

CAPE COASTAL CONFERENCE

Collaborating for Solutions: Practical Sessions to Achieve Watershed Plans

JUNE 18, 2024

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Keynote: Jason Steiding is a native Cape Codder and eagle clan member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. In his role as Natural Resources Director of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe he strives to protect the natural resources that have ensured the survival and well-being of his People since time immemorial and to sustain these resources for the next seven generations. Jason oversees all natural resource related activities for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe including fish and wildlife management, habitat protection and restoration, water resource management, food sovereignty, diadromous fish recovery, and Tribal development and environmental policy analysis and implementation. Contact: Jason.Steiding@mwtribe-nsn.gov

Erin Perry joined the Cape Cod Commission in 2011 and has served as Deputy Director since 2019. Erin manages regional planning efforts and engages stakeholders during the planning process to build consensus on strategies that balance environmental protection and economic progress. She has led development of plans and decision-support platforms on the topics of water quality, hazard mitigation, climate change and coastal resilience, housing, and economic development. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biological Oceanography from Rutgers University and a Master of Arts in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island. Contact: eperry@capecodcommission.org

Andrew Gottlieb has a BA from Harvard University and an MBA from Boston University. Andrew has more than 35 years of environmental protection experience in government and 5 elected terms as a member of the Mashpee Select Board. Andrew is currently the Executive Director at the Association to Preserve Cape Cod. Andrew was the Executive Director of the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative from 2007 until January 2017. Prior to that, as Chief of the Office of Commonwealth Development, he coordinated Massachusetts's energy, housing, environmental and transportation policies. Contact: agottlieb@apcc.org

Lealdon Langley is the Director of the Division of Watershed Management at MassDEP. Lealdon's responsibilities include supervision of the wastewater programs, including NPDES, Title 5, Title 5 I/A and wastewater reuse; the Water Management Program which regulates large scale water withdrawals, and the Watershed Planning Program which conducts monitoring and assessment, and develops TMDLs. Lealdon previously served as MassDEP's Director of Wetlands and Waterways, and various other positions in MassDEP. Lealdon holds a bachelor's degree from Hendrix College and a master's degree from the Center for Energy and Environmental Studies at Boston University. Gerard Martin is Regional Director at the Southeast Regional Office (SERO). In this capacity, Mr. Martin is responsible for managing day-to-day operations including overseeing the outreach, permitting, inspection and enforcement activities of more than 110 professional staff in the Bureaus of Waste Site Cleanup, Water Resources and Air and Waste. Gerard is part of the team that developed the revised Title 5 Regulations and the new Watershed Permit Regulations and is currently assisting with outreach to the municipalities on implementing the regulations. Contact: lealdon.langley@mass.gov

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Carole Ridley

Carole Ridley is a principal of Ridley & Associates, Inc. and leads the practice for Strategic Planning and Project Management for Natural Resource Restoration and Resilience, and Land Use and Smart Growth Strategies. She has thirty years of experience serving local government, non-profit organizations, and private clients. For the past two decades she has been lead consultant for nationally and regionally significant projects dealing with salt marsh restoration, coastal resource management, climate resilience, land use, and economic development. She has authored numerous reports and studies on these topics. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics with honors from Trinity College (Hartford, CT), and a master's in public policy degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Contact: cr@ridleyandassociates.com

Mike Giggey is a Senior Vice President at Wright-Pierce. Since receiving his engineering degrees from Tufts University and Stanford University, Mike has spent his entire career practicing environmental engineering, focusing on nutrient management, watershed planning, and emerging technologies for wastewater treatment, disposal, and reuse. His clients have included many Cape Cod communities, the Cape Cod Commission, and the Martha's Vineyard Commission. Since 2016, he has provided technical input to the Pleasant Bay Alliance, including developing its DEP Watershed Permit and helping with permit implementation.

Contact: mike.giggey@wright-pierce.com

Greg Berman (PG/CFM) is the Director of Natural Resources for the Town of Chatham. He has a diverse background, having held roles such as Hydrologist, Environmental Scientist, Professional Geologist, and Coastal Processes Specialist. For the past fifteen years, he has focused on fortifying coastal community resilience on Cape Cod by providing direct technical assistance and extension education programs on topics including shoreline change, erosion control alternatives, coastal hazards and hazard mitigation analyses, sea level rise, storm surge, dune restoration techniques, and other coastal management issues.

Contact: gberman@chatham-ma.gov

Mark Nelson, PG, Mark is a Senior Hydrogeologist with the Horsley Witten Group, Inc (HW) and has over 30 years of experience in surface water and groundwater modeling, hydrogeologic investigations, nitrogen loading assessments and the assessment and remediation of contaminants in soil, sediments, and water. Mark has led HW's work for the Town of Brewster developing and implementing their integrated Water Resource Management Plan, including the implementation of the Pleasant Bay Watershed Permit.

Contact: mnelson@horsleywitten.com

Scott Horsley has over 30 years of professional experience as a consultant to federal, state, and local government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private industry throughout the United States and internationally. Scott has applied his strong understanding of the full range of technical, planning, and policy issues associated with water resources and land use management projects as an expert witness in the field of hydrology in numerous court cases. He has served as an instructor for a nationwide series of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) workshops on water resource management. He has served on numerous advisory boards and committees to the EPA, the National Academy of Public Administration, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, National Groundwater Association, and Massachusetts Audubon Society. Scott serves as Adjunct Faculty at Tufts University in the Graduate Department of Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning and at the Harvard Extension School in the Graduate Department of Sustainability.

Contact: scotthorsley208@gmail.com

Breakout Session Speakers

Sara Wigginton joined MASSTC in 2021 after earning her Ph.D. in the Laboratory of Soil Ecology and Microbiology (LSEM) at the University of Rhode Island in May 2020. During her doctoral program, she investigated advanced nitrogen removing onsite wastewater treatment systems and served as a training staff member at the New England Onsite Wastewater Training Program. Sara has been involved in environmental research and monitoring for the past ten years and has been researching onsite wastewater treatment systems since 2017.
Contact: sara.wigginton@capecod.gov

David J. Iorio Izzo is a seasoned project manager, known for his impactful work across banking, homeless housing, and public health. His expertise ranges from spearheading a \$115M housing project for the unhoused population of New York State to leading infectious disease response initiatives in public health for the states of Vermont and Arizona. David's dedication to fostering community well-being shines through in his roles as a Reiki master and herbalist, blending his professional accomplishments with a deep commitment to holistic health and community care.
Contact: david.iorioizzo@capecod.gov

Zenas "Zee" Crocker, Executive Director, Barnstable Clean Water Coalition grew up on Cape Cod and has ancestral roots in Osterville, Cotuit, and Barnstable. Zee attended Barnstable High School and earned an Honors BA from McGill University in Quebec. Zee spent over 30 years in the financial services industry in New York, Boston, and Asia. Upon retirement and return to Cape Cod, Zee joined the board of directors of Three Bays Preservation. He agreed to take the helm of Three Bays Preservation as Executive Director in 2017. His research on water quality issues and nature-based solutions led to the board agreeing to rename and repurpose Three Bays Preservation as Barnstable Clean Water Coalition (BCWC). BCWC is dedicated to restoring and preserving clean water throughout Barnstable utilizing four core components to achieve its mission: monitor, mitigate, advocate, and educate.
Contact: zcrocker@bcleanwater.org

Hilda Maingay and Earle Barnhart are Green Center Directors. Hilda has a master's degree in environmental studies and Earle has a bachelor's in marine ecology. They have worked for 50 years on ecologically derived human support systems. Since 2005 they have focused on Urine Diversion (UD) to manage wastewater and reduce water pollution. They advised the "Cape Cod Commission's 208 Plan", initiated the Falmouth UD pilot project, conducted the first UD pilot study with MASSTC. They have lived in a solar home with eco-toilets for 25 years. ALL their human wastes and food wastes are used as fertilizer for food production.
Contact: thegreencenterinc@gmail.com

Abraham Noe-Hays - Abe is the Research Director of the Rich Earth Institute, which operates the nation's first community-scale urine recycling program, converting human urine into fertilizer for use on local farms. This initiative saves water, prevents pollution, and supports sustainable agriculture by turning a universal waste product into a valuable resource. Abe coordinates a multidisciplinary research and demonstration effort involving farmers, scientists, planners, and volunteer participants, with the goal of developing knowledge to help other communities start recycling urine. He is also the Chief Technology Officer of Brightwater Tools, which develops technology for productive sanitation, particularly for concentrating and sanitizing source-separated urine and vacuum-flushed blackwater.
Contact: abe@richearthinstitute.org

Bryan Horsley, MASSTC Project Assistant, Massachusetts Grade 4 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator joined the MASSTC team in 2020 as the site operator and has since been promoted to project assistant. A lifelong Cape Codder and avid outdoorsman, he is passionate about protecting the local environment. Although relatively new to the wastewater field, he has significant environmental science related work experience including studying coastal ecosystems, ecological restoration, stormwater management, ecological sanitation, and monitoring lakes and ponds for harmful algal blooms. He earned a B.A. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Colorado at Boulder and completed his certification as a Massachusetts Grade 4 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator in 2021.
Contact: bryan.horsley@capecod.gov

Josh Reitsma received a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Unity College and a master's degree in aquaculture and fisheries from the University of RI. He has worked with restoration and aquaculture of shellfish in a variety of capacities. Since 2009, he has worked as a Fisheries and Aquaculture Specialist with Cape Cod Cooperative Extension and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Sea Grant, providing educational programming and applied research related to shellfish production here in Massachusetts.

Contact: jreitsma@capecod.gov

Michael DeVasto is co-owner of Field Point Oyster Farm in Wellfleet. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the Wellfleet Selectboard and as a member of the State Shellfish Advisory panel. Michael began working in Aquaculture on his uncle's grant in the 1990's which he has co-owned and operated as Field Point Oyster Farm since 2011. Michael also served as a task force member of the Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative (MSI) which was a multi-stakeholder process to identify problems and issues involving shellfish and publish a strategic plan. Michael holds a BFA from Massachusetts College of Art and Design - 2007.

Contact: michael.devasto@gmail.com

Tom Duncan - Dr. Duncan's formal training is in the life history, population dynamics, and distribution of shallow water marine and estuarine benthic invertebrates. He received a Master of Science degree in Marine Science from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Marine Biology from Boston University. He taught environmental science courses for over 30 years at Nichols College in its BA and MBA programs. Since his retirement he has been actively involved as a volunteer on Falmouth's Water Quality Management, Shellfish Advisory, and 300 Land Trust Committees.

Contact: thoskduncan@gmail.com

Chuck Martinsen is the Deputy Director of the Town of Falmouth's Marine & Environmental Services (MES) department, where he is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the four divisions of the department: Harbormaster, Shellfish & Biological Services, Natural Resources, and Wildlife Services. In his role, Martinsen serves as Deputy Chief Harbormaster, Shellfish Constable, Herring Warden, and Police Officer. Martinsen received a Master of Public Administration degree from Suffolk University's Sawyer School of Management and has worked for the Town of Falmouth for 30 years in several positions.

Contact: chuck.martinsen@falmouthma.gov

Ashley Fisher, Director, Department of Natural Resources, Town of Mashpee - Ashley is a marine biologist and Director of the Town of Mashpee Department of Natural Resources. She oversees the protection and restoration of aquatic natural resources including the Town's shellfish propagation and water quality monitoring programs, which includes ongoing water quality monitoring of all Mashpee's estuaries and freshwater systems. Ashley manages the Town's initiatives to address harmful algal blooms, nutrient loading, wetland restoration, stormwater mitigation, and watershed planning. Her recent work includes: Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant planning focused on stormwater and other water quality improvement projects, partnerships in wetland restoration planning with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Cape Cod Commission, The Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Southeast New England Program under EPA, and Watershed Planning for Mashpee's delineated watersheds in compliance to EPA's regulated Cape Cod 208 plan for Clean Water.

Contact: afisher@mashpeema.gov

Christopher Avis, Shellfish Constable started with the Department of Natural Resources in Mashpee in 2019 as the first Natural Resource Officer for Mashpee. After several years working with the Harbormaster division and shellfish division and several staff changes - Chris was appointed to Shellfish Constable in 2023. This position enforces all regulations set forth by the town and state as well as propagates over 6 million animals per year to reduce TMDL's in the town's waterways, all the while, insuring a healthy fishery.

Contact: cavis@mashpeema.gov

Dr. Padmini Das Section Chief, Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Program, MassDEP oversees Massachusetts Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management as MassDEP's NPS Management Section Chief in the Watershed Planning Program. Her responsibilities include the development and implementation of the Massachusetts NPS Management Plan to equitably support watershed-based planning and the implementation of climate-resilient best management practices statewide to restore impaired waters and protect healthy waters through active and inclusive community engagement. Dr. Das has fifteen years of research experience in fate and transport of nutrients, heavy metals, military contaminants, and emerging contaminants and led development of several sustainable nature-based remediation technologies involving students and engaging community youth of several age groups. Dr. Das has a Ph.D. degree in Environmental Management, two MS degrees in Environmental Sciences & Engineering, and a BS degree in Microbiology.
Contact: padmini.das@mass.gov

Judith "Judy" Rondeau is the Nonpoint Source Outreach Coordinator within the NPS Management Section of the Watershed Planning Program at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Judy has a background in NPS pollution management and mitigation. At MassDEP, she supports the implementation of the Massachusetts NPS Management Plan to protect and restore the waters of the Commonwealth, provides technical assistance to NPS partners, and conducts outreach to local, state, and federal partners to strengthen collaborative efforts to mitigate NPS pollution throughout the Commonwealth. Judy has an MS in Water Resources Management from the University of Connecticut.
Contact: judith.rondeau@mass.gov

Courtney Rocha is the Southeast Regional coordinator for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program. She assists commonwealth municipalities and tribes with grant administration, technical assistance, and building partnerships across the state. She holds a B.S. in Ocean Engineering from the University of Rhode Island and a M.S. in Coastal Engineering from the University of Hawai'i. When not working for the state, she owns and operates a small family farm in Westport, MA.
Contact: courtney.rocha@mass.gov

Kathleen Mason is a Coastal Habitat and Water Quality Specialist with the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM). Kathleen leads the Coastal Habitat and Water Quality Grants in addition to providing technical assistance to protect and restore coastal habitats and remediate coastal water quality impairments. Before joining CZM, Kathleen worked on managing water resources for the Cape Cod Commission and various nonprofits. Kathleen holds a bachelor's from Colby College and a Master of Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University in water resource management.
Contact: Kathleen.mason@mass.gov

Thomas Ardito directs the SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants program (SWIG) for Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) in partnership with the US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1. Under Tom's leadership the SWIG program has awarded more than \$15 million in grants for projects in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts that support clean water, healthy ecosystems, and sustainable communities. Prior to working for RAE, Tom developed and led many ecological restoration projects, including dam removals, salt marsh restoration, oil spill restoration and comprehensive stormwater management initiatives.
Contact: tardito@estuaries.org