

Association of State Wetland Managers Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting

Adaptation & Resiliency for the Advancement of Wetland Science Policy and Practice

Virtual Meeting
April 12-15, 2021

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Stacia Bax is the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Section Chief of the Financial Assistance Center within the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (since mid-May 2020). Her section includes seven project managers/coordinators and six engineers that assist communities, evaluate proposals, and fund projects related to wastewater and stormwater planning and infrastructure improvements statewide. Stacia has nearly 20 years of experience with the Department and had been a part of the state's Section 401 Water Quality Certification Program for nearly 11 years prior to her current role, still assisting as she can. She has also worked with Section 402 NPDES program master general permits (industrial stormwater, industrial process water, construction/land disturbance stormwater, and municipal stormwater), NPDES eReporting Rule, Section 319 Nonpoint Source grants, Water Quality Standards rulemaking, TMDL development, at Montauk State Park as a seasonal naturalist, and conducted fieldwork in the beautiful Ozarks of Southwest Missouri.



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 30 years of wetland work involving restoration and creation, monitoring and assessment, mitigation, permitting, comprehensive watershed planning, use of best management practices to address environmental impairments, and has conducted multiple wetland mapping efforts. Mark also serves as Board Chair for ASWM.



Elizabeth Byers, M.S., is a Senior Wetland Scientist with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. She earned B.A. *magna cum laude* in geology from Brown University, an M.S. in hydrology from New Mexico Tech, and has completed graduate work in ecology at Oregon State University. During the last five years at WVDEP, she has developed, tested, and implemented a combined field and GIS protocol for wetland functional assessment and wetland condition monitoring. Prior to joining DEP, she worked for 11 years as a Natural Heritage Ecologist and for 20 years as a hydrologist and conservationist in the Himalayas, East African rift, Andes, Rocky Mountains, and Appalachians. In 2020, Elizabeth published the first-ever field guide to the flora and ethnobotany of Mount Everest National Park.



Damaris Christensen is the U.S. Environmental Agency's (EPA) staff lead for geographic jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act and has been at EPA trying to clarify Clean Water Act geographic jurisdiction since 2008. In the course of various rulemaking efforts, she has coordinated multiagency teams responding to millions of public comments, planned and organized more stakeholder outreach events than she can count, and led or assisted with state and tribal consultations and outreach, among other activities. Before coming to EPA, she worked in public policy, science journalism, and attended seminary. When she isn't working, she loves to take in the natural beauty of Washington DC, read, cook, and spend time with her cats, husband, and child.



Stewart DesMeules is a Wildlife and Fisheries Biologist, and lead drone operator at WRA, Inc. He holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from Wheaton College in Massachusetts, working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Massachusetts for a number of years prior to coming out to California to work for WRA, Inc. At WRA, Stewart manages and assists with a variety of fisheries and wildlife projects, including a number of restoration focused projects. As lead drone operator, Stewart leverages his technical expertise, using drones to document project conditions and to create imagery, videos, and mapping materials to effectively communicate project details to state and federal agencies, stakeholders, and the public.



Bill Dooley is a Policy Analyst with the Association of State Wetland Managers. In this role, he conducts research and analysis on wetland-related policy and program issues and facilitates various workgroups and ad hoc committees, including the Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance and the Wetland Mapping Consortium. Bill has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Assumption College, a Master of Public Policy with a concentration in Environmental Policy from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and nearly ten years of environmental experience conducting field work, data review, project management, and policy analysis. Bill enjoys hiking and camping throughout New England with his family and friends and playing board games and card games whenever possible.



Becka Downard has been the Wetland Coordinator for the Utah Division of Water Quality since 2016. She received a PhD in Ecology from Utah State University, where she spent 5 years studying the impacts of impounded wetland management on wetland health around Great Salt Lake. She received her master's degree in Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Science and Management from USU as well, researching strategies for acquiring water for wetlands. She received a bachelor's degree from Weber State University in Zoology.



Donna Downing is the Senior Legal Policy Advisor at the Association of State 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 on 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 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.



Sundaran Gillespie is a GIS Analyst with WRA, Inc. He is a certified Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP), has his FAA Remote Pilot License, and is WRA's lead for drone mapping and analysis services. Sundaran serves as a project manager and head GIS staff for several projects. His responsibilities include the creation of high-quality maps, calculations, and analysis of various geographic data sources. He has worked on a wide range of projects dealing with wetland delineation and mitigation, watershed analysis, habitat conservation mapping, rare species impact analysis, biological resource mapping, three-dimensional modeling, sea level rise analysis, wildlife corridor mapping, and hydrologic modeling.



John Goodin has served as the Director of EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds since January of 2017, where he leads multiple programs related to the protection and restoration of the nation's waters. Chief among them are Clean Water Act efforts in collaboration with states to monitor and assess water quality, develop restoration plans and nonpoint source pollution reduction plans, promulgate rulemakings and guidance related to the Act's jurisdiction, administer permitting responsibilities related to inland and ocean discharges of dredged and fill material, and advance state and local efforts under our National Estuary Program and Urban Waters program. Prior to his OWOW position, John was Director of EPA's Wetlands Division where he was responsible for leading

the development and implementation of national wetlands policy, including advancing rulemakings and regulatory actions with the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as the strategic and financial support of state programs and aquatic resource science and monitoring. Since joining EPA in 1990, John has also led the Agency's Watershed Branch, where he championed a new vision for the Clean Water Act's program on identifying and restoring impaired waters with the collaboration of state partners. He also previously led the Wetlands and Aquatic Resources Regulatory Branch and served as Acting Deputy Director of the Oceans and Coastal Protection Division. John holds a master's degree in Zoology from the University of Western Australia and a bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Richmond.



Michael Hare serves as the Director of Government Affairs, Business Development & Corporate Communications at RES. He focuses on Louisiana coastal restoration initiatives, compliance across the company, overseeing government affairs and business development, and serves as the company's primary media interface. Michael currently serves as the national president of the Ecological Restoration Business Association (ERBA). Prior to joining RES, Michael worked for Congressman Charles Boustany for over a decade. He served as a legislative assistant in Washington, DC working on agriculture, infrastructure, defense and international trade issues. Michael is a graduate of Louisiana State University with BA degrees in economics and political science and earned an MS in U.S. foreign policy from American University in Washington, DC.



Jeff Ingebritsen has been a GIS Specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) since 2013. He currently serves as the data manager for the Wetlands Status and Trends study, sending and receiving data to cooperators, managing imagery access, running data models, and maintaining the statistical code required to analyze the data to write the report. In addition to Status and Trends, Jeff works on various cartographic, spatial analysis, and scripting projects for NWI. He earned a B.A. in Anthropology and Certificates in Archaeology and GIS from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Jeff lives with his family in southern Wisconsin, where he enjoys gardening, cooking, and making music.



Sara Johnson is the Executive Director of the Ecological Restoration Business Association. She is an attorney with a background in and passion for conservation and economic solutions to public environmental issues. Prior to her position with ERBA, Johnson worked in the environmental compliance office of Patuxent River Naval Air Station on the Chesapeake Bay and as a law clerk with the Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division in Washington, D.C. Johnson holds an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Richmond and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Virginia, where she served as the Articles Development Editor of the Virginia Environmental Law Journal. She is licensed to practice law in Virginia and California.



Russell Kaiser joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Waters and Wetlands, Wetlands Division in July of 2012, and he is the Chief of the Freshwater and Marine Regulatory Branch and currently the Acting Chief of the Programs Development and Jurisdiction Branch. As Chief, he is primarily responsible for administering sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. Prior to joining the EPA, Mr. Kaiser worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Between 2008 to June 2012, he was the Chief of the Regulatory Division for the Savannah District. Between 2003 and 2012, Mr. Kaiser worked in the Headquarters Office in Washington, D.C. Prior to

moving to D.C., Mr. Kaiser worked approximately 10 years for the Los Angeles District in the planning division and the regulatory branch. Mr. Kaiser has more than 30 years of experience in the Regulatory/Environmental Sector. Mr. Kaiser has a B.S. in Zoology, with an emphasis in freshwater ecology from the University of Wisconsin—Madison and a M.S. in Oceanography/Coastal Zone Management from the Florida Institute of Technology.



Lauren Kasparek is a Biologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, D.C., and has been at the EPA since 2017. She primarily works on section 401 water quality certification, but also works 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.



Denise Keehner is an Assistant Secretary at the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the former Program Manager for the Wetlands and Waterways Program at MDE. She joined MDE in 2016 after a 35-year career at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Headquarters, retiring in 2013 as the Director of the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds. At MDE, Denise oversaw the implementation of Maryland's Tidal Wetlands Program, Nontidal Wetlands Program, and Waterway Construction Program until May 2020, when she moved into the Assistant Secretary position at MDE. During her long career at EPA, Denise wrote several of the foundational regulations controlling the manufacture, processing, distribution in commerce, and use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); helped launch the

implementation of the Corrective Action Cleanup Program under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); managed the implementation of the national Water Quality Standards Program; and, led the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watershed (OWOW) as it oversaw national implementation of the Clean Water Act TMDL Program, the Clean Water Act Listing Program, the Wetlands Program, the National Estuaries Program, and the Ocean Disposal Program. Denise is a graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County and holds a BA in biology.



Levi Keszey is an Ecologist with VHB specializing in wetland assessment, restoration, mapping and permitting. At VHB, he combines diverse field experience in fisheries, vegetation mapping, habitat restoration and water quality monitoring with experience in remote mapping. Before joining VHB, Levi worked as an Environmental Technician with the DEC Wetlands Bioassessment Program for two years and assisted with ground-truthing and outreach for the Missisquoi Basin wetlands mapping effort in 2018. He was also a primary contributor in a large-scale effort to remotely map 300,000 meadows in the Sierra Nevada of California. Levi has worked in wetland conservation in California, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Maine, and Washington state.



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.



Laura Lapierre has over 15 years of experience evaluating wetland and terrestrial ecosystems throughout northeastern North America. She has been the Manager of the DEC Vermont Wetlands Program for 7 years. The Vermont Wetlands Program administers the Vermont Wetland Rules, assesses the State's wetland health, maps wetlands, and assists voluntary restoration. She has a diverse technical skill base including natural resource delineation, bat and bird acoustic studies, botanical surveys, rare species surveys, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping, report preparation, and providing expert testimony in litigation proceedings and the State Legislature.



Sean MacFaden is a Geospatial Analyst with the University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Laboratory. He has a B.S. in Biology from Williams College, an M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from the University of Vermont, and more than 25 years of experience in the application of geospatial technologies to natural resources issues. His work focuses on the effective mapping and interpretation of landscapes and their component features, both ecological and anthropogenic. Most recently, his research has focused on high-resolution mapping applications for tree canopy, wetlands, eroded forest roads, and vernal pools.



Pat Megonigal is a Senior Scientist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC). He is an ecosystem ecologist and biogeochemist with expertise in carbon cycling and greenhouse gases in wetlands and forests, particularly as they relate to global change. He is Director of Research at SERC, Lead Investigator of the Global Change Research Wetland, Founding Director of the Coastal Carbon Network, and Chief Scientist of COMPASS, a DOE-funded coastal science program. Dr. Megonigal is a founding member of the International Scientific Working Group of the Blue Carbon Initiative.



Jennifer Moyer is Chief of the Regulatory Program for the US Army Corps of Engineers. She has worked in the Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) since 1994. Her Corps career includes experience working at the district level working on environmental restoration and flood damage reduction projects in Maryland and Pennsylvania and as a regulator evaluating permit applications associated primarily with large transportation projects. Ms. Moyer has worked at Corps Headquarters for nearly two decades, providing management oversight and direction to districts and division regulators across the nation and 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. Jennifer has led the Corps Regulatory Program at headquarters since 2012. She holds a BS from Dickinson College and a MA from University of Texas at Austin.



Richard Mraz is the Wetland Policy Lead for the Washington Department of Ecology. He is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist who began his career in the wetlands field in Lee County, Florida in 1987. He has worked as a naturalist, field biologist and environmental planner with local, state and federal agencies since 1980. Rick has degrees in Geology, Field Biology and Philosophy.



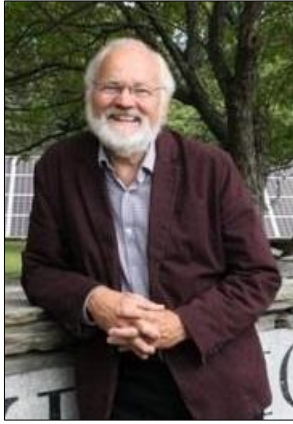
Frank Nelson has worked for over the last 17 years for the Missouri Department of Conservation as a Wetland Ecologist where his focus has been applying research and technology to enhance wetland management, monitoring, and restoration. During the last few years, Frank led a group of state and federal partners to develop a geo-spatial dataset for Missouri's 10.4 million acres of bottomland habitat. This project establishes two baselines, the historic and current extent, as a means to assess the changes in the capacity for 6 ecological functions. This dataset will serve as a valuable tool for strategic planning among partners focused on wetland conservation in Missouri.



Scott C. Neubauer, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, whose research focuses on coastal wetland biogeochemistry and microbial ecology, with an emphasis on ecosystem responses to environmental change. Before starting at VCU in 2012, he spent eight years as the Assistant Director and a Research Assistant Professor at the University of South Carolina's Baruch Marine Field Laboratory. Prior to moving to South Carolina, he earned his Ph.D. from the College of William and Mary Virginia Institute of Marine Science and then completed appointments at George Mason University, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and Villanova University.



Art Ostaszewski is an Environmental Specialist with Michigan's Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). He has worn many hats in his 30 years with the State, including laboratory work in water and solids extraction, Fisheries / Water Quality / Aquatic Biologist duties, and currently is in the Hazardous Waste Section of Materials Management Division. Besides his duties under RCRA, he became EGLE's first FAA Part 107 Pilot and now coordinates EGLE's Autonomous Drone Program encompassing 6 environmental divisions, 30 pilots, 28 aircraft, 2 aquatic drones and a ground robot. He is a graduate of Lake Superior State and Michigan State Universities.



Pat Parenteau is Professor of Law and Senior Counsel in the Environmental Advocacy Clinic at Vermont Law School. He previously served as Director of the Environmental Law Center and was the founding director of the EAC (formerly the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic) in 2004. Professor Parenteau has an extensive background in environmental and natural resources law. His previous positions include Vice President for Conservation with the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, DC (1976-1984); Regional Counsel to the New England Regional Office of the EPA in Boston (1984-1987); Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (1987-1989); and Senior Counsel with the Perkins Coie law firm in Portland, Oregon (1989-1993). Professor Parenteau has been involved in drafting, litigating, implementing, teaching, and writing about environmental law and policy for over three decades. His current focus is on confronting the profound challenges of climate change through his

teaching, publishing, public speaking and litigation. Professor Parenteau is a Fulbright US Scholar and a Fellow in the American College of Environmental Lawyers. In 2005 he received the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Achievement Award in recognition of his contributions to wildlife conservation and environmental education. In 2016 he received the Kerry Rydberg Award for excellence in public interest environmental law. Professor Parenteau holds a B.S. from Regis University, a J.D. from Creighton University, and an LLM in Environmental Law from the George Washington University Law School.



Kimberli J. Ponzio has over 34 years of experience working in Florida wetlands as an Environmental Scientist for two water management districts that are agencies of the State. Kim has been certified as a Professional Wetland Scientist for 25 years, finding it important to ensure stakeholders from the public, academic, and consultancy sectors that she has the education, work history, and skillset necessary to deliver professional wetland services, and that she is committed to upholding a high standard of ethical behavior. Kim has been involved in leadership with the Society of Wetland Scientists since 2007 and as SWS President in 2015, she formalized a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Association of State Wetland Managers, a partnership that continues to develop and bear fruit for both organizations. Kim currently serves as the President of the SWS Professional Certification Program (noting that they are two separate organizations) and is actively involved in helping to globalize the SWS-PCP by making the Program accessible to qualified individuals regardless of

geography or financial standing. Kim's approach has always been one of a collaborative spirit, which she believes is one of the most powerful mechanisms to further the cause of conserving, restoring, and protecting wetlands.



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; National Hydrography Dataset updates; spatial data development; and natural resource condition assessments. GeoSpatial Services has been a key partner of the USFWS and has been working for over 18 years to update legacy National Wetland Inventory data across the nation. Andy is a steering committee member for the ASWM Wetland Mapping Consortium, an ASWM Board Member and is past chair of the Alaska GeoSpatial Council Wetland Technical Working Group.



Mark Ryan is a Principal with Ryan and Kuehler PLLC. Mark Ryan spent 24 years as one of EPA's leading Clean Water Act experts and chief trial attorneys before moving to private practice. While at EPA, Mr. Ryan was also a special Assistant United State Attorney and litigated many Clean Water Act enforcement cases on behalf of the Department of Justice. He is the long-standing editor of the American Bar Association's *Clean Water Act Handbook* and has spoken and published extensively on the CWA. Mr. Ryan also serves on the Editorial Board of the American Bar Association's *Natural Resources & Environment* magazine. Mr. Ryan currently represents a diverse range of clients with CWA, land use, and water rights issues. Prior to joining EPA, Mr. Ryan worked as a litigation associate at Perkins Coie in Seattle.



Emile Sawyer is a New Mexico Environment Department, Wetlands Program Project Officer and an Environmental Scientist/Specialist with the Surface Water Quality Bureau. Emile has an M.S. in Hydrogeology from the University of Nevada Reno. Emile's graduate work used stable isotopes in water to model ground water flow paths in the White River Flow System of Eastern Nevada. Emile has worked for the State of New Mexico since 2006 and has experience in ground water and surface water modeling, water quality monitoring and sampling, construction and ecological restoration oversight. Emile works on the New Mexico Wetlands Mapping and Classification project, the New Mexico Rapid Assessment Method development, and oversees wetlands restoration projects for the Program.



Tanya Sand-Driver is an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes and currently works for the Three Affiliated Tribes as the GIS/Water Resources Director. Additionally, Tanya teaches as adjunct faculty for the NHS College for the Native American Studies and Science departments in the areas of Ethnobotany, Tribal GIS, TAT History, Native American Ecological Knowledge, Agricultural & Natural Resource Management in Native Am. Communities, Sunday Science Academy, and mentor with research. Tanya's educational career includes: A.A.S. Farm & Ranch Management, A.S. Agriculture, B.S. Environmental Science (Capstone Research: [Land Cover Impacts from Oil and Gas Development on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation]and [Gas Flared in North Dakota on the Fort Berthold Indian

Reservation]), Master Studies at University of Wisconsin Green Bay (Sustainable Management) and Montana State University (Land Resources Environmental Science). Tanya grew up on a farm near New Town, ND where she has resided most of her life with her teenage son. This is located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation also known as the Three Affiliated Tribes and the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara (Sahnish) Nation. Tanya is very passionate about the environment and sustainability of our natural resources. She enjoys hiking, kayaking, archery, fishing, horseback riding, traveling, exploring historic places and just picked up golfing.



Nancy Schuldt serves as the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Water Projects Coordinator. She developed the Band's water quality standards and monitoring program. She has directed research into fish contaminants and sediment chemistry to characterize mercury impacts to Fond du Lac Band members, collaborated on research into wild rice ecology and toxicity, as well as watershed hydrologic modeling to inform management and restoration efforts. She participates in numerous local, regional, and binational working groups to ensure the tribal perspective is represented and initiated a cooperative wastewater management project with the non-tribal community to protect Big Lake, a heavily developed lake on the Reservation. She initiated the tribe's nonpoint source management program and leads the Band's environmental review of mining and energy industry impacts to trust resources.



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 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.



Matthew Stahman serves as the Director, Regulatory out of RES' Houston, TX office. Matt has worked throughout the United States, providing environmental compliance services for large-scale infrastructure projects in various industries including oil and gas, public transportation, telecommunications, electric utility, coal mining, and land development. He formerly served as Principal of SWCA Environmental Consultant's Houston and Baton Rouge Offices and was with SWCA for 15 years. He has over 20 years of experience in Clean Water Act permitting, Endangered Species Act consultations, NEPA environmental impact assessments, FERC filings and obtaining various other federal, state and local environmental permits. Matt

specializes in wetlands and endangered species related issues, especially mitigation and is a registered Professional Wetland Scientist. He has worked on the design, implementation, and monitoring of multiple wetland mitigation banks and consolidated mitigation areas throughout his career. Matt graduated from Texas A&M University with bachelor's and master's degrees focused on wildlife management and wetland ecology.



Marla Stelk is the Executive Director at the Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) 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 ASWM on topics such as ecosystem service valuation for wetland restoration, the role of wetlands in floodplain and natural hazard management, wetlands and watershed health, wetland mapping and communications. Prior to coming to ASWM, 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.



Lisamarie Windham-Myers is a Research Ecologist in the Earth Systems Process Division of the Water Mission Area at U.S. Geological Survey. Broadly trained in ecosystem ecology, her research focuses on the relative influences of wetland and estuarine characteristics on carbon, nutrient, and trace-metal biogeochemistry. Her approaches span landscape-to-molecular scales as necessary to understand how alterations of wetland structure influence wetland function. Lisa's research sites represent a wide range of salinity and management conditions, from rice agriculture to coastal and restored wetlands. Since 2000, she has authored or coauthored over 85 peer reviewed papers on wetland biogeochemistry, and co-produced functional maps of wetland elevation and soil characteristics. From local to national to global assessments, Lisa represents USGS capabilities and interests across the aquatic continuum to improve management of wetlands under climate and land use-change scenarios.



Brenda Zollitsch is Senior Policy Analyst at the Association of State Wetland Managers. At ASWM, Brenda conducts research and policy analysis on wetland and stream issues; works to analyze and respond to emerging wetland-related rules and regulations; manages projects; and designs, coordinates and evaluates training for wetland professionals. Over the last two years, Brenda has led two ASWM multi-year projects - one on CWA Section 404 Assumption and the other on Wetland Regulatory Capacity Building, coordinating project workgroups, dialogues, and research to develop tools, templates, best practices, and synthesize lessons learned from practice across the nation. She currently coordinates three webinar series. Since joining ASWM in 2013, Brenda has led ASWM's 2015 state summaries; state wetland program status and trends report; and ASWM's pipeline permitting, improving wetland training; and stream identification,

delineation and mitigation projects. Brenda earned a double master's degree in International Relations and Environmental Resource Management from Boston University and her PhD in Public Policy from the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service. Brenda serves as adjunct faculty teaching graduate classes at the University of Southern Maine and facilitates a regional stormwater collaboration working to implement NPDES requirements in Maine.

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