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Richard K. Friesner, Ph.D.

Director of Water Quality Programs

Dr. Friesner is an experienced environmental science and policy professional with more than ten years of experience in nonprofit, private sector, state, and federal governmental organizations. This includes running a small consulting engineers office for several years, working on water quality sampling and analysis projects at the U.S. Geological Survey, and leading environmental education programs at George Mason University. He joined NEIWPCC in 2016 as the Division Director for Water Quality Programs, where he oversees a staff (direct and indirect reports) of over twenty people. Dr. Friesner completed research on the implementation of complex multi-state TMDLs at the



local level and the use of adaptive management in such a process. In addition, he examined the effects of road salt and other deicers on stream water quality and explored the effects of Daphnia magna on nutrients in the water column.

Dr. Friesner directs staff on numerous programs, including: water quality standards, wetlands, total maximum daily loads, harmful algal blooms, aquatic nuisance species, citizen science monitoring, nutrient management, and policy matters. He is involved in the management of several place-based programs including the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, the Long Island Sound Study, the Interstate Environmental Commission District, and he is engaged in the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan. In his position as a division director, Dr. Friesner oversees budgets of up to several million dollars annually.

In his role at NEIWPCC, Dr. Friesner advises NEIWPCC's deputy director and executive director on water quality and environmental policy matters. He works with state and federal staff to reach consensus on technical aspects of complex problems and the implementation of the Clean Water Act. Dr. Friesner serves on committees and technical advisory groups for entities including the Association of Clean Water Administrators, the Interstate Environmental Commission District, and the EPA's Nitrogen Strategy for Long Island Sound. Dr. Friesner has presented about his work with NEIWPCC at regional and national meetings, including the National Council for Science and the Environment's annual meeting.

Dr. Friesner is a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager and active leader in the Boy Scouts of America.

Education:

Ph.D., Environmental Science & Public Policy, George Mason University College of Science

M.S., Environmental Science, University of Kansas School of Engineering B.S., Environmental Studies/Chemistry Minor, University of Kansas Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM) #15073 - 2009 to Present

Affiliations:

Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA)
Institute for Hazardous Materials Management (IHMM)