

TRIBAL WETLAND PROGRAMS WEBINAR SERIES
MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT: DATA COLLECTION
AND APPLICATIONS FOR TRIBAL WETLAND PROGRAMS

April 20, 2023

3:00pm – 4:30pm ET

Hosted by the National Association of
Wetland Managers and Saint Mary's University
of Minnesota GeoSpatial Services



WEBINAR #5: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT: DATA COLLECTION AND APPLICATIONS FOR TRIBAL WETLAND PROGRAMS



Webinar Overview:

Monitoring and assessment is one possible component of a Wetland Program Plan as described in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Core Elements Framework. Having a monitoring and assessment program is a critical tool for Tribes and states in managing and protecting their wetland resources. Monitoring and assessment can help document a baseline for wetlands extent, condition, and function and to detect changes over time in order to make appropriate resource management decisions. In this webinar, we will hear from Tribal representatives about their ongoing wetland monitoring and assessment programs, including priorities, design, and implementation.

Introduction: Kerryann Weaver, EPA Region 5

Webinar Presenters:

- Michelle Bahnick, Tulalip Tribes
- Bubby Gopher, Chippewa Cree Tribe
- Laurel Wilson, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa



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INSTITUTE

WEBINAR AGENDA



**Saint Mary's
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GEOSPATIAL SERVICES



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Welcome & Introduction
(15 minutes)

Presentations
(60 minutes)

Q&A
(15 minutes)



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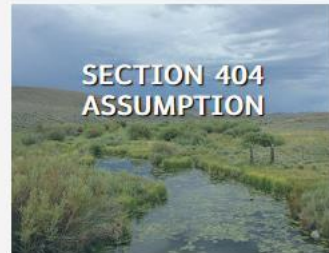
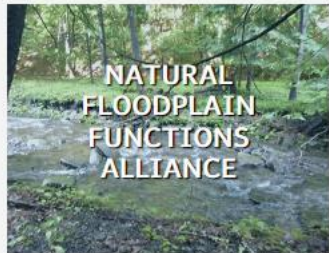


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(by Webinar Series)



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TODAY'S MODERATOR



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Kathy Allen
Natural Resource Analyst,
Saint Mary's University of
MN - GeoSpatial Services

TODAY'S PRESENTERS



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Kerryann Weaver
EPA Region 5



Michelle Bahnick
Tulalip Tribes



Bubby Gopher
Chippewa Cree Tribe



Laurel Wilson
Grand Portage Band of
Lake Superior Chippewa



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CHANGING OVER TO
PRESENTER'S COMPUTER...

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THANK YOU!



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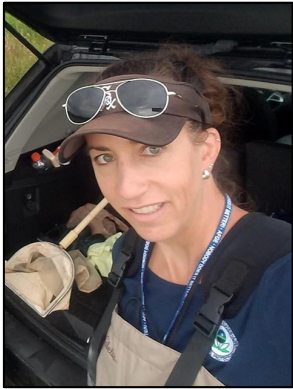
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Guest Biographies



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Kerryann Weaver is Wetlands Section Supervisor with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 Office in Chicago. Kerryann oversees staff in Clean Water Act Section 404 permit review, wetland mitigation banking coordination, 404 program assumption, CWA jurisdiction, and Tribal and State Wetland Program Coordination for Enhancing State and Tribal Programs. Kerryann has close to 20 years of federal government service, having joined the EPA after working as a marine biologist with NOAA Fisheries as well as serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Rural Aquaculture Program in Zambia.

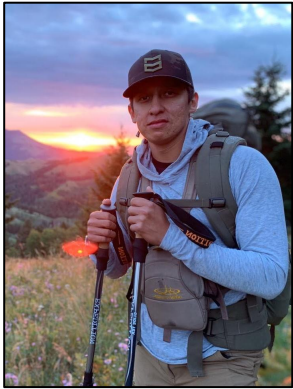


Michelle Bahnick is the Wetland Biologist for the Tulalip Tribes of Washington Natural and Cultural Resources Division where they manage the Tribes' Wetland Program. Having started this position in November 2021, they are extremely grateful for the work of the other wetland biologists who have developed the Tulalip Tribes' wetland program. Michelle is excited to further develop and refine the Wetland Program in order to preserve, protect, enhance, restore, and manage wetlands and their functions for the benefit of the Tulalip Tribes now and into the future. Prior to their work with the Tulalip Tribes, Michelle worked in environmental consulting, assisted with studies assessing juvenile salmonid passage through dams on the Columbia River, caught rock iguanas in the Bahamas for a long-term life history study, and served with the Washington Conservation Corps to restore riparian areas and monitor Aquatic Reserves in Puget Sound. They hold a M.S. in Biology from Western Washington University, a B.A. in Biology from Earlham College, and a certificate in Wetland Science and Management from the University of Washington.

Guest Biographies



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Bubby Gopher was born and raised on the Rocky Boy's Reservation in north central Montana. He grew up spending a lot of time in the outdoors, which led him to the field of the environmental protection realm. Bubby has worked for the Chippewa Cree Environmental Department for three years now, starting as a part-time employee and working into a full-time position as the Wetlands Coordinator. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree, as well as an Associate of Arts- Natural Resource Geospatial Technology and also an Associate of Arts- Elementary Education. In his free time, Bubby enjoys spending time with his wife and 8-month-old daughter. He also enjoys hunting and being outdoors year-round.



Laurel Wilson is the Wetlands Specialist for the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, in the northeastern tip of Minnesota. Since taking on this role in 2019, she has established a wetland program focused on monitoring, mapping, and protecting the high-quality wetland resources in Grand Portage. Laurel also conducts wild rice monitoring and has been working to develop a wetland monitoring program in the 1854 Ceded Territory. Laurel's background is in invasive plant management and plant community ecology. She has an M.S. in Plant Biology from Southern Illinois University, and a B.S. in Conservation Biology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.