

NATIONAL NPS TRAINING WORKSHOP SPEAKER BIOS

TRIBAL-STATE COORDINATION PANEL

Kate Lacey-Young

Kate Lacey-Young has been with the New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau since January 2021 and serves as the Watershed Protection Section Program Manager. Kate has experience working in water resources management and water quality protection with the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, and fire and watershed management with the Cibola National Forest. Kate has a B.S. in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Watershed Management and Hydrology from the University of Arizona and a Master of Water Resources degree with a concentration in Hydrosience from the University of New Mexico. Outside of work, Kate enjoys skiing, biking, hiking, and spending time with her family.

Rishi Bastakoti, Chief, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

Rainee Tetreault, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Hannah Coe, Washington ECV

STATE PROGRAM WELCOME

Joey Breaux, Assistant Commissioner, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Bren Haase

Bren has over 30 years of experience in coastal wetlands ecology, restoration, and protection in the private sector and with the state and federal governments. He holds a Bachelor's degree in marine biology from Auburn University and a Master's degree in oceanography and coastal sciences from Louisiana State University. Before taking on his current efforts at BTNEP, Bren served in several leadership roles with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) including Chairman of the CPRA Board, Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and Division Chief of Planning and Research. Additionally, Bren oversaw the development and legislative approval of two of Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plans for a Sustainable Coast in 2017 and 2023, and six Annual Plans from 2019 to 2024.

Jonathan McFarland

Jonathan McFarland is the Administrator of the Water Planning and Assessment Division at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. In this capacity, he provides oversight for several key programs, including Water Surveys, Water Quality Standards and Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Load Modeling, Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention, Source Water Protection, Aquifer Evaluation, and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Mr. McFarland began his tenure with LDEQ in 2001 as an environmental engineer, following his completion of a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering from Louisiana State University. In his current role, he supports the development and implementation of policies and programs that promote the protection and improvement of Louisiana's water resources, with a strong focus on collaborative approaches to address nonpoint source pollution.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP SHOWCASE

Bob Dew

Bob has worked for Ducks Unlimited for 25 years and currently serves as the Manager of Conservation Programs for south Louisiana, overseeing project development, management and administration. During his time with DU, he has also served as Director of Development in Louisiana helping secure philanthropic gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations for DU efforts throughout North America. He completed B.S. and M.S. degrees from Mississippi State University in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. Bob and his wife of 31 years, Christy, live in Youngsville, LA. They have 3 children.

Price Gay

Price Gay is currently serving a two-year term as President of the Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts. I have been a lifelong sugarcane producer in Iberville and Pointe Coupee Parishes. I'm the Chairman of the Upper Delta Soil and Water Conservation District and have served on that board for 27 years. My Father served 40 years on the Lower Delta Soil and Water board and after his retirement my brother John served another 30 years at Lower Delta. Involvement with local Conservation Districts and NRCS has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Years of using practices offered by the NRCS have made our farming operations more productive and efficient. The landowners and farmers of our nation are very fortunate to have support through the NRCS, Soil and Water Districts, and the EPA to cost share on practices that protect our natural resources.

Andrew Barron

Andrew earned a Master of Science degree in Agronomy with a focus in Soil Science from Louisiana State University. Andrew taught Physical Science, Biology, Environmental Science and Chemistry as a High School Science Teacher in St. Gabriel, La. and worked as an Environmental Scientist for the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Unit of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Andrew now serves as the Senior Research Scientist and the Quality Assurance Manager for the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP). Andrew manages projects related to water quality and watershed restoration, and manages the quality assurance system for scientific data collection at BTNEP. He represents BTNEP on the Louisiana Watershed Initiative-Region 6 Steering Committee; the Water Management Advisory Task Force Commission, the Greater New Orleans Master Naturalist Program; the Davis Pond Diversion Advisory Committee; and other various committees related to water quality and watershed restoration. He is also an instructor for the Louisiana Master Naturalist. During his free time he pursues interests related to flintknapping, primitive lifeways, and traditional uses of native plants.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Shea McCarthy

Shea McCarthy has a background in natural resource management and community health through. She received a Bachelors degree in Public Health and Masters degree in Environmental Health Sciences both from the University of South Carolina before beginning her career with the state environmental agency. She has served as the South Carolina Nonpoint Source Coordinator for five years, helping to oversee watershed plan development and implementation grant projects.

Olivia Tenorio

Olivia Srue Tenorio, a Pacific Islander, serves as the Water Quality Surveillance and Nonpoint Source Program Manager with Division of Environmental Quality under the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. She leads initiatives in water quality monitoring, integrated watershed protection, and nonpoint source management to promote environmental stewardship and sustainable resource management across the Commonwealth. She enjoys spending time with family and channels her love for the ocean through V6 outrigger paddling as a steerswoman.

Autumn Mitchell

Autumn is a graduate of Michigan State University and began her career with 16 years in environmental education administration. This work spanned the oversight of shipboard and land-based watershed education in the Great Lakes and the development and evaluation of K-12 place-based watershed curriculum and teacher training. She transitioned to Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's Nonpoint Source Program in 2022 where she now serves as a project administrator for numerous NPS grants while also supporting internal and external information and education components of the program. Autumn takes pride in assisting stakeholders with community engagement and social monitoring efforts – helping them to strategically and efficiently connect and partner with others to protect and restore Michigan's surface waters from nonpoint source pollution.

Elizabeth Boettcher

Elizabeth Boettcher is an Environmental Scientist with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, where she has dedicated many years to advancing watershed restoration efforts across the state. Her career began in groundwater monitoring, and she later transitioned into a statewide nonpoint source (CWA §319) project manager role. In this capacity, she has led and advised on more than a hundred grant-funded initiatives, collaborating with ranchers, tribes, universities, and nonprofits. Her notable work includes significant contributions to E. coli reduction in Oak Creek, preservation projects on Cienega Creek (an Outstanding Arizona Water), and the community-driven success of the Miller Creek E. coli delisting in Prescott. Elizabeth holds both a Masters of Environmental Planning and a Bachelor of Science from Arizona State University.

TRIBAL PLENARY

James Williams

James is the Director of Office of Environmental Services with Muscogee (Creek) Nation. He has been employed with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for more than 30 years. He served on many boards to include: The Sustainability Alliance, the National Congress of American Indians Technical Committee for Climate Change, EPA Tribal Pesticide Program Council, EPA Region 6 Tribal Caucus, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Green Team, and the Henryetta School Board. He is married to his lovely wife Carol and they have six children, nine grandchildren, and one large dog name Pearl.

Shirell Darder

Elder Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar is the former active traditional tribal chief of the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw, an ordained minister of the Universal Life Church, and an independent artist/small business owner. She is one of the founding members of the First People's Conservation Council of Louisiana and is currently seated as the secretary. She was also one of the advisors to LA H.B.660 – Act #102, establishing the Native American Commission and was elected the first Native American chairwoman of the Louisiana Governor's Office of Indian Affairs Native American Commission.

HAZARD MITIGATION & EMERGING CHALLENGES

Mr. William "Chuck" Berger, Jr.

Mr. Chuck Berger is the Senior Engineer in the Water Planning and Assessment Division. Mr. Berger received his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Louisiana State University in 1992. His career began with the Department of Transportation and Development in 1993, where he worked in the Environmental Section focusing on noise modeling. In 1996, he joined the Department of Environmental Quality's TMDL/Engineering staff. He serves as the State's lead advisor and contact on water quality modeling and TMDL/Alternative development issues and hydrologic issues. Areas of expertise include water quality modeling, stream hydrology/hydraulics, and TMDL development. Additional experience includes water quality, computer programming, database development, and data management. Mr. Berger has provided modeling and TMDL consultation to local governments, contractors, and permit writers in addition to developing or overseeing the development of water quality models, TMDLs, and TMDL alternatives for many Louisiana streams. Mr. Berger has served as Louisiana's lead participant in EPA and the State's development of the new Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program. Mr. Berger assisted with development of the State's prioritization framework and priority waterbodies under this "New Vision". Mr. Berger actively participated in Louisiana's Watershed Initiative, a watershed-based approach to manage future flood risks and provide sustainability and resilience in Louisiana. This includes participation in several technical advisory groups including the Nature-Based Solutions Working Group. Mr. Berger continues to oversee the development of TMDL alternative plans for priority waterbodies, the development of new and revised TMDLs, provide oversight and guidance on hydrologic issues as they relate to water quality, and provide permit support relating to TMDL implementation and antidegradation issues. Mr. Berger is pursuing a natural channel design project to demonstrate that this type of project can be used to restore water quality. He is also providing education around the state regarding the benefits of process nature-based corridor design (natural channel design) stream restoration

Kate Lacey-Young

Kate Lacey-Young has been with the New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau since January 2021 and serves as the Watershed Protection Section Program Manager. Kate has experience working in water resources management and water quality protection with the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, and fire and watershed management with the Cibola National Forest. Kate has a B.S. in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Watershed Management and Hydrology from the University of Arizona and a Master of Water Resources degree with a concentration in Hydrosience from the University of New Mexico. Outside of work, Kate enjoys skiing, biking, hiking, and spending time with her family.

Dino Chavarria

Dino Chavarria works for the Santa Clara Pueblo Office of Environmental Affairs. He works on EPA programs regarding Superfund, Solid Waste, Water Quality and Non Point Source Pollution. The NPS work is vital to the protection of water quality which includes protection of the surface water uses for habitat, irrigation, and cultural uses of the Pueblo. There have been severe NPS pollution impacts upon the Pueblo over several years due to drought, wildland fires and subsequent flooding.

Katie Hickle, Water Quality Program Specialist, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

AGRICULTURE FARMER OUTREACH

Katie Flahive

Katie Flahive is an agricultural engineer with the EPA's Nonpoint Source Management Program at Headquarters. She works with federal, state, nonprofit and industry partners that research, develop, implement, track and measure the results of voluntary and/or incentive based controls to improve water quality in agricultural and rural areas, and coordinates the Mississippi River/Gulf of America Hypoxia Task Force as the federal co-chair of the Coordinating Committee.

Beth Baker

Dr. Beth Baker is an Associate Extension Professor and Assistant Director of Environmental Stewardship with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. She leads Extension and applied research programs focused on agriculture conservation and watershed protection. Her work connects science with practice by engaging farmers, natural resource professionals, and community leaders to advance stewardship throughout Mississippi and the Mississippi River Basin.

Brad Jordahl Redlin

Brad is the Manager of the Agricultural Conservation Services section at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture where he works in coordination with the Commissioner's office to lead state and federal collaborating agencies including partners at USDA-NRCS, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the state Board of Water and Soil Resources, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in delivering the department's voluntary programs. Among Brad's previous experience were various roles working on the development and implementation of agricultural policy at the federal and state level, including conservation, risk management, and commodity program policy through several farm bill cycles. Past roles included serving as Chairman of the Washington, DC-based National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, policy analyst and media director for the Center for Rural Affairs, national Director of Agricultural Programs for the Izaak Walton League of America, and being an active member of such organizations as the Soil and Water Conservation Society, National Farmers Union, National Association of Farm Broadcasters, and serving on the Agriculture and Wildlife Working Group for federal conservation policies, the Wilderness Society's biofuels technical review committee, the Mississippi River Collaborative's federal farm policy workgroup, the USDA North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant review committee, and advisory committees for national foundations including The McKnight Foundation and the Walton Family Foundation. Brad was raised on the family farm near Sidney, Montana, where with his six siblings he continues to maintain ownership of the farm's approximately 2000 acres of small grain production. With his wife Erin and daughters Eli and Asa, Brad enjoys the outdoors, travel and spending time with family, friends, and pets.

Emilee Novak

Emilee Novak serves as the Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Management Program Coordinator with the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality. Since joining the team in 2021, she has worked closely with partners to enhance outreach and share resources on nonpoint source pollution. Through Section 319 funding, North Dakota's voluntary program addresses NPS concerns, primarily in agriculture, by promoting best management practices, providing financial and technical support, and leading education initiatives. Emilee will be presenting on a mentorship program developed in collaboration with the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition.

Erich Glave

Erich is the Director of the Bureau of Environmental Field Services for KDHE. He oversees the watershed management section (nonpoint source pollution reduction), the livestock waste management section (point source pollution prevention), and six district offices (compliance and outreach). He attended Southwest Texas State University concentrating on Environmental Studies and graduated from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. Erich has been a member of the USD 217 Board of Education, a Scout leader, a music leader at his church, a community theatre actor, and played trombone for thirteen years in his local high school pep band. He and his wife, Donna, have been married for 39 years, have four children, twelve grandchildren, two dogs, and love to camp, fish and kayak. Erich and Donna currently live in Topeka.

Olivia Tenorio

Olivia Srue Tenorio, a Pacific Islander, serves as the Water Quality Surveillance and Nonpoint Source Program Manager with Division of Environmental Quality under the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. She leads initiatives in water quality monitoring, integrated watershed protection, and nonpoint source management to promote environmental stewardship and sustainable resource management across the Commonwealth. Enjoys spending time with family and channels her love for the ocean through V6 outrigger paddling as a steerswoman

URBAN STORMWATER RUNOFF & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Joy Hinkle

Joy Hinkle manages the Section 319(h) Grants Unit in GAEPD's Nonpoint Source Program. For over 20 years she has helped government and nonprofit organizations meet their goals related to water quality, green infrastructure, and water efficiency. Joy earned a Master of Public Administration from Georgia State University and a Bachelor of Science in Geography from Western Kentucky University.

Jamie Houle

James Houle is the Director for the Stormwater Center. His responsibilities include directing and managing the Stormwater Center's growing body of research projects. Areas of expertise include diffusion of innovative stormwater management solutions, the design and implementation of innovative stormwater control measures including green infrastructure (GI), and low impact development (LID) strategies, planning and implementation, operation and maintenance, and water resource monitoring. Dr. Houle holds a Ph.D. in Natural Resources and Environmental Science and has over twenty years of experience with water quality related issues in New England and is a certified professional in storm water quality (CPSWQ) and a certified professional in erosion and sediment control (CPESC).

Sam Day

As a water quality biologist for Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Sam manages the tribe's 106 and 319 programs, as well as the tribe's wetland regulatory program. Sam works collaboratively with other tribal, state, local, and federal partners to protect and restore area waters in a larger goal to protect tribal reserved treaty rights. His presentation today will cover the implementation of green infrastructure at the redevelopment of a tribal property, in a effort to protect priority tribal waters from increasing development.

ALTERNATIVE WATERSHED-BASED PLANNING

Rebecca Candilasa

Rebecca Candilasa is a Planner with the Hawai'i Department of Health's Surface Water Protection Branch. She holds a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and began her career in environmental consulting, where she worked on land use entitlements and environmental permitting for large-scale developments and infrastructure projects. Today, she brings that experience to the public sector, supporting the state's Nonpoint Source Pollution Program by collaborating with federal, state, and local partners to develop watershed-based plans and implement on-the-ground restoration projects that protect and improve Hawai'i's surface water quality. As a mom of three, Rebecca finds that navigating the competing priorities in watershed planning often feels a lot like managing a busy household—especially when it comes to making decisions that balance competing needs, find common ground, and work toward shared goals. She values practical, collaborative approaches that reflect the unique character of each community and place.

Blake Forrest

Blake Forrest is an Arkansas licensed Professional Geologist that currently supervises the Water Quality Section of the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Division. Prior to this role he supervised the Groundwater Section at the Natural Resources Division. He has a bachelor's degree in Earth Sciences from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and has worked in environmental consulting as well as state government. He lives in Maumelle, AR with his wife and two children.

Haleigh Arnold

Haileigh Arnold is a Technical Advisor for the 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant with the Kentucky Division of Water. Using her M.S in Sustainability from the University of Louisville, she works to address water quality and quantity issues with the goal to have sustainable water systems across Kentucky. She is currently working on becoming the Alternative and Integrated Plans Coordinator for the state, starting with integrating Hazard Mitigation and Watershed Planning efforts.

TRIBAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Margot Buckelew, Biologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Eric Trum, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Gerald Wagner

Gerald is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation. He is married and has four children ages 28 to 36 years old. He received AA in Math and Science from Little Big Horn Tribal Community College and did his undergraduate studies at Montana State University where he majored in Biology (Class of 1991) and minored in Native American Studies. While Attending Montana State University he was elected Vice President of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and President of the Native American Indian Student Body during his junior year. He works for the Blackfeet Tribe in the Blackfeet Environmental Program for the past thirty-four years and as the director for the last thirty-two years. He has supervised various environmental media grants ranging from Air Quality, Water Quality, to Non-Point Source and Leaking Under Ground Storage Tanks, Radon and Blood lead levels during my tenure. He has had an active solid waste grant for the nine years and was acting director of the Tribe's Utilities and solid waste program concurrently while maintaining his responsibilities of the Tribe's Environmental Programs. Most recently he has added a Tribal Aquatic Invasive Species, Solid Waste infrastructure Recycling Grant, Solar for All Grant, Climate Change Adaptation planning, Climate Change Health Impacts, and Climate Change Youth Resiliency Interns to our environmental program over the last three years. He presently serves as one of 28 Tribal Environmental representatives to region 8 EPA Regional Tribal Operation Committee (TOC) and for the last 29 years as Montana's National Tribal Operation Committee (NTOC) Representative with the past 12 years on the executive committee to the American Indian Environmental Office in Washington D.C., one of only 20 members nationwide. He has also served for the past eight years on the National Resource Conservation and Recovery Act board of directors and goal 3 lead on Office of Land and Emergency Management in EPA headquarters Washington D.C. The RCRA, RTOC and NTC committees work hand in hand to help resolve National, Regional and local Tribal Environmental concerns as well as trying to impact environmental policy and increase the amount of funding that supports Tribal Environmental Programs.

MONITORING & MODELING

Paul Burnett

Paul serves as the State Nonpoint Source Program Coordinator for the Utah Division of Water Quality, where he oversees the Section 319 grants and state nonpoint source project funding. He has been with UDWQ for three and a half years and has a background in fisheries and watershed restoration. In addition to managing grant funding, Paul plays an active role in evaluating the effectiveness of best management practices and uses that experience to help guide watershed restoration efforts across the state.

Dan Dvoretz

Dan Dvoretz, originally from New York, moved to Oklahoma in 2007 to pursue his graduate studies in applied wetland ecology. Dan has worked for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission for the last 15 years and currently serves as the Technical Program Director for the Water Quality Division. He manages a highly capable team that is responsible for method development, data analysis, reporting, and quality assurance for a variety of programs including wetlands, non-point source pollution prevention and cedar eradication.

Emilie Henry

Emilie Henry is the Program Coordinator for the Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC), an administrative attachment to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Her work with WMCC involves collaborating with partners to promote community engagement and stewardship to protect western Montana's aquatic resources. Emilie is pursuing her Master's at the University of Montana, studying human-environment interactions and behavior change.

Hannah Riedl

Hannah Riedl [rhymes with Banana Beetle] is the Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section Supervisor at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Prior to joining the Section in 2017, she earned her Masters in Ecology from Colorado State University, where she also worked as a researcher studying riparian food webs.

Evan Smith

Evan Smith is the Water Quality Program manager for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation. Prior to this program he earned his Masters at Gonzaga university. Evan has worked in the tribes Natural Resources Department for over 22 years. In that time he was a Fisheries Biologist, Program Manager for Wetlands and a Water Quality Regulatory Specialist until he took over being the Water Quality Officer.

TRIBAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Larry Maurin

Larry is a Project Officer in EPA Region 9's Tribal Clean Water Section and works with Tribes in Nevada on Clean Water Act programs. He has been at EPA for 11 years and works as one of the Tribal Non-Point Source Program co-leads at EPA Region 9. He served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Zambia and in the Philippines working on forest conservation.

Matthew Cogorno

Matthew is the Environmental Specialist for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. He focuses on the Tribe's water programs, including Clean Water Act 106, 319, as well as wetlands assessing. Matthew previously served two terms in the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps' American Southwest Region focusing on environmental rehabilitation and disaster relief.

Blythe Delarosa

Blythe Delarosa serves as an Environmental Scientist for the Yakama Nation, where she has worked since 2014. She leads groundwater and soil sampling projects aimed at identifying and reducing nitrate contamination from local agricultural production. Her work advances the Yakama Nation's Clean Water Act programs through monitoring, data management, and resource protection.

Fabiola Torres

Fabiola Torres holds a Master's degree in Biology from the University of California, Los Angeles. With extensive experience in both the private and public sectors—including roles with the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, nonprofits, and various U.S. federal agencies—she has gained expertise in project management, team leadership, community engagement, and interagency collaboration. She currently serves as a Water Resources Technician for the Hualapai Tribe in Arizona, contributing to the protection and stewardship of critical water resources in the Grand Canyon region.

AGRICULTURE NPS SOLUTIONS, SUCCESSES AND COLLABORATIONS

Amanda Reed, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Buddy Oubre

Buddy Oubre is a 7th generation farmer from St. Martin Parish. Buddy is the owner of Buddy Oubre Farms, Inc. He has been growing sugarcane, rice, soybeans and farming crawfish since 1984 in Iberia and St. Martin parishes. Buddy is a stock holder in Cajun Sugars and Sugar Refinery in Gramercy. Buddy is an acting Board of Director of LASUCA Sugar Mill in St. Martin Parish and a member of the American Sugarcane League. Buddy and his wife, Renee have been married for 40 years with three grown children and 4 grandchildren. Buddy designed an apparatus that fits on a cane chopper harvester that directs the residue onto the track of the harvester which is then incorporated into the furrow soil which seems to be making an impact on water clarity and soil retention on his farm.

Joey Breaux, Assistant Commissioner, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Noah Hovorka

Noah is a 319 Project Manager for the State of Nebraska's Department of Water, Energy, and Environment. Originally from South Dakota, he got his bachelor's in chemistry with a minor in biology from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Noah began his professional career in the biotech industry before deciding environmental work was more fulfilling. In August of 2023 he moved to Lincoln, Nebraska with his girlfriend and began working at the agency formerly known as the Department of Environment and Energy. With his background in biochemistry, Noah has a passion for projects that improve human health and create new opportunities for connecting with and educating others on environmental and hydrological concerns. When he isn't working, he enjoys traveling, playing with his two rescue cats, and spending time with friends and loved ones.

Travis Sieve, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

WATERSHED-BASED PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

Jocelyn Harimon

Jocelyn Harimon is a Restoration and Implementation Project Officer for the New Mexico Environment Department-Surface Water Quality Bureau-Nonpoint Source Program. Jocelyn has spent the last nine years engaging with communities, the private sector, state government, non-profit organizations and academic institutions on social, economic and ecological approaches to water quality improvement in Northern Europe and New Mexico. She currently lives in the enchanting city of Santa Fe, New Mexico and spends her free time exploring the mountains and valleys with her two children and mischievous hound.

Lucas Gregory

Dr. Lucas Gregory serves as an associate director of the Texas Water Resources Institute. He provides leadership for the institute's watershed assessment, data collection, planning, and management team and is working to increase water quality and human health research at Texas A&M University. His primary research interests are (1) bacteria fate and transport in aquatic and soil environments; (2) watershed assessment, planning, management, and sustainability; (3) instream water quality monitoring; (4) best management practice efficacy evaluation and testing; (5) improving understanding of human health implications of emerging water quality issues; (6) improving water quality through stakeholder engagement; and (7) PFAS distribution, fate and transport in the environment.

Steve Epting

Steve Epting works in the national nonpoint source program at EPA headquarters, where he serves as the national lead for healthy watersheds protection and watershed-based planning. Additionally, Steve leads work to advance watershed protection through coordination with other EPA programs and external partners, like the land conservation and land use planning communities. Steve has a master's in environmental science from the University of Maryland, where he studied wetland-stream connectivity on the landscape. When not at work you can find Steve exploring local parks and Pokémon card shops with his wife and two sons.

COORDINATION & FUNDING MECHANISMS

Jay Gilbertson

Jay Gilbertson - The long-time Manager of the East Dakota Water Development District, has been involved in South Dakota water resource activities for over 40 years. Prior to coming to the District, he worked for the SD Geological Survey, mapping the glacial geology of east South Dakota, including the various aquifers found within the glacial deposits. At the District, he has led efforts to identify and protect shallow aquifers across the region, assess the condition of rivers, lakes and streams within the District, and promoted watershed restoration efforts locally and statewide. He recently stepped down as the Chair of the SD Nonpoint Source Task Force, but remains an active member of the group. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in geology.

Kris Dozark

I have been working with South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources since 2010 as an environmental scientist. I became the state's 319 coordinator in 2019. I have been involved with water quality in South Dakota since starting an internship for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2000. I graduated with an environmental management degree from South Dakota State University in 2003. I worked on an assessment project in south central South Dakota from 2003 to 2005 prior to getting my master's degree in Biology from South Dakota State University in 2010.

In my free time, I enjoy sports officiating high school football, high school wrestling and college football. I also enjoy birding and hiking.

Judy Rondeau

Judy Rondeau is the NPS Outreach Coordinator for the Nonpoint Management Section of the Watershed Planning Program at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Judy coordinates the implementation of the Massachusetts Nonpoint Source Management Plan with local, state and federal partners and provides technical support for MassDEP's Clean Water Act Section 604(b) and 319 grant programs. Judy has an M.Sc. in Natural Resource Management. She has been employed for 20-plus years in the public and non-profit sectors, and has extensive experience in wetlands regulation and urban stormwater and watershed management.

Ginger Murphy

Ginger is the DNR's State Revolving Fund (SRF) General Nonpoint Source (GNS) Loan Program Manager, while also serving as the DNR's Western Basin Coordinator for 319 projects. Her duties include marketing to and working with potential SRF GNS borrowers and funding partners to accelerate water quality improvement, restoration and protection in the state. As a basin coordinator, she is also a resource for watershed improvement in the Missouri River Basin regions of western Iowa. Her dual position is the result of many years of effort in Iowa integrating SRF into the state's nonpoint programs and plans. Ginger started with Iowa DNR as an SRF Nonpoint Project Manager in September 2022.

PROTECTING WATERS FROM NPS IMPAIRMENT

Alan Klatt

Alan Klatt is a water resources professional with the New Mexico Environment Department-Surface Water Quality Bureau where he works in the Watershed Protection Section implementing New Mexico's Nonpoint Source Management Plan. Alan's focus areas include watershed-based planning, watershed restoration and protection, mining and mine reclamation, and Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications of Section 404 permits. Alan earned his bachelor's degree in environmental management from California Polytechnic State University and master's degree in watershed management from the University of Wyoming.

Alex Wong

Alex Wong is the Nonpoint Source Program Coordinator for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, where he and his team manage 604(b) and 319 funds for watershed planning and implementation. In addition to all things NPS, feel free to ask him about how great it is to live in Portland, his pets (3 cats and 1 dog), or what it's like to be an amateur cellist in Southern Maine.

Hannah Riedl

Hannah Riedl [rhymes with Banana Beetle] is the Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section Supervisor at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Prior to joining the Section in 2017, she earned her Masters in Ecology from Colorado State University, where she also worked as a researcher studying riparian food webs.

Mary Inovejas

Mary Inovejas works for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation as an Environmental Program Specialist in the Nonpoint Source section. She's passionate about connecting with communities across the state to protect Alaska's pristine waters. When not at work, Mary can be found on a trail or in the garden.

GRTS

Cyd Curtis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Heidi McIntyre-Wilkinson

Heidi McIntyre-Wilkinson is the Deputy Administrator of the Land & Water Stewardship Section of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. She assists with the administration of various grants promoting nonpoint source protection such as the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF), the U.S. EPA's Section 319 Grant, the Gulf Hypoxia Cover Crop Project, and the Tennessee Riparian Incentives Program. She holds two Master's Degrees in Agriculture (Angelo State University) with a concentration in ruminant nutrition; and, Environmental Science (Arkansas State University), where she studied threatened and endangered freshwater mussels. Heidi has experience in both the private and public sectors, working in environmental consulting, compliance and enforcement, and permitting. In her spare time, she enjoys working at her family's dairy goat farm in Maury County, Tennessee.

TRIBAL FUNDING & COORDINATING STRATEGIES

Ashley Gries

Ashley Gries is the Assistant Manager for the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals' (ITEP) Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program (TW7G), where she supports Tribal climate adaptation planning and implementation. She leads TW7G's Caring for Our Relatives Program which supports Tribal environmental departments on ecological resilience projects and adaptation planning, and leads TW7G's Living Waters, Resilient Nations Program, which supports Tribal climate resilience planning for water throughout the Colorado River Basin. Ms. Gries is a co-author of the Status of Tribes and Climate Change Report (STACC), Volume 2, and a planning member of the National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference.

Shannon Pagano

Shannon Pagano, P.E., brings more than 25 years of experience helping communities address complex water and wastewater challenges. She has partnered with municipalities, utilities, and community leaders across New York to secure funding, modernize infrastructure, and design sustainable solutions that protect public health and the environment.

Passionate about environmental equity, Shannon focuses on supporting underserved communities disproportionately impacted by aging systems and climate change. She combines technical expertise with a collaborative, community-first approach to create practical, affordable solutions that last.

Shannon holds a bachelor's in chemical engineering and master's degree in environmental and water resources engineering and is a licensed Professional Engineer in New York. She resides in Central New York with her husband and two children, where she is actively engaged in community service and environmental stewardship.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Rebecca Candilasa

Rebecca Candilasa is a Planner with the Hawai'i Department of Health's Surface Water Protection Branch. She holds a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and began her career in environmental consulting, where she worked on land use entitlements and environmental permitting for large-scale developments and infrastructure projects. Today, she brings that experience to the public sector, supporting the state's Nonpoint Source Pollution Program by collaborating with federal, state, and local partners to develop watershed-based plans and implement on-the-ground restoration projects that protect and improve Hawai'i's surface water quality. As a mom of three, Rebecca finds that navigating the competing priorities in watershed planning often feels a lot like managing a busy household—especially when it comes to making decisions that balance competing needs, find common ground, and work toward shared goals. She values practical, collaborative approaches that reflect the unique character of each community and place.

Siva Nunna

Siva Nunna earned her Master of Science degree in Marine and Environmental Biology from Nicholls State University. She now serves as the Water Quality Coordinator for the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program, (BTNEP) where she helps manages watershed restoration projects. Siva works closely with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and local partners to conduct water quality monitoring, public education, and a home sewage inspection program as part of work to restore the Bayou Folsé watershed. Through the BTNEP Home Sewage Assistance Program, Siva works with local, state, and federal partners to reduce pollution from failing home sewage systems and improve surface water quality in local bayous and estuaries through a cost-share program with homeowners in the Bayou Lafourche, Folsé and Terrebonne watersheds. She also leads efforts to promote water quality awareness among students, community members, and stakeholders.

HYDROMODIFICATION

Dino Chavarria

Dino Chavarria works for the Santa Clara Pueblo Office of Environmental Affairs. He works on EPA programs regarding Superfund, Solid Waste, Water Quality and Non Point Source Pollution. The NPS work is vital to the protection of water quality which includes protection of the surface water uses for habitat, irrigation, and cultural uses of the Pueblo. There have been severe NPS pollution impacts upon the Pueblo over several years due to drought, wildland fires and subsequent flooding.

Hannah Riedl

Hannah Riedl [rhymes with Banana Beetle] is the Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section Supervisor at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Prior to joining the Section in 2017, she earned her Masters in Ecology from Colorado State University, where she also worked as a researcher studying riparian food webs.

Alan Klatt

Alan Klatt is a water resources professional with the New Mexico Environment Department-Surface Water Quality Bureau where he works in the Watershed Protection Section implementing New Mexico's Nonpoint Source Management Plan. Alan's focus areas include watershed-based planning, watershed restoration and protection, mining and mine reclamation, and Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications of Section 404 permits. Alan earned his bachelor's degree in environmental management from California Polytechnic State University and master's degree in watershed management from the University of Wyoming.

Tom Harcarik

Tom is the lead worker for Ohio EPA's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) where he evaluates stream and wetland protection and restoration projects funded through Ohio's wastewater State Revolving Fund program. As part of his duties, Tom leads the team that evaluates nominations to determine which projects merit funding, reviews restoration and protection plans, and oversees project implementation and post-implementation monitoring. Tom developed the scoring system used to determine which project to fund. Tom also reviews projects for potential adverse impacts to streams and wetlands, threatened and endangered species, historic properties, floodplains and other environmental resources. Tom has experience using numerous stream and wetland monitoring and

assessment protocols, wetland restoration planning, design and construction for both habitat and biological life and nutrient reduction, and stream restoration using natural channel design. Tom has served in Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance for the past 12 years with the last 6 years working solely in the WRRSP Unit.

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 40 years, including 18 years in the 401 Water Quality Certification program where he evaluated project impacts and proposed mitigation. Tom also worked in Ohio EPA's Wetland Ecology Group where he co-authored several reports describing how wetlands may be integrated into the TMDL process and be used to reduce pollutant and nutrient loadings into streams and lakes. Tom's career also includes representing Ohio EPA in civil environmental enforcement matters and served as the technical liaison to the Attorney General's Office during settlement negotiations and litigation. Tom received a B.S. in Conservation, with a focus on aquatic ecology, from Kent State University. Tom previously served as the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Wetland Managers. Tom is an avid hiker and backpacker, and lives by the motto, "A bad day in the field always beats a good day in the office!"