



## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Keynote Speaker**

#### **Stephanie L. Hansen, Esq., Delaware State Senator, District 10**



Sen. Stephanie Hansen represents the 10th Senate District, which includes portions of Glasgow, Middletown, Odessa and other communities along the western side of Southern New Castle County in Delaware.

Hansen entered public service as the founder and first president of the Frenchtown Woods Civic Association and then the multi-community Bear Glasgow Council of Civic Organizations in 1991. She was elected county-wide to serve as the President of New Castle County Council from 1996 to 2001. While on County Council, she was part of the team that rewrote the County's land use code and provided specific assistance with its environmental provisions. During that time, she attended Widener University School of Law (now called the Delaware Law School) and graduated cum laude in 2000. She went on to practice environmental law for nearly 20 years before retiring in 2020 to be a full-time legislator in the Delaware State Senate. She was first elected to the Delaware State Senate in 2017 and has continued to serve since that time. She recently won re-election in November 2024.

Sen. Hansen currently serves as chair of the Senate Environment, Energy and Transportation Committee and a member of the Senate Agriculture, Education, Election & Government Affairs, and Health & Social Services committees. She also holds a seat on the budget-writing Joint Finance Committee. Sen. Hansen has served as the prime sponsor of most of the energy-related legislation in the Delaware Senate since 2000.

While developing legislation, Sen. Hansen has specialized in the formation and leadership of large, diverse, stakeholder groups to collectively investigate broad environmental and energy issues, and craft legislation to address the issues identified. Sen. Hansen currently runs a large stakeholder group composed of natural resource and agriculture regulatory agencies, environmental organizations, farmers and other large landowners developing legislation to put in place the state's first nontidal wetland program.

### **Steven M. Anderson, North Carolina Division of Water Resources**



Steven is a Wetland Ecologist with the North Carolina Division of Water Resources' Wetland Science and Outreach Program in the Water Sciences Section. He is an ecosystem ecologist committed to advancing data-driven stewardship of forest and aquatic ecosystems. Steven holds an M.Sc. in Forest Ecology from N.C. State University and a B.Sc. in Conservation Biology from SUNY-ESF. His career has focused on understanding the impacts of environmental stressors—such as salinization, fire, and contaminants—on forested and freshwater ecosystems. Grounded in the biological sciences, Steven is passionate about using science, community engagement, and experiential learning to address the disproportionate effects of climate change and sea level rise, particularly in marginalized and under-resourced communities. He strives to bridge ecological research with actionable solutions that promote environmental justice and community resilience.

### **David Benson, Marian University**



David P. Benson, Ph.D., is a Professor of Biology at Marian University and the founding director of the 75-acre Marian University Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab, where he leads applied research and hands-on restoration of urban wetlands, riparian corridors, and beaver-influenced headwater systems. He teaches Restoration Ecology and Conservation Biology, has developed restoration plans for local nonprofits and community partners, and has secured multimillion-dollar support for the EcoLab while mentoring more than 130 undergraduate researchers on projects ranging from invasive shrub removal and avian responses to management to his beaver canal formation and function research. In Glacier National Park, his long-term "Move, Adapt, or Die" work examines how climate change is reshaping White-tailed Ptarmigan distribution, habitat, and numbers; he also serves as an interpretive naturalist there. At NAWM 2026, Benson will present on restoring beaver-dominated headwater stream systems in central Indiana.

### **Tomi Bergstrom, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection**



Tomi is an Environmental Resources Specialist Supervisor, where she serves as the Co-Coordinator for the WV Stream Partners Program and the state coordinator for Project WET (Water Education Today). She has worked at the WV Department of Environmental Protection since 2011. Through Project WET she works with educators and partners across the state to teach and promote the award-winning water curriculum through water festivals, workshops, camps, and other educational outreach events. She received her master's degree in Biological Sciences from Marshall University Graduate College and has a B.S. in Zoology with minors in Sociology and Chemistry from Marshall University. Tomi implements watershed improvement projects and supervises Watershed Basin Coordinators to connect watershed volunteers to partners and implement watershed improvement projects. In her spare time, Tomi can be found gardening, backpacking, or trail running along the streams and rivers of West Virginia.

**Mark Biddle, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (retired)**



Mark Biddle is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) with more than 35 years of experience. Mark retired from a long career at the Delaware Department of Natural Resources in the Watershed Assessment and Management Section. Mark managed the Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program, the Watershed Management Program, Stream Habitat and Biology Program, and the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Program. Mark has been involved in Delaware's regulatory and permitting responsibilities for tidal wetlands, subaqueous lands, 401 water quality certification, and drafting legislation and regulations for non-tidal wetlands. His work has involved the Delaware Wetlands Conservation Strategy, wetland restoration, compensatory mitigation, wetland banking, assessing restored wetlands for nutrient assimilation, and serving as team

leader for Delaware Whole Basin Management. He's helped lead multiple statewide and regional wetland mapping and other geospatial efforts and participated in various ecological and green infrastructure initiatives. Since leaving employment at DNREC, Mark worked for Maryland Environmental Service as Program Manager for Engineering and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). He is currently doing environmental consulting with Dewey Environmental, LLC.

**Ann Boeholt, Atlas Technical Consultants**



Ann is a Professional Wetland Scientist and a Senior Environmental Manager with Atlas, responsible for leading the Wetland Practice Group. Ann has 37 years of professional experience from within federal, state, and local government, and private sector consulting. Through her career she has gained experience in wetland delineation, assessment, mitigation planning and design, construction management, and environmental and land use permitting. Some of her achievements include managing environmental permitting task orders for fish passage construction, floodplain and wetland habitat restoration, and energy projects, serving as construction manager for

wetland mitigation project construction, leading long-term monitoring programs for wetland and habitat mitigation sites, and developing and implementing the Pierce County In-Lieu Fee Program for Wetland Mitigation. She currently provides guidance and mentoring to the Atlas team of wetland scientists, manages projects throughout Washington State, and is serving as Deputy Environmental Compliance Manager for the WSDOT Coastal 29, Bundle 5 Fish Passage Corrections during the 2026 construction season.

### **Shinya Burck, New Mexico Environment Department**



Shinya Burck is a Wetlands Program Project Officer with the New Mexico Environment Department, where she manages EPA funded wetland initiatives, coordinates interagency restoration projects, and supports the development of Wetland Action Plans across the state. Her work focuses on watershed health, wetland assessment, and stakeholder engagement. Shinya holds a B.S. in Biology and is currently pursuing a Master of Natural Resource Management at the University of Idaho, along with a certification in Fire Ecology, Management, and Technology. Her professional background includes aquatic habitat monitoring, riparian restoration, and multi-agency conservation planning with state, federal, and nonprofit partners throughout the Southwest.

### **Natalie Byers, RK&K**



Natalie Byers is a Project Engineer II in RK&K's Natural Resources group. She is a licensed Professional Engineer and holds an MS in Environmental Science and Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. During her 12 years of experience, she has designed and monitored a variety of wetland restoration and living/hybrid shoreline projects in the Delaware and Maryland region.

### **Rachel DeNoewer, Ohio Department of Natural Resources**



Rachel DeNoewer is an Assistant Program Manager for the H2Ohio program at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). ODNR's H2Ohio program focuses on the restoration of wetland ecosystems for the purpose of improving water quality. Rachel has been working for ODNR since 2021 and previously worked for several different non-profit organizations in central Ohio. Rachel is an alum of The Ohio State University graduating with a degree in Natural Resource Management.

### **Donna Downing, National Association of Wetland Managers**



Donna Downing is the Senior Legal Policy Advisor at the National Association of Wetland Managers. Donna was the Jurisdiction Team Leader in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds from 2007-2020. Donna worked on a variety of issues at EPA, with a focus in recent years on the geographic scope of the Clean Water Act (CWA) in light of the U.S. Supreme Court decisions. She also served as EPA's staff lead for CWA section 401 water quality certification, and on wetland-related legal issues. Prior to joining EPA in 1998, Donna worked for the U.S. Congress Office of Technology Assessment and in private law practice. She has a BA magna cum laude from Harvard University, an MPP from the University of California at Berkeley, a JD cum laude from Georgetown University Law School, and an LLM in Environmental Law summa cum laude from George Washington University Law School. Donna has been an adjunct professor at George Washington University Law School since 1996, teaching environmental law.

### **Brian Frazer, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**



Frazer is the Director of EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds. In this capacity, Brian oversees monitoring, assessment, nutrients, watershed restoration and protection, and non-point source pollution control efforts at the national, state, and local levels. Additionally, he manages a diverse portfolio of regulatory and non-regulatory programs focused on protecting and restoring the nation's waters. More specifically, Brian leads critical regulatory efforts associated with the Clean Water Act sections 312, 401, and 404 and the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. Brian oversees several non-regulatory programs, including the National Estuary Program, Urban Waters, Coral Reefs, and Trash Free Waters. Brian has over 35 years of environmental experience and has worked at EPA for 25 years.

### **Olivia French, Ohio Department of Natural Resources**



Olivia French is the Wetlands Program Coordinator for the H2Ohio program at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Olivia has been with ODNR since 2024, leading outreach efforts and coordinating federal grant applications. Olivia is an alum of The Ohio State University graduating with a degree in Environmental Policy and Decision Making in 2022. Prior to joining ODNR, Olivia worked with the City of Columbus and National Park Service.

### **Ashley Giles, Colorado Trout Unlimited**



Ashley Giles is a Restoration Ecologist working at the intersection of policy and on-the-ground practice. She holds dual BAs in Biology and Environmental Studies from the University of Colorado Boulder, where she was among the early students of the Center of the American West—an experience that grounded her understanding of the ecological, cultural, and societal dynamics shaping the region. Raised in the watersheds of the Rocky Mountains by a geologist, Ashley developed a deep appreciation for headwater systems, which led her to earn a master’s degree from Colorado State University with a focus on freshwater ecosystem restoration. Ashley has worked with the

Bureau of Land Management, the National Science Foundation, the National Park Service, and in environmental consulting. Her expertise includes wetland and riparian restoration, state and federal permitting, biological surveys and functional assessments, and native plant development and procurement. She also brings extensive experience in project management and watershed planning across Colorado, partnering with stakeholders to advance efforts in instream flow, fish passage, habitat protection, water quality, and environmental justice. In 2024, Ashley joined Colorado Trout Unlimited and partner organizations as the technical advisor supporting the development of Regulation 87, Colorado’s rules designed to protect vulnerable waters.

### **Tyler Klifman, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments**



Tyler is a Planner at the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, with a decade of experience leading regional initiatives to support conservation, sustainability, and resilience. His work balances complex data analysis and interpretation with consensus-building engagement among a wide range of stakeholders to develop and implement regional plans and policies. In addition to providing capacity-building support to SEMCOG’s 250 local municipalities, Tyler is a member of

the Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Council, Michigan Association of Planning’s Government Relations Committee, and recently received a Certificate in Climate Change and Health from Yale University. He has a BS in Urban and Regional Planning from Michigan State University, and a MS in Environmental Systems Management from Pratt Institute.

### **Sarah Koser, Maryland Department of Natural Resources**



Sarah Koser is a Climate Projects Officer at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), where she manages a \$43M EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. She is a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS), Board Certified Environmental Scientist (BCES), and Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP) with over 25 years of experience in wetlands science and restoration. Before joining MDNR, Sarah served as Restoration Program Manager at the Chesapeake Bay Trust, overseeing more than 200 subawards and contracts and leading major grant programs focused on wetlands and ecological restoration, including EPA’s Tidal Wetlands Capacity Building and Green Streets

initiatives. Her work advanced restoration goals and fostered collaboration among federal, state, and local partners across the Chesapeake Bay region. Previously, Sarah spent nearly two decades as a Senior Scientist at EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC, specializing in habitat restoration, wetland delineation, rare species surveys, and NEPA compliance for agencies such as the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

### **Megan Lang, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**



Megan Lang is Acting Branch Chief and Chief Scientist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory Program. She is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland Department of Geographical Sciences and serves as an Associate Editor for the journal *Wetlands*. Dr. Lang has been working to improve the assessment of aquatic ecosystems through field and remote sensing studies for over two decades. Before working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, she led the U.S. Department of Agricultural Mid-Atlantic Regional Wetland Conservation Effects Assessment Project.

### **Karen Menetrey, Rio Grande Return**



Karen Menetrey is the Director of Ecological Opportunities for Rio Grande Return, where she translates three decades of public service into action-based landscape healing. At the core of this New Mexico non-profit (501c3) is a commitment to low-tech, process-based restoration, including beaver mimicry, fire recovery, green stormwater infrastructure, and ecovoltaics. Before joining Rio Grande Return, she dedicated 30 years to the New Mexico Environment Department, where she advanced surface and groundwater quality programs. Her achievements include overseeing an influential funding program that restored rivers statewide, managing a groundwater and brownfields cleanup program, managing wetland mapping, planning, protection and restoration grants, and regulating groundwater pollution

prevention permits. Karen holds a BA in Geological Sciences from the University of California at Santa Barbara and completed graduate coursework in Hydrogeology at the University of Wyoming.

### **John Paul Miller, Center for Geospatial Solutions**



John Paul (JP) is Director of Environmental Strategies at the Center for Geospatial Solutions (CGS), where he leads initiatives across wetlands, water resources, land restoration, and environmental monitoring. His work focuses on developing actionable data and decision-support tools that help public agencies and partners steward land and water resources more effectively and equitably.

### **Katie Morgan, Partner Engineering and Science, Inc.**



Katie L. Morgan is a nationally recognized Environmental Professional (EP) and Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS) with over 15 years of experience advancing wetland science, environmental policy, and advocating for sustainable development across the United States. As Director of Natural and Cultural Resources at Partner Engineering and Science, Inc., she leads a multidisciplinary team providing nationwide consulting services in wetlands, biological resources, NEPA compliance, and cultural resource management for both public and private sector clients.

Katie's expertise spans wetland determinations and delineations, Section 404/401 permitting, threatened and endangered species assessments, and complex environmental reviews under NEPA, CEQA, and other programs. She has managed high-profile projects involving multiple federal agencies—including HUD, USDA, DOE, and BLM—and has extensive experience in remediation, due diligence, and risk-based assessments under the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's RECAP program.

An active member of the National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM), Katie currently serves on both the Finance Committee and the Communications and Outreach Committee, contributing her technical insight, strategic leadership, and commitment to advancing effective wetland management and policy nationwide. Known for her collaborative leadership style, she emphasizes mentorship, regulatory integrity, and practical solutions that bridge science, policy, and implementation.

Katie holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and maintains certifications as a Lake County, Illinois Certified Wetland Specialist and a North Carolina Surface Water Identification-trained professional. Based in New Orleans, she brings both technical depth and strategic perspective to the evolving field of wetland management and environmental leadership.

### **Jim Murphy, National Wildlife Federation**



Jim Murphy is the Senior Director of Legal Advocacy with National Wildlife Federation (NWF) where he advances National Wildlife Federation's legal engagement with the judicial, administrative, and legislative branches of government in order to protect wildlife, with a focus on water, energy, and climate issues including advancing regulatory solutions to carbon pollution, protecting the nation's waters and wetlands, and promoting clean, wildlife friendly renewable energy. He also serves on several boards, including the Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute, the Vermont Advisory Board for the Conservation Law Foundation which he currently chairs, and is Chair of the Montpelier Roxbury School District Board of Directors. In collaboration with NWF, he directed the Vermont Law School Environmental Advocacy Clinic from 2019-2022 and was an assistant professor at the law school. He

has an LL.M., summa cum laude, in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School, a J.D. from Boston College Law School, and B.A. in Political Science and History from the University of Vermont.

### **Kristine Oblock, Clean Water for All**

Kristine leads the Coalition's Protect Our Waters Campaign to protect and expand clean water safeguards across the country in light of the Supreme Court case *Sackett v. EPA*. Kristine comes to Clean Water for All with more than a decade of experience in organizing and advocacy. She has run a variety of campaigns from local to national, as well as field operations and voter mobilization. She lives in Colorado and spends her free time enjoying our natural resources through wilderness exploration at every opportunity.

### **Erin O'Brien, Wisconsin Wetlands Association with oblock panel**



Erin O'Brien has served as Policy Programs Director for Wisconsin Wetlands since 2004. Her current work focuses on strengthening state laws and regulations governing wetland management, building capacity to help integrate wetland conservation into state-sponsored programs, and providing support to communities interested in restoring wetlands to solve problems. Erin has a Master's degree in Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and more than twenty-five years of experience managing projects for non-profit organizations.

### **Teresa Opolka, Washington State Department of Ecology**



Teresa is a Professional Wetland Scientist with 25 years of experience in the identification, assessment, and regulation of wetlands in Washington State. She is the Wetlands Policy Lead for the Washington State Department of Ecology where she is working on rulemaking to create the State Waters Alteration Permit. This proposed permit program will replace the current State regulatory process for impacts to wetlands and other state waters. Her prior work experience as a consultant included guiding projects through the permitting process by conducting wetland delineations and preparing supporting documents such as wetland reports, assessments, and mitigation plans.

### **Portia Osborne, National Association of Wetland Managers**



Portia is the Executive Director at the National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM). She has worked on wetland policy and management issues at NAWM since 2022, including leading projects to build the capacity of state and Tribal wetland programs across the country, planning workshops and training events, and coordinating with NAWM members on wetland policy changes. Before coming to NAWM, Portia spent a decade working in environmental consulting, during which time she conducted natural resource assessments and wetland delineations and prepared state and federal permit applications for transportation, oil and gas, and renewable energy projects across the country. Portia earned her MS in Ecology and BS in Environmental Biology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF). Portia loves all wetlands but is particularly fond of the salt marshes in southern Maine and the peatlands found in her native Adirondack Mountains.

### **Annette Quill, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment**



Annette Quill serves as the Senior Policy Advisor for the Water Quality Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. After receiving a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Indiana University and a J.D. from Gonzaga University, she began her legal career in 1997 as a clerk with the Colorado Supreme Court. For the next 25 years, Annette worked as an Assistant Attorney General with the Colorado Department of Law, serving as counsel to the Water Quality Control Division in both advisory and litigation capacities, where she worked on a wide range of water quality and drinking water issues. In January 2025, Annette went "in-house" to work with her client agency. Her first project was spearheading the drafting of

Colorado House Bill 24-1379, which established the nation's first state dredge-and-fill program in direct response to the Sackett decision. Annette then oversaw the year-long stakeholder process to develop Regulation 87, the implementing regulation for the new legislation, which became effective at the end of March 2026.

### **Andy Robertson, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota GeoSpatial Services**



Andy Robertson is the Executive Director of GeoSpatial Services at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. With over 20 years of experience as a key partner to the USFWS, he leads a diverse range of projects across the Lower 48 and Alaska, specializing in wetland inventory, national hydrography dataset updates, and indigenous community climate resilience. Andy is a recognized leader in the field, serving as a board member for the National Association of Wetland Managers and President-Elect of the Society of Wetland Scientists North Central Chapter. Based in Winona, MN, he continues to drive innovation in natural resource condition assessments and stakeholder consultation.

### **Alison Rogerson, Delaware Dept of Natural Resources and Environmental Control**



Alison Rogerson is an Environmental Scientist for Delaware Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation's (DNREC) Division of Watershed Stewardship. Alison has been with DNREC for 17 years, working with the Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program to increase the acreage and function of wetlands statewide. Alison's work focuses on research, science-based assessment methods, outreach and education, and restoration demonstration to improve the state of wetland conservation and management in Delaware. Alison's background is in wildlife conservation, ornithology and wetland ecology.

### **Carrie Sandstedt, The Pew Charitable Trusts**



Carrie Sandstedt leads Pew's work to protect and reconnect rivers, wetlands, and coastal areas and conserve important lands and wildlife habitat across the Western United States. Her efforts, as part of Pew's U.S. conservation project, focus on advancing policies and projects that preserve these critical lands, waters, and the benefits they provide for community and ecosystem resilience. Sandstedt previously worked to protect high-quality waters and restore free-flowing rivers throughout the U.S. She also led Pew campaigns to designate wilderness and national monuments, initiated efforts to defend against environmental policy rollbacks, and conducted numerous trainings for grassroots advocates. Before joining Pew, Sandstedt led conservation, labor, and electoral campaigns throughout the Western U.S. and served in the Peace Corps in Togo, West Africa. Sandstedt holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is based in Durango, Colorado.

### **Sean Saunders, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission**



Sean has a distinguished career in environmental management and wildlife conservation, primarily through his role at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Currently he serves as the agency's Environmental Review Biologist. He handles environmental reviews throughout the state of Arkansas, providing technical advice to avoid, minimize, and mitigate wildlife impacts from development projects in streams and wetlands. He previously served as the lead for the War Eagle Creek Barrier Removal Project, in his role as the agency's North Central Arkansas Stream Habitat Coordinator. He oversaw the design, implementation, and coordination between federal, state, and private partners to ensure the successful restoration of aquatic connectivity and riparian habitat. Sean has a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management and Fisheries from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He has also completed aquatic habitat restoration courses that include the four Wildland Hydrology courses, multiple River Research & Design courses, the Canadian Rivers Institute Newbury Riffle course, the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership's Barrier Assessment training, and the FEMA Unpaved Roads Program training. Correspondence regarding this project or potential collaborations can be directed to [sean.saunders@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:sean.saunders@agfc.ar.gov).

### **Jennifer Sheehan, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission**



Jennifer Elise Sheehan is the Chief of the Environmental Coordination Division at the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission (AGFC). She received a Bachelor's Degree in History and Anthropology from Augusta University, a Master's Degree in Environmental Policy and Management from the University of Maryland, and is a Fellow of the National Conservation Leadership Institute. Jennifer has worked for the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Lab, the USGS-Biological Resources Division in Alaska, Birds Australia, Kansas State University, and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission. Her background is in wetland biology and environmental policy. In her current role Jennifer acts as the liaison between the Commission and the federal government, primarily the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where she ensures that AGFC upholds our responsibilities under the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act by reviewing federally funded, licensed, and permitted water development projects statewide.

### **Zach Shephard, New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau**



**Zach Shephard** is a Wetlands Program Project Officer at the New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau; a role has held for the past year. He has a B.S. in Geosciences from Boise State University and a M.S. in Hydrology from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. Prior to joining the wetlands world, he was a hydrologist at the U.S. Geological Survey New Mexico Water Science Center for over 9 years. At the USGS Zach got to work on and manage a wide variety of hydrology and water quality related research projects, which regularly got published in USGS Scientific Investigation Reports and in various scientific journals. Zach's favorite work included surface water, groundwater, and water quality modeling, post-wildfire and urban water quality monitoring, and working with geospatial or UAS-collected data. In his current role he manages multiple EPA Wetlands Program Development Grants that focus on development of wetlands rapid assessment methods, spring wetlands mapping, wetland standards development, and state permitting program development. He currently lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico with his wife and 2 dogs - Almond and Emmitt and is happy to help strengthen wetlands protection throughout the state of New Mexico.



### **Jes Skillman, Geospatial Regional Manager**

Ms. Skillman has over 12 years' experience in Conservation GIS at Ducks Unlimited. She currently manages and coordinates the Geospatial Department of Duck's Unlimited's Great Lakes / Atlantic office. In this role, Ms. Skillman works closely with partners, the DU Conservation Team, and the DU GIS team to develop baseline data, priority area mapping tools, and web applications that align with conservation goals. She has experience mapping wetlands, landcover, and protected lands. She has also built several decision support tools and online web mapping applications for planning, decision support, and collaboration. Ms. Skillman has a BA in Ecology from the University of Toronto and a Masters in Conservation Biology from the University of Michigan.

### **Tricia Snyder, NM Wild**



Tricia Snyder claims El Paso, TX as home and credits growing up along the often-dry banks of the Rio Grande as the catalyst for her interest in water resources. She received a BS in Geography, with a focus on the human-environment connection, from New Mexico State University and started her career in Las Cruces, NM working to protect and restore the Southwest borderlands. She moved to Washington state to pursue an MS in Cultural and Environmental Resource Management, completing her thesis on the Upper Klamath Basin. She worked in community-based salmon recovery in the Yakima Basin for nearly 5 years before returning to New Mexico. She serves as the rivers and waters program director for New Mexico Wild, a statewide organization focused on advocating for the Land of Enchantment's land, wildlife, and water. She served as the NGO coalition lead in passing SB 21 in 2025, New Mexico's bill to establish a state-led surface water quality permitting program and fill the gap left by federal rollbacks of the Clean Water Act, and is actively engaged in the rulemaking process to finalize that program. She lives in Socorro, NM with her husband, daughter, and dog.

### **Zhenghong Tang, University of Nebraska-Lincoln**



Dr. Zhenghong Tang is a Professor in the Community and Regional Planning Program at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. His research focuses on applying an integrated planning approach to strengthen state and local planning capacity for wetland conservation. He has led more than 50 research projects in collaboration with multiple federal and state agencies, with a particular emphasis on wetland conservation and watershed planning. Dr. Tang actively works with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wetland development programs and U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs to address wetland conservation needs at the federal, state, and local levels.

### **Mary Ann Tilton, PWS, CWS, New Hampshire, Department of Environmental Services**



Mary Ann Tilton is the Assistant Wetlands Bureau Administrator with the State of New Hampshire, Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), Wetlands Bureau. She has been with NHDES for over 35 years in various management and supervisory positions. She helped develop the Wetlands Enforcement program and supervised wetlands compliance for 17 years. She has served as the Assistant Administrator since 2005 oversees wetlands permitting and technical training on wetlands delineation and assessment. Mary Ann serves on the NAWM Board of Directors and serves as the co-chair of NAWM's Legislative Committee. She is the recipient of an EPA Merit Award (2019) for development of a Wetlands BMP, multi-year rules initiative, and development of stream crossing rules. She holds a BA degree in Botany and Zoology from Connecticut College, MS in Zoology from University of Rhode Island, and a JD from UNH Law School (formerly Franklin Pierce Law Center), and is a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS), a NH Certified Wetland Scientist and member of the Society of Wetland Scientists. She lives with her family in Concord, NH and enjoys biking, hiking, skiing, and birding, and exploring amazing wetland habitats.

**Reed Van Beveren, Environmental Policy Innovation Center**



As the Deputy Director of Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC), Reed oversees advocacy strategies and programmatic cohesion, with specialties in land management, wetlands and artificial intelligence. Prior to joining EPIC, Reed spent 8 years at the U.S. Government Accountability Office reviewing federal government programs as part of the Natural Resources and Environment team. His work has included reviews of EPA's air quality monitoring program and technology transfer at multiple agencies, and efforts to make better use of data and build capacity at GAO. As a graduate student, he helped NGOs in Tanzania and Indonesia refine strategies for tackling human-wildlife conflict around a national park and improving urban water sources. Reed holds a Masters of Public Administration from Cornell University, where he focused on science, technology, and infrastructure policy, and BA in International Political Economy from Georgetown University.

**Kara Villone, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services**



Kara Villone is a Permitting Specialist with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Bureau, focusing on the southwestern region of New Hampshire. Kara has 10 years of experience in environmental science and biology, having previously worked as an At-Sea Monitor for the National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Fisheries Observer Program and as a Biological Technician with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Marine Division. She is currently working towards her Professional Wetland Scientist and Certified Wetland Scientist certifications. Kara is a member of the National Association of Wetland Managers, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, and the Ocean Conservancy.

**Sarah Wright, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC.**



Sarah Wright is Director of Environmental Services with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC. for two decades. She leads a creative team through wetland and natural area assessments and delineations, as well as mitigation design and monitoring. Sarah has also been responsible for vegetative monitoring and flora inventories for environmental assessments. Sarah has managed many different large-scale restoration/preservation and native landscaping projects, providing bidding assistance, cost estimating, project coordination and construction supervision.

**Nazli A. Yilmaz Wodzinski, Ohio Department of Natural Resources**



Nazli Wodzinski, PhD, is a civil engineer with a focus area in water resources. She believes that clean water and energy are fundamental human rights and has always been interested in sustainable infrastructure. She has been proudly serving as the H2Ohio Engineer at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources since 2024. Prior to joining ODNR, Nazli taught in Minnesota State University, Mankato's Civil Engineering Program for nine years and shared her passion for nature-based infrastructure solutions with hundreds of civil engineering students.