

A photograph of two hikers walking away on a wooden boardwalk through a forest. The hiker on the left is wearing a light-colored jacket and a backpack. The hiker on the right is wearing a blue shirt and a backpack. The boardwalk is made of wooden planks and is surrounded by tall grass and trees.

**Association of State  
Wetland Managers, Inc.**

**Annual Report 2015**



## *Our Mission...*

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



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

*- Edward Abbey*

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In 2015, ASWM projects were supported by the McKnight Foundation, the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation, the Horne Family Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, along with members and private donors. The Association would like to express its gratitude to those who have supported its efforts to protect the nation’s wetlands through the application of sound science, training and education.

Thank you.

# Multi-Year Projects

Raising the Bar on Wetland Restoration Success  
Support Development of Sound Wetlands Policy through Core Elements Outreach

## Raising the Bar on Wetland Restoration Success

ASWM's "Raising the Bar on Wetland Restoration Success" project started at the beginning of 2015 and is being generously funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Wetlands Division through 2016. In all respects, it is a continuation of a previous project titled "Identifying Best Practices for Developing Wetland Restoration and Protection Programs: Leveraging Adaptation to Climate" initiated in 2013. During the first restoration project, it became clear that although recent studies into wetland restoration success reveal numerous restoration failures, there is general agreement among restoration professionals that the science to support successful restoration exists and can be applied if particular barriers are addressed.

The primary goal of this new two year project is to identify those barriers, articulate solutions and begin implementing actions to improve the frequency of wetland restoration success. Barriers already identified include a lack of adequate practitioner training, inaccessibility of information, lack of certification, an inability to agree on wetland restoration priorities on a watershed or regional scale, lack of accountability, and use of inadequate/incorrect restoration success criteria. More barriers were identified during 2015 such as insufficient monitoring horizons, narrowly focused regulations and permit applications, underestimation of restoration costs, lack of an adaptive management framework, and more.

To address these barriers and raise the bar on wetland restoration, ASWM developed and facilitated an expert work group consisting of 25 members, including policy makers, regulators, non-profits, practitioners and academics. The work group met via monthly conference calls to discuss barriers and solutions, develop a monthly webinar series, and begin drafting a white paper to summarize their findings.

The webinar series turned out to be far more successful than ASWM had imagined it would be. In 2015, a total of eleven free webinars were offered on various topics relating to wetland restoration with an average of 308 participants on each webinar. Each webinar was recorded, edited and posted to the ASWM website for free viewing. All of the webinars had between two to three presenters which provided a range of voices, experience and perspectives. The popularity of this webinar series boosted our webinar recording viewing statistics with a 226.5% increase in 2015.

The findings to date from the project were shared broadly in 2015 through blogs, journal articles, and national presentations, including a webinar presentation for the Rock River Coalition and Environmental Law Institute webinar series, "Wetlands, Wildlife Habitat, and Flood Hazards in the Rock River Basin", the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Water, and as the final December webinar for the ASWM "Improving Wetland Restoration Success" webinar series.



## Support Development of Sound Wetlands Policy through Core Elements Outreach

ASWM's "Support Development of Sound Wetlands Policy through Core Elements Outreach" project started in May 2013 and was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Wetlands Division. The overall goal of the project was to increase understanding of multiple aspects of state and tribal wetland programs, including all four of the EPA core essential elements, resulting in more robust state and tribal programs. Geographically appropriate and scientifically defensible wetland programs have been shown in turn increase the protection of wetland resources and associated aquatic resources delivering public benefits. The project was built on a foundation of past state summary projects by ASWM and the Environmental Law Institute, but achieved new levels of content, measure and accessibility, capitalizing on emerging tools and technology and the use of hyperlinked web-based links and materials.

The project developed 50 individual state wetland program summaries (~700 pages) detailing forty-

eight areas of wetland program information; created a comparative analysis of state programs; published in a ninety-page Status and Trends Report on State Wetland Programs in the United States; developed a new Program Development Continuum measure to assess Core Element program development; and created new online resources, including an interactive national map. Through this project, ASWM increased state/tribal knowledge about state wetland programs, practices, models, tools and lessons learned. Project products facilitate direct access to tools and technical support. ASWM's report also identified critical information about climate change work and a range of state-level integration activities well-suited to be developed into model practices. The project has resulted in dozens of presentations, webinars, feature articles and blog posts, attracting national, regional and state audiences and project product users. Many states indicate that will be using the content to connect with new resources and to provide justification for planned changes in their wetland programs.



# 2015 Special Projects

## Section 404 State/Tribal Program Assumption: clarifying the scope of assumable waters.

Under Section 404(g) of the Clean Water Act, a state or tribe may, with the approval of EPA, assume administration for dredge and fill 404 permitting in many – but not all – waters of the U.S. In recent years, ASWM together with the Environmental Council of the States and the Association of Clean Water Administrators have identified the need for clarification of the scope of waters that are assumable, and conversely of those waters where the Corps must retain jurisdiction, and requested that EPA assist in doing so.

In response, EPA established an “assumable waters” subcommittee under the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT). This group is formally organized under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Twenty-three individuals representing state and federal agencies and other stakeholders were appointed to the subcommittee, including Peg Bostwick who represents ASWM. Other ASWM members were also appointed to represent their states. The subcommittee includes members with expertise in wetland and water management, policy making, and water law.

The Assumable Waters Subcommittee is charged only with making recommendations to EPA on options for clarifying the scope of assumable waters. This will have no impact on federal or state jurisdiction. The question is merely a practical, administrative one of how responsibilities under Section 404 are divided between the state or tribe and the Corps under an assumed program. In accordance with FACA, a notice of every meeting is posted in the Federal Register, and all meetings are open to the public; a public comment period is also provided.

## The Clean Water Rule

In 2015 the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finalized the Clean Water Rule

identifying aquatic resources regulated under the Clean Water Act to provide greater certainty about waters protected by the Act. The states have key responsibilities in ensuring these waters are protected. The final Clean Water Rule was published in late May 2015. ASWM hosted briefings for states and others on the roll out of the rule with EPA and Corps staff. ASWM held eight webinars on the Clean Water Rule between June and December 2015 on specifics of rule content, implementation and legal challenges. ASWM worked closely with the Association of Clean Water Administrators and the Environmental Council of States as well as other state nonprofit organizations that represented agriculture, transportation agencies and others to inform and educate respective members. Most webinars included participants representing state agencies in 45-50 states.

## Function-Based Wetland Restoration Training Workshop

In May ASWM held a three-day workshop for 40 state, tribal, federal, local, academic and nonprofit organization staff hosted by U.S. EPA Region 7 in Lenexa, Kansas. Time was divided between classroom and field work to provide participants with the knowledge to better understand how wetland restoration projects can be designed and evaluated for functional performance success. Principal instructors were Ralph Tiner, recently retired from the U.S. Fish and wildlife Service and Tom Biebighauser of Wetland Restoration and Training. The three-day workshop culminated in the completion of a wetland creation project located along Cedar Nile Creek at a future park site for Johnson County Park and Recreation District.



# 2015 Outreach & Education

Working with federal, state, tribal and nongovernmental partners, ASWM has continued to foster collaborative relationships to further its mission to promote the inclusion of sound science into public policy. The organization's major outreach and education efforts in 2015 are described below. Ongoing information on ASWM's activities can be found on its website, which is updated weekly at <http://aswm.org>.

**Website:** In 2015, ASWM continued to use its website as an important communications tool with daily informational updates on news, jobs, trainings, webinars, and important federal legislation. ASWM also continued to improve the user friendliness of its website by redesigning several webpage formats, including the look of its homepage, webinars page, state programs and wetland restoration pages. The Wetlands One-Stop Mapping webpages were also updated and a new Wetland Mapping Training page was developed with instructional webinars produced through the Wetland Mapping Consortium and the National Wetlands Inventory.

## Improving Wetland Restoration Success

**Webinar Series:** ASWM continued its newest webinar series as part of its efforts to tackle some of the biggest challenges for wetland restoration and share insights and lessons learned from experts in the field. Eleven free webinars were produced on topics such as Novel Ecosystems and Restoration, Wetland Restoration in Urban and Highly Disturbed Landscapes, Peat Land Restoration, Prairie Pothole Restoration, and more. All of these webinars were recorded, edited and posted on ASWM's website.

**Members' Webinar Series – A Valuable Series of Training & Presentations:** ASWM continued its Members' Webinar series in 2015. This webinar series is a benefit only available to ASWM members. Members may participate and also access recordings of past webinars. Monthly webinars cover science, legal and policy issues. In 2015, members were provided eight webinars on topics such as How to Use Video to Communicate a Science Message, Using Beaver as a Restoration Tool, Solar Project Siting and Wetland Permitting and more.

**Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA):** The NFFA held six webinars in 2015 on topics such as Maximizing Conservation in a Flood-Insurance Construct, Managing Water Where It Falls: Green Infrastructure in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and An Introduction to the Marsh Adaptation Strategy Tool. In alternate months, the NFFA held conference calls to discuss legislative activities in Washington DC and

across the nation. And ASWM's Executive Director, Jeanne Christie, participated in the NFFA meeting at the Association of State Wetland Managers Annual National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC):** In 2015, the WMC held seven webinars on topics such as Mapping With Ecological Site Descriptors, Minnesota's Restorable Wetland Prioritization Tool, The Florida Wetlands Integrity Dataset and NWI Standards & Dataset: A Cornerstone for Decision-Support. In addition, the WMC broadcast three presentations, in webinar format, live from ASWM's Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting at the National Conservation Training Center.

**Communications:** ASWM's Communications Team fine tuned their communications strategy and increased its outreach efforts resulting in greater participation in ASWM webinars (a 226.5% increase!) and social media including Facebook (22%) and LinkedIn (60%).

**Blogs:** ASWM's Program Staff produced weekly blogs on a rotating basis. They consist of **The Compleat Wetlander** by Jeanne Christie, **Salameander** by Peg Bostwick, **For Peat's Sake** by Marla Stelk and **The Wetland Wanderer** by Brenda Zollitsch. Guest bloggers included Dr. Chris Craft from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, Professor Kim Diana Connelly from the SUNY Buffalo Law School, and Eileen Shader from American Rivers.



# Collaborations

## Wetland Mapping Consortium

ASWM is a founding member of the Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC). The WMC is an interdisciplinary group of wetland scientists and managers interested in mapping and monitoring wetlands using remote sensing and/or using the resultant products to better manage wetland resources. The consortium fosters collaborations and disseminates data and findings for the purpose of enhanced wetland mapping and monitoring. Cooperative, synergistic, interdisciplinary research funding proposals and projects may be initiated that overcome limitations at a single institution or agency. ASWM hosted monthly webinars on a variety of wetland mapping and analysis techniques and strategies during 2015 which were recorded and posted on the ASWM website. In addition, two of the WMC webinars were used as training webinars and were posted to the Wetland Mapping Training webpage hosted on ASWM's Wetlands One-Stop Mapping website.



## Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance



The Association of State Wetland Managers is a founding member of the Natural Floodplain Functions Alliance (NFFA). The Alliance is an affiliation of federal agencies, professional and nonprofit organizations, and individuals who are dedicated to the protection and preservation of the natural functions of floodplains, which includes coastal areas. It was established to “promote, protect, and enhance the protection, restoration, and management of natural floodplain resources.” NFFA is not an advocacy organization.

ASWM maintains an NFFA webpage on its website

devoted to NFFA activities, including forthcoming and past webinars and conference calls. ASWM records webinars hosted by NFFA and they are available to the general public. Participation in the alliance is open to organizations that support natural floodplain functions. In December of 2015, the NFFA Steering Committee met in Washington D.C. to develop a strategic focus for 2016.



# Partnerships

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

## State Wetland Managers

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

## State Associations & Organizations

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

## Foundations

Horne Family Foundation  
McKnight Foundation  
Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation

## National Non-profits & Academic Institutions

American Planning Association  
American Rivers  
Center for Wetlands & Stream Restoration  
Ducks Unlimited  
Environmental Law Institute  
Michigan Wetlands Association  
Midwest Biodiversity Institute



Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District  
Mississippi River Delta Restoration Team  
Muskie School of Public Service  
(University of Southern Maine)  
National Caucus of Environmental Legislators  
National Wildlife Federation  
Ramsar U.S.  
River Network  
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota  
Society of Wetland Scientists  
South Dakota State University  
Stetson University College of Law  
SUNY Buffalo Law School  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Wetland Conservancy  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
University of Maine  
University of Massachusetts at Amherst  
University of Minnesota  
University of North Carolina  
Environmental Finance Center  
University of San Francisco  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Virginia Tech  
Yale University  
- Urban Ecology and Design Lab

## Federal Agencies

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
- Forest Service  
- Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Environmental Protection Division  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
- National Wetlands Inventory  
U.S. Geological Survey

# New Publications in 2015



## Wetlands and Climate Change: Considerations for Wetland Program Managers

The Association of State Wetland Managers prepared a white paper entitled *Wetlands and Climate Change: Considerations for Wetland Program Managers*, exploring the relationships between wetland management and climate mitigation and adaptation. These relationships are divided into three categories: the impacts of climate change on wetland ecosystems; the role of wetlands in mitigating the impact of climate change; and the role of wetlands in supporting adaptation to climate change impacts. Information regarding the status of state wetland programs in addressing climate change is also included. The paper was prepared with support from an EPA State Wetland Program Development Grant.

[Click here](#) to read or download the white paper.

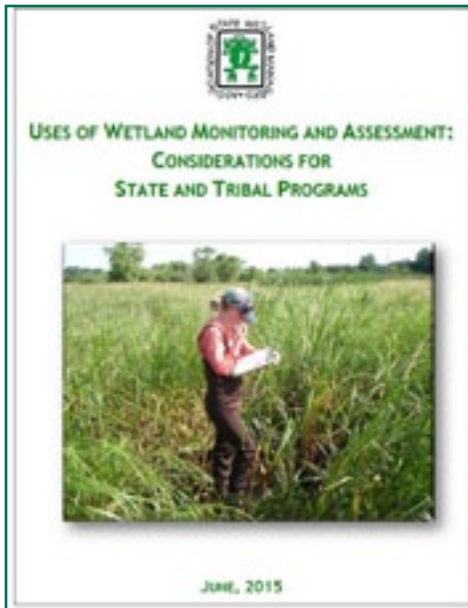
## Status and Trends Report on State Wetland Programs in the United States

The Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) released a new study of state-level wetland work in all fifty states. ASWM's national study is designed to: 1) assess status and trends; 2) identify models and lessons learned; and 3) document information and program development needs. Information gathered for each state includes a focus on status of program activity, focusing on EPA's Core Elements Framework. In addition to the report, a clickable map on ASWM's [Wetland Program Webpage](#) allows users to access individual state summaries for each of the 50 states. ASWM documented specific information on the status of each state's:

- Wetland regulation programs;
- Wetland monitoring and assessment activities;
- Voluntary wetland restoration programs and activities;
- Wetland water quality standards;
- Wetland program work in the areas of climate change or other adaptation efforts;
- Areas of wetland program integration with other specific state programs, and
- Unique education and outreach activities and models.



The final ASWM report, [Status and Trends Report of State Wetland Programs in the United States](#), provides a comprehensive look at how states are implementing wetland programs. It includes state summary documents, comparative data analysis and maps, descriptive text on status and trends, and documentation of potential models. The report also includes a set of recommendations for supporting state wetland programs and links to additional information for states and tribes to use as a resource for developing their own programs. The Status and Trends report and state summaries reflect the state of state wetland programs in 2014.



## Uses of Wetland Monitoring and Assessment: Considerations for State and Tribal Programs

The Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) released a new report – *Uses of Monitoring and Assessment: Considerations for State and Tribal Programs*. This report – which was prepared with financial assistance from an EPA State Wetland Program Development Grant – explores the various ways that states and tribes could make better use of existing monitoring and assessment methods to obtain science-based answers to wetland management problems. While it provides an overview of many common approaches to wetland monitoring, the focus is primarily on why these methods are selected for a given purpose. This report encourages the thoughtful identification of the most appropriate and efficient methods in light of available financial and staff resources. It may be particularly useful to states or tribes that are developing or updating wetland monitoring and assessment strategies.

[Click here](#) to read or download the report.



# Workshops/Conferences

## State/Federal Coordination Workshop

The Association of State Wetland Managers held a three-day workshop March 24-26, 2015 at the National Conservation Training Center near Shepherdstown, WV. The topic of the annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Workshop was “The New World of Wetlands: Dealing with Shifting Landscapes, Laws and Climate.” There were 134 attendees onsite and 109 remote participants.



During this three day workshop there was discussion on water quality standards for wetlands, assumption of Section 404, climate change, energy permitting, wetland restoration, the importance of soils, integration with state and federal transportation programs, Ramsar, and the National Wetland Condition Assessment. In addition, ASWM held a half-day concurrent session with the Wetland Mapping Consortium and held additional National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) presentations during the main session in celebration of NWI’s 40th Anniversary. Following the workshop, the agenda and PowerPoints from the workshop were made available to participants [here](#).



## EPA Region 7 Function-Based Wetland Restoration Training Workshop

During the first week of May, ASWM organized and participated in a wetland restoration training for EPA Region 7 States and Tribes. This training workshop was designed for 35 state and tribal wetland staff to spend two days in classroom and field exercises learning how to evaluate wetland functions on natural, altered and restored wetland sites. On the third day of the workshop a wetland creation was carried out.



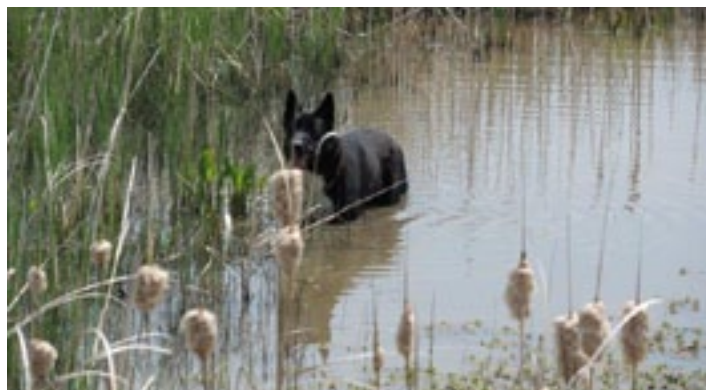
# Webinars

The Association of State Wetland Managers hosted a number of webinars in 2015 as part of ongoing projects to improve state wetland programs and to further the efforts of two collaborations: the Natural Floodplain Function Alliance and the Wetland Mapping Consortium. ASWM utilizes webinars as a tool for communication and for reaching an audience that would not otherwise be able to travel to conferences or seminars. ASWM also hosts a monthly webinar series for members only. Topics alternate between science, policy and legal issues each month. ASWM also records and post-processes all webinars and they are available to view on the ASWM website. The 2015 webinar series are listed below.

## Members' Wetland Webinar Series

This monthly series continued through 2015. The webinar topics are provided below.

- Climate-Smart Conservation for Wetlands – Dr. Bruce A. Stein, Senior Director, Climate Adaptation and Resilience, National Wildlife Federation
- Solar Project Siting and Wetland Permitting Part 2: Panel Discussion on State Wetland Permitting Considerations – Lealdon Langley, Massachusetts DEP Wetland Program; Laura Lapierre, Vermont DEC Wetland Program; Beth Alafat, U.S. EPA Region 1; and Cori Rose, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
- Solar Project Siting and Wetland Permitting – Roger Freeman, J.D., Solventerra
- Using Beaver as a Wetland Restoration Tool: Restoration Lessons Learned and an Introduction to the Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT) – Joe Wheaton, Assistant Professor and Ecogeomorphology & Topographic Analysis Lab Director at Utah State University
- Findings from ASMW's New Status and Trends Report on State Wetland Programs in the United States - Brenda Zollitsch, Policy Analyst, Association of State Wetland Managers



- Assessment of Wetland Mitigation Success: Findings from a New Study on Massachusetts Wetland Replication Projects - Lisa Rhodes, Massachusetts Wetland Program, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Scott Jackson, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- Monitoring Results from the Big Spring Run Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project and Prospects for Addressing Watershed Impairments Related to Legacy Sediment – Jeff Hartranft, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

## Hot Topic Webinars

- Legal Challenges to the Clean Water Rule: Which Court? What Questions? What Timeframe? – Roy Gardner, Professor of Law and Director, Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy and Kim Diana Connolly, Professor, Director of Clinical Legal Education, Vice Dean for Legal Skill, SUNY Buffalo New York
- Understanding Legal Challenges and Next Steps for the Clean Water Rule – Roy Gardner, Professor of Law and Director, Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy and Kim Diana Connolly, Professor, Director of Clinical Legal Education, Vice Dean for Legal Skill, SUNY Buffalo New York



- Understanding the Final Clean Water Rule and Changes to CWA Jurisdiction Included in Senate Bill 1140 – Roy Gardner, Professor of Law and Director, Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy and Kim Diana Connolly, Professor, Director of Clinical Legal Education, Vice Dean for Legal Skill, SUNY Buffalo New York
- American Wetlands Month National Webinar: The Ramsar Treaty/Convention on Wetlands – Barbara De Rosa Joynt, Chief of Biodiversity, U.S. Department of State; Roy C. Gardner, Chair, Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel; William J. Mitsch, Chair, US National Ramsar Committee; Chris Rostron, Head, Wetlands Link International/Member, Ramsar CEPA Oversight Panel; Lind Friar, Chief of Public Affairs, Everglades National Park, Florida; and Nathalie Bays, Manager of Interpretive Center Operations, Oak Hammock Marsh, Manitoba

## Natural Floodplain Function Alliance (NFFA) Webinars

- An Introduction to the Marsh Adaptation Strategy Tool (MAST) – Dr. Samuel Merrill, GEI Consultants, Inc.
- Stream-Wetland Restoration – Will Harmon, Stream Mechanics and Matt Daniels, River Design Group, Inc.
- Managing Water Where It Falls: Green Infrastructure in Milwaukee, Wisconsin – Kevin L. Shafer, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), Executive Director
- Square Peg, Round Hole –Maximizing Conservation in a Flood-Insurance Construct – Bonnie Shorin, NOAA
- EPA Adaptation Workbook: Lessons Learned in San Juan Bay, Puerto Rico – Michael Craghan, Climate Ready Estuaries Program, U.S. EPA
- Rooftops to Rivers: Lessons Learned from Tulsa, Oklahoma’s Successful Floodplain Management Program – Ronald D. Flanagan, CFM & Principal Planner, R.D. Flanagan & Associates, LLC

## Wetland Mapping Consortium Series

- NWI Standards & Dataset: A Cornerstone for Decision-Support – Mitch Bergeson, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Andy Robertson, Saint Mary’s University; and Megan Lang, University of Maryland
- From Fen to Floodplain: Steps in a Successful Landscape Level Wetland Inventory in Northeastern New Mexico – Andy Robertson, Saint Mary’s University and Maryann McGraw, New Mexico Environment Department
- Part 2 – The Florida Wetlands Integrity Dataset: Analysis of nonrenewable energy data and construction of graph-theoretic networks to quantify landscape integrity – John Humphreys and Amir Mahjoor, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Part 1 - The Florida Wetlands Integrity Dataset: Using soils data, topographic indices, and Bayesian probability to identify wetlands – John Humphreys and Amir Mahjoor, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Minnesota’s “Restoration Wetland Prioritization Tool” – Mark Gernes, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- WMC Workshop: “Accessing, Analyzing and Communicating Digital Wetland Data to Stakeholders for Decision-making” - Wetlands Spatial Data 101: How to Access Data on NWI Mapper and Other Resources – Mitch Bergeson, USFWS, National Standards Support Team
- Marsh Analysis and Planning Tool Incorporating Tides and Elevations (MAPTITE): A Geospatial Tool for Estuary Restoration – Lijuan Huang and Chris Paternostro, NOAA
- Mapping With Ecological Site Descriptors – Richard A. Weber, P.E., Wetland Hydraulic Engineer, NRCS



## Improving Wetland Restoration Success Webinars

- Improving Wetland Restoration “Success”: What We’ve Learned So Far – Jeanne Christie, Executive Director and Marla Stelk, Policy Analyst, Association of State Wetland Managers; David Olson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Mary Kentula, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s, National Health and Environmental Effects Laboratory’s, Western Ecology Division and Larry Urban, Montana Department of Transportation
- Novel Ecosystems and Restoration – Joy Zedler, Professor of Botany and Aldo Leopold Chair of Restoration Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison; and Marilyn Jordan, Former Senior Conservation Scientist, The Nature Conservancy on Long Island, NY
- Wetland Restoration in Urban and Highly Disturbed Landscapes – Tom Ries, Ecosphere Restoration Institute; Steven I. Apfelbaum, Applied Ecological Services, Inc.; and Alexander J. Felson, Yale University School of Architecture & School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
- Stream-Wetland Restoration – Will Harman, Stream Mechanics and Matt Daniels, River Design Group, Inc.
- Peat Land Restoration – Norman Famous & Marcia Spencer-Famous, Spencer-Famous Environmental Consultants; Richard Weber, NRCS Wetland Team; and Larry Urban, Montana Department of Transportation
- Riverine/Riparian Wetland Restoration – Richard Weber, NRCS Wetland Team, CNTSC and Larry Urban, Montana Department of Transportation
- Prairie Pothole Restoration – Sue Galatowitsch, University of Minnesota and Carter Johnson, South Dakota State University
- Vernal Pool Restoration – How to Restore the Landscape – Mick Micacchion, Midwest Biodiversity Institute; Christina M. Schaefer, Schaefer Ecological Solutions; and Aram J.K. Calhoun, The University of Maine
- Pacific Coast Wetland Restoration – Charles (“Si”) Simenstad, University of Washington and John Callaway, University of San Francisco
- Playa and Rainwater Basin Restoration – Rich Weber, NRCS Wetland Team, CNTSC and Ted LaGrange, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
- Temperate and Tropical/subtropical Seagrass Restoration: challenges for the 21st century – Robin Lewis, Lewis Environmental Services, Inc. & Coastal Resource Group, Inc. and Mark Fonseca, CSA Ocean Sciences



# FINANCIAL REPORT 2015

## INCOME

Non Cash (ASWM)	67,378
Contributions (Public Support)	478,710
Program Income	20,575
Membership Dues	21,827
Interest Income	232
Reimbursed Expenses	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$588,722</u></b>

## EXPENSE

<b>Labor (personnel)</b>	<b>\$395,258</b>
<b>Nonlabor</b>	
Commercial Insurance	1,748
Non-employee compensation	4,878
Office Computers (IT)	3,900
General Office	24,816
Program Expense	51,089
Travel Expense	18,722
Miscellaneous	1,842
<b>Total Nonlabor</b>	<b><u>\$106,995</u></b>
<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>65,775</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b><u>\$568,028</u></b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$20,694</u></b>

## ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	272,216
Accounts Receivable	10,215
Other Current Assets	100
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b><u>\$282,431</u></b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$282,431</u></b>

## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

### Liabilities

Total Accounts Payable	0
Other Current Liabilities	42,463

### Total Liabilities

**\$42,463**

### Equity

Retained Earnings	219,273
Net Income	20,694

### Total Equity

**\$239,968**

### TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

**\$228,431**

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





# Board of Directors

## Officers:



### **Collis Adams, Chairman**

Collis has served as the administrator of the Wetlands Bureau at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) for the past thirteen years. As the administrator, he oversees all activities relative to the New Hampshire Dredge and Fill Law (NH RSA 482-A) and the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (NH RSA 483-B). Collis lives in Goffstown, New Hampshire with his wife Laura. He has two children, one of each, and is particularly proud that he has instilled in them his same sense of love for the outdoors. Collis particularly enjoys spending time along the varied coastlines of New England and he is seldom seen without his yellow lab Zoë at his side.



### **Kenneth Murin, Vice Chairman**

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

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



### **Mark Biddle, Secretary/Treasurer**

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

## Members At Large:

### **Denise Clearwater - Maryland Department of the Environment**

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



### **Andrew J. May - Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Environmental Consultant**

Andy May is a graduate of George Mason University, in Virginia. He is a biologist with over 15 years of professional experience. His specialties include the ecology of lotic, wetland, estuarine and coastal environments, the fisheries of the southeast and mid-Atlantic regions, and water resource regulation within the State of Florida. Mr. May began his career by performing assessments of tidal and freshwater fish and macroinvertebrate communities of urbanized watersheds within Northern Virginia. He served with Fairfax County's Stormwater Management Program, where he helped to develop a countywide baseline stream condition assessment and Stream Protection Strategy. He studied coastal and estuarine fisheries populations and trophic dynamics as part of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute's Fisheries-Independent Monitoring program.

He joined FDEP in Tampa, in 2007, where he served with the Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) and Sovereignty Submerged Lands (SSL) programs. He has worked on a diverse range of regulated projects, from minor exemptions to brownfields, deepwater ports, and major utility projects. He now serves as an Environmental Consultant for the Submerged Lands and Environmental Resources Coordination Program in the Division of Water Resource Management where he leads major regulatory rule development and reform efforts, and helps to ensure consistent implementation of Florida's Statewide ERP program.



### **Doug Norris - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**

Doug is the Wetlands Program Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Ecological and Water Resources Division, a position he has held since 1992. Doug represents the DNR in developing state wetland policies and programs. He was involved in developing the original rules for Minnesota's main wetland regulatory program and has collaborated on numerous subsequent legislative and rule revisions. Doug manages the DNR's program for identifying and regulating impacts to calcareous fens, which receive special protection under state law. He provides guidance and technical assistance to DNR staff in reviewing wetland permits and in complying with wetland regulations for DNR projects. Doug also provides technical expertise in developing wetland assessment methods such as the Minnesota Routine Assessment Method and in developing methods for prioritizing wetland restorations for maximum benefit.



### **Bill Ryan - Oregon Department of State Lands**

Bill Ryan is the Assistant Director at the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) leading the Wetlands and Waterways Conservation Division and is responsible for implementation of Oregon's Removal-Fill and Wetlands Conservation Laws. Prior to joining the DSL in June of 2010, Bill enjoyed 14 years at the Oregon Department of Transportation performing environmental compliance work including wetlands delineation and mitigation, mitigation banking, regulatory streamlining and process improvement. Bill started his professional career in Southern California in 1989 working for various planning and engineering firms providing environmental planning and habitat restoration expertise for various planning and engineering firms.

# ASWM Staff

## **Jeanne Christie, Executive Director**

Jeanne has been with ASWM since 1999 and Executive Director since 2001. From 1995 to 1999 she was a Resource Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wetlands and Watersheds Division where she was national program leader for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. She worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wetlands Division (1988-1995) moving from the staff level to Section Chief and Acting Branch Chief. Jeanne is a 2007 winner of the National Wetlands Award for Education and Outreach. During her spare time she runs on the local snowmobile trails, gardens furiously and volunteers as a Maine Master Naturalist. She lives in an 1860 farmhouse in Windham, ME with her husband Larry and their 'rescued' animal companions Navia, Gabby and Connie Kitty.

## **Peg Bostwick, Senior Staff Policy Analyst**

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

## **Brenda Zollitsch, PhD, Policy Analyst**

Brenda is a Policy Analyst at the Association of State Wetland Managers. Brenda's areas of expertise include water resource policy, stormwater management, collaborative environmental policy implementation, and most recently, climate adaptation. At ASWM, Brenda conducts research and policy analysis on wetland and stream issues, manages projects; designs, coordinates and evaluates training for wetland professionals; coordinates webinars; publishes reports, articles and blogs; helps develop communications guidance; and is involved in conference planning and making presentations on ASWM's work to a variety of audiences. Brenda recently completed a national status and trends/state summaries project analyzing 50 state wetland programs across the United States and a national stream identification, delineation and mitigation study. She currently leads projects focused on increasing access to high quality wetland training and improving energy permitting to protect wetlands. Brenda received her PhD in Public Policy from the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service in 2012, focusing on environmental policy and collaborative environmental management. She has her double Master's degree from Boston University and her bachelor's degree from the University of Maine. Brenda has 25 years of organizational leadership experience and a strong background in academic and action research, facilitation, training and communications. Brenda is a Switzer Environmental Fellow and has been instrumental in developing regional approaches to stormwater management in the State of Maine.

## **Marla J. Stelk, Policy Analyst**

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

### **Dawn Smith, Communications Specialist**

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

### **Steve Palmer, Bookkeeper**

Steve has a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Maine. Steve “re-tooled” after years in sales and has become a specialist for bookkeeping and tax preparations. He has worked for ASWM for six years. A flexible schedule has allowed Steve to donate some of his time to charity nonprofits. Steve and his wife, Dottie, live on a five-acre woodlot near Sebago Lake. They enjoy living in Maine with their Springer Spaniel, Jennie.

### **Laura Burchill, Program Assistant**

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

### **Sharon Weaver, Webmaster**

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

### **Jon Kusler, Associate Director, Emeritus**

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

