBank Conservation, LLC, which is based in Austin, TX. Since its establishment in 2009, RiverBank has established several stream, wetland, and species banks as well as permit-specific projects across Texas. Adam is also active in the policy and practice literature as a frequent collaborator with some of the most well recognized academics in the ecosystem services areas of research. His past works have investigated the influence of national regulations and regional policies on private investment in mitigation banking. His current research is looking into the effect of regional policies associated with stream banking markets and their effects on avoidance, minimization, and stream restoration. Adam also serves on Ecological Restoration Business Association's Executive Board as well as the Board of Visitors for the University of North Carolina's Institute for the Environment. Before working in the mitigation and conservation banking industry, Adam earned a BS in Biology (Botany) from Western Carolina University in the mountains of North Carolina. He later received a PhD in Environmental Science and Engineering from the University of North Carolina, where he studied fluvial geomorphology and biogeochemistry related to dam removal.

**Andy Robertson** is currently Executive Director of GeoSpatial Services at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. In this role, Andy is responsible for oversight and management of all GeoSpatial Services projects, activities, and staff. GeoSpatial Services is engaged in a wide variety of projects across the Lower 48 and Alaska including: wetland inventory and functional assessment, NHD updates, stakeholder consultation, and natural resource condition assessments. They have been a key partner of the USFWS and have been working for over 20 years to update legacy National Wetland Inventory data across the nation. Andy earned a Forest Technology Diploma from Sault College of Applied Technology in Ontario, Canada, a B.Sc. in Environmental Science from the University of Waterloo, and completed postgraduate work in forest management at the University of Toronto. He is a board member for the National Association of Wetland Managers, steering committee member for the NAWM Wetland Mapping Consortium, President-Elect of the Society of Wetland Scientists North Central Chapter, and past chair of the Alaska Wetlands Technical Working Group.

**Mike Ruth** is a Geologist with the Federal Highway Administration-Resource Center with over 35 years' experience in environmental and geological programs. Mike's previous experience included positions as a Senior Project Manager with the USACE-Regulatory Division-Savannah District and numerous consulting firms across the US. Mike holds a Bachelor of Science in Geology from the University of Maryland and a Master of Science in Fluvial Geomorphology from the Johns Hopkins University. He is a Registered Professional Geologist in 7 southeastern states and most importantly, a US Coast Guard Veteran with tours in San Francisco, New Orleans, New York City, and Baltimore. Mike resides and remote works in Historic Annapolis, MD with his wife, Lisa, where they enjoy family, friends, and the Chesapeake Bay.

**Amanda Santoni** is an Ecologist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Specifically, she works in the Ocean and Coastal Management Branch on the Coastal Wetlands Initiative. She leads the Interagency Coastal Wetlands Workgroup (ICWWG) which helps to address coastal wetland loss, management, and restoration by bringing together seven federal agencies with programs and authorities that protect and manage coastal wetlands.

**Matt Schweisberg** is the Principal of Wetland Strategies and Solutions, LLC, where he provides policy, regulatory, and technical advice and assistance for clients seeking to navigate a wide range of regulatory and non-regulatory issues related to wetlands and other aquatic resources. He works throughout the U.S. Matt is a Professional Wetland Scientist under the Professional Certification Program of the Society of Wetland Scientists. He is a retired federal wetlands ecologist and wildlife biologist who spent over 32 years with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency at its HQ office in Washington, D.C. and New England Region office in Boston. Matt served as Chief of the New England Region's Wetlands Protection Program and Senior Wetland Ecologist and served on national work groups developing guidance and regulations on Clean Water Act jurisdiction. He received his degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Maine.

**Eileen Shader** is Director of River Restoration at American Rivers. She leads the organization's national Floodplain Program to build capacity for equitable, integrated, and nature-based floodplain management. Through this initiative she seeks reforms to local, state and federal floodplain management policy; fosters a nation-wide Floodplain Community of Practice; and builds institutional capacity to implement and manage floodplain restoration projects. She serves as Co-Chair of the Natural and Beneficial Functions Committee of the Association of State Floodplain Managers and helps lead the Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance. Eileen is a Certified Floodplain Manager and has a M.A. in Natural Resources Policy from the George Washington University and B.S. in Environmental Science from Elizabethtown College.

**Alison Souders** is a Financial Analyst with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Wastewater Management. Ms. Souders has served as a member of the State Revolving Fund Branch since 2017, where she is a member of a team that implements and evaluates the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and provides technical assistance to EPA's regional offices. Ms. Souders has a Bachelors from American University in Economics and International Studies and she is currently pursuing a Masters of Public Management at Johns Hopkins University.

**Marla Stelk** is the Executive Director at the National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM) where she has worked on wetland policy and management issues since 2013. Marla has over 25-years of experience working on wetland, water, and wildlife issues, climate change, environmental policy and research, land use planning, communications, and organizational leadership. Marla has led research at NAWM on topics such as ecosystem service valuation for wetland restoration, the role of wetlands in floodplain and natural hazard management, wetlands and watershed health, and wetland mapping and communications. Prior to coming to NAWM, Marla worked for a variety of environmental and social nonprofit organizations helping to build organizational capacity, manage projects, and improve internal processes. Marla earned her MA in Community Planning and Development with a focus on Land Use and the Environment at the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service and her BA in Environmental Issues from Colorado College.

**Linda Storm** is a Wetland and Aquatic Ecologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 10. Region 10 covers AK, ID, OR, WA and includes 271 federally recognized tribes and Alaskan native villages. Linda serves as the EPA Region 10's Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Coordinator and as the Region's Tribal Lead for Enhanced State and Tribal Programs. In her 38 year long career with EPA she began as a CWA 402/NPDES permit writer and then became involved in all aspects of CWA Sections 404 and 401, where she works to support the protection, restoration and management of watersheds, wetlands, and other aquatic ecosystems together with other federal, tribal, state and local partners. Linda has undergraduate degrees in Botany and Anthropology, two masters degrees from the University of Washington - one in Wetland Ecology and Coastal Zone Management, the other in Environmental Anthropology, and she did PhD doctoral research work on the historical ecology of Coast Salish peoples long-term ecosystem management tending prairies, wetlands and other ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest.

**Kirk Tjelmeland** joined the Kansas Water Office (KWO) in February of 2016 and is currently the Field Services Coordinator. In this position he serves as point of contact for the Missouri Regional Advisory Committee - one of the fourteen volunteer committees across Kansas. He is also responsible for managing several EPA Wetland grants, two FEMA grants, coordination of Lake Level Management Plans, Environmental Reviews, Water Conservation Plans, bathymetry work and some community outreach. Prior to joining the KWO team, Kirk was an employee of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism for 27 years. The last 23 years as a Fish Biologist stationed at Perry Reservoir. In this dream job, he was responsible for managing public and private water in the 6 NE Counties of Kansas. Kirk started his college career at Kansas State University (KSU) in 1982 with the intent of becoming a Mechanical Engineer. His hunting and fishing hobbies pulled him in a different direction. He graduated as a well-rounded student with a B.S. in Fisheries Biology from KSU. He and his wife of 31 years live in Topeka, their oldest son lives and works in Kansas City as a CPA and their youngest son lives and works in Lake Charles, Louisiana as a Chemical Engineer.

**Tom Walker** is currently acting Chief of the USACE Regulatory Program. Previous to this assignment, and since 2011 Tom has been the Chief of the Regulatory Branch in the Norfolk District, in Virginia. Tom also spent 16 years as a project manager and supervisor in the Wilmington District in North Carolina working in both mountain and coastal environments. Tom has worked extensively in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements, Records of Decision and conditional permit approvals for large scale projects including beach nourishment, water supply, industrial sites and mining. He received an MS in Biology with a concentration in coastal and estuarine ecology from East Carolina University.

**Don Waye** has 35 years of experience managing programs and projects at the local, regional, and national levels to reduce the impacts of land activities on America's streams, rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. For the past 20 years, Mr. Waye has worked in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Headquarters to support the Clean Water Act Section 319 NPS management program. Over the past decade he has investigated ways to leverage CWSRF investments that strengthen state NPS management programs. More recently, he has led development of EPA's new CWSRF Best Practices Guide for Financing Nonpoint Source Solutions. This guide is designed to help the 51 state-level CWSRF programs direct greater resources toward addressing the challenge of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. EPA developed the guide to help state staff better align and integrate their state's CWSRF and NPS management programs. The guide suggests strategies and key elements needed to expand the use of CWSRF resources to address priority needs as specified in state NPS management program plans, and it identifies potential obstacles and how to overcome them. The guide provides helpful case studies of successful and innovative partnerships underway across the country.

**Brian Wolff** has served as the Branch Chief of Surface Water, Operations, and Enforcement for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for the last 7 years. The branch regulates Wetlands, Stormwater, MS4's, as well as oversees budgets, contracts, grants, and other operational duties for Indiana's water program. Prior to joining Water Quality, Brian served ten years as manager of the Special Projects Section in the Office of Air Quality and evaluated human health risk assessments for five years in the Office of Land Quality. Brian has a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from Indiana University with a focus in Ecology. Brian's love of wetlands developed at a young age while spending his summers chasing frogs, turtles and snakes around the lake and wetlands at his grandpa's summer cottage.

**Brenda Zollitsch** is Senior Policy Analyst at the National Association of Wetland Managers. Brenda's areas of expertise include water resource policy, wetland policy and management, stormwater management, and collaborative environmental policy implementation. At NAWM, Brenda designs and conducts research and policy analysis on wetland and other aquatic resource issues, analyzes federal policy changes, manages projects, designs training for wetland professionals, coordinates webinars, and makes presentations on NAWM's work to a variety of audiences. Brenda has led many major multi-year projects for NAWM, including: projects on CWA Section 404 Assumption, wetland regulatory capacity building, pipeline permitting, developing high quality wetland training, status and trends analysis of all 50 state wetland programs across the United States, and national comparative analysis of stream identification, delineation, and mitigation practices in the U.S. Brenda earned 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 more than 25 years of organizational leadership experience and a strong background in academic and action research, facilitation, training, and communications. In addition to her work for NAWM, Brenda serves as

adjunct faculty at the University of Southern Maine, teaching public policy and assisting water resource collaborations as a professional facilitator. Brenda is a Switzer Environmental Fellow and has been instrumental in developing regional approaches to stormwater management in the State of Maine.

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