

6th Annual Sustainable Raritan River Conference and Awards Ceremony



Valuing Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

Rutgers Cook Campus Center
59 Biel Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Friday, June 13, 2014

Participant Biographies

Mirah A. Becker, PP, AICP, Supervisor, Middlesex County Office of Planning. Mirah Becker runs the Middlesex County Office of Planning's Division of Comprehensive Planning and the Environment. The Division oversees the implementation of the county's sewer service area map boundaries, reviewing projects against future capacity demands at relevant sewage treatment plants. The Division works with its towns and area watershed groups to make decisions on policies affecting all aspects of water quality. The Division is actively involved in the identification of opportunities along the Lower Raritan River for water sampling, greenways, ecotourism and public art, with a pilot study that addresses all of the above in Highland Park. Mirah has been working in the field of planning for 20 years and has a BA degree in Geography from the University of Chicago and an MS degree in Urban Planning from Columbia University in New York. After graduate school Mirah studied in China where she developed a sanitary sewer and water purification program focused on residents in dire need of such services. Her advocacy planning work continued in the South Bronx where she became a leading proponent on environmental justice issues. As part of her advocacy education, Mirah also has many years of experience writing, reviewing and commenting on environmental impact statements. Mirah looks forward to continuing work on topics that support the health and well being of the Raritan River, specifically in those communities located along the lower stem, which represent the communities that are industrialized and fully built out and would benefit from increased access opportunities to the river.

Michael Catania, Executive Director, Duke Farms Foundation. Duke Farms, serves as a model of sustainability and environmental stewardship on 2,700 acres in Hillsborough, NJ. Michael founded Conservation Resources Inc., a nonprofit conservation group that provided financial and technical assistance to the conservation community in New Jersey. Previously, he served as Deputy Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy of NJ, President of the Schiff Natural Lands Trust, and he has been the Chair of the NJ Natural Lands Trust since for more than 12 years.

Nina Chen, PhD, Director of Conservation Investments, The Nature Conservancy. Yue (Nina) Chen joined the New Jersey Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in February 2014 as the Director of Conservation Investments. She oversees land protection, environmental economics and development of market-based mechanisms to finance

conservation. Her goal is to make conservation financially and socially sustainable. Before joining the Conservancy, she had an eight-year career in finance, spanning a wide range of areas from sovereign bonds, interest rates derivatives, mortgages, and structured credit products. She has worked at Goldman Sachs and Royal Bank of Canada as a strategist and as a trader. Nina's long-term interest in conservation dates back to her childhood living near the woods in a small town in southern China. She has a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. Her doctoral thesis used decision theory and uncertainty analysis to tackle the time and cost barriers in incorporating environmental impact assessments, especially life cycle assessments, into corporate decision-making. She is also working towards an Executive Education Certificate in Conservation and Environmental Sustainability from Columbia University.

Stephanie Pendergrass Dalke, Project Director, Pinchot Institute for Conservation. Stephanie Pendergrass is working to implement a pilot drinking water source protection fund for the Delaware River watershed. Prior to joining the Institute, she managed the Coral Reef Conservation Fund and marine mammal programs at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, where she also administered a variety of grants across the western U.S. She earned her Masters degree from the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan, where her Masters project involved assessing the potential for restoring pine barrens habitat (and fire) in the northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan. She also interned at the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment to assess the ecological and economic impacts of the Secure Rural Schools Act on counties with national forests. In addition, she has worked on federal science policy at the National Council for Science and the Environment and environmentally preferable purchasing at the Center for a New American Dream. Originally from Oklahoma, she earned a Bachelor of Music in oboe performance with a Minor in environmental studies from the University of Illinois. Her interests include ecosystem services valuation, payments for ecosystem services (PES), institutions and political economy, local food systems, and ecological agriculture. She also hopes to get back to playing her oboe and riding horses in the near future.

Cindy Ehrenclou, Executive Director, Raritan Headwaters Association. Cindy Ehrenclou served as Development Director of the Upper Raritan Watershed Association from 1994 through 2006 and as Executive Director from 2006 through 2011 before taking the helm of RHA. She is a graduate of Leadership New Jersey and chairs the NJ League of Conservation Voters Education Fund. In addition, Cindy serves on the Raritan Basin Alliance, Keep it Green Campaign, NJ Highlands Coalition, and the Sustainable Raritan Steering Committee.

Patty Elkis, PP, AICP, Deputy Director of Policy, Planning and Programs, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. Patty is Deputy Director of Policy, Planning and Programs at the DVRPC, where she has worked since 1992. She oversees long-range planning and the transportation improvement program; environmental and smart growth planning; economic, demographic and GIS analyses; as well as DVRPC's newer initiatives in energy, climate change and food system planning. Patty received her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, and her Master of City Planning, with a Certificate in Appropriate Technology for Developing Countries, also from Penn.

Jeanne Herb, Associate Director, Environmental Analysis and Communications Group, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Jeanne Herb is the Associate Director of the EAC Group at the Bloustein School at Rutgers where she oversees projects related to environmental policy and sustainability. Jeanne's projects include analyzing public policy outcomes of Hurricane Sandy, providing

support to a diverse range of community and state level recovery and policy efforts post-Hurricane Sandy, developing sustainability, vulnerability, and resiliency planning guidance for communities in New Jersey and New York, assessing effective on line strategies and mapping of environmental health data to support community level planning and decision-making in New Jersey, and engaging stakeholders and state level policy makers to support efforts in the Mid-Atlantic for coordinated coastal and ocean planning. Jeanne worked more than 20 years for the State of New Jersey, most recently as the Assistant Commissioner of Policy, Planning and Science for the Department of Environmental Protection. She oversaw the agency's science support programs including work related to environmental health and implementation of the federal Environmental Public Health Tracking Program. She oversaw multidisciplinary efforts related to Environmental Justice, climate change mitigation and adaptation policy, smart growth including state planning efforts, coastal management and environmental aspects of statewide energy policy. Jeanne was the founding director of the New Jersey Office of Pollution Prevention and has worked closely with statewide coalitions to craft statutes and regulations related to industrial toxics, climate change, and protection of the New Jersey Highlands.

Robert Goodman, PhD, Dean, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Dr. Robert M. Goodman is the executive dean of agriculture and natural resources at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. In that capacity, he serves as the executive director of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and executive dean of Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Dean Goodman is a plant biologist and virologist by training. In recent years, his work has been in microbiology, specifically on the diversity of microorganisms in soil that are recalcitrant to cultivation. Before coming to Rutgers in June 2005, Dean Goodman was a professor of plant pathology and environmental studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he also served as chair of the undergraduate major in molecular biology. Dean Goodman has served as senior scholar-in-residence at the National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences, executive vice-president of R&D at Calgene, Inc., and a professor at the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign. His work has appeared in premier journals, including *Nature*, *Science*, *Virology*, and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and is a past chair of the Agriculture, Food and Renewable Resources section of the AAAS. He's also a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and a trustee of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). He holds a bachelor's degree in plant sciences and a doctorate in plant pathology from Cornell University. His postdoctoral fellowship in plant virology was completed at the John Innes Center in Norwich, England.

Anne Heasly, Consulting Coordinator, Raritan Piedmont Wildlife Habitat Partnership. Anne Heasly, served as Conservation Resources' Vice President for Consulting Programs from 2007-2013, and has extensive experience in all aspects of land acquisition and stewardship. Anne is the Consulting Coordinator for the Raritan Piedmont Wildlife Habitat Partnership (RPWHP), a coalition of local governments and nonprofit conservation groups in the Central New Jersey Piedmont region. This effort specializes in working collaboratively between conservationists and local landowners, especially farmers, to identify and implement innovative ways to provide farmers with access to preserved lands to produce wildlife-friendly crops while also restoring grasslands, forests and riparian areas that provide critical habitat for wildlife. From 1992 to 2005, Anne worked for The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey. While with TNC, Anne was responsible for leading conservation and ecosystem planning efforts and for planning and launching two separate community-based conservation programs in the Delaware Bayshores region, as well as the Pinelands area. Anne has a Masters of Landscape Architecture and a Certification in Urban

Design from the University of Washington. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources from Cornell University and is a certified Landscape Architect in the State of Maryland and New Jersey. She is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

James W. Hughes, PhD, Dean, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Dean James W. Hughes has been a member of the Rutgers faculty since 1971 and was appointed dean of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy in 1995. Dr. Hughes is a nationally-recognized academic expert on demographics, housing, and regional economics. He has been both a Woodrow Wilson and a Ford Foundation Fellow. Dean Hughes is the author or co-author of 34 books and monographs and more than 150 articles. He was recently a member of Governor's Housing Opportunity Task Force. In the past, he served on the New Jersey Governor's Commission on Jobs, Growth and Economic Development, and the Governor's World Class Economy Task Force.

Gerald Kauffman, PhD, Water Resource Agency, University of Delaware. Gerald Kauffman is Director of the University of Delaware - Water Resources Agency, a program of the Institute for Public Administration. Jerry holds faculty appointments from the University of Delaware Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and School of Public Policy and Administration. Professor Kauffman teaches undergraduate courses in water resources engineering, hydraulics, and hydrology and graduate courses in watershed management, economics, and policy. Jerry co-authored a book with a colleague from the University of Wyoming on water resources engineering and is writing a book with John Wiley and Sons from Oxford, U.K. entitled: Sustainable to Watershed Management. Jerry is a proud graduate of the only two land grant colleges in America with colonial roots and fondly remembers those red shale- stained days with the crew team down by the "Banks of the Old Raritan".

William Kibler, Director of Policy and Science, Raritan Headwaters Association. Bill Kibler was the Executive Director of the South Branch Watershed Association from 2005 until RHA was created in 2011. An attorney (JD, Syracuse University) who specializes in environmental law, he served as an Officer with the Army Corps of Engineers after graduating from the United States Military Academy. Bill is also Chief of the Califon Fire Department and serves on the New Jersey Highlands Coalition Policy Committee and the Raritan Basin Watershed Alliance.

Ken Klipstein, Director, Watershed Protection, New Jersey Water Supply Authority. Ken has managed the NJ Water Supply Authority's Watershed Protection Programs since March 2008. Prior to joining the Authority, Ken worked for 20 years at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, where he most recently served as Bureau Chief for Watershed Planning. His non-profit interests include board positions with the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team and the Tewksbury Land Trust. He holds a B.S. in Environmental Planning from Cook College, Rutgers University, and an A.A.S. in Civil Technology from the University of New Hampshire.

Sara Malone, Professional Research Manager, Environmental Analysis and Communications Group, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Sara Malone is a Professional Research Manager in the EAC Group of the Bloustein School at Rutgers where she works with the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative and the New Jersey Healthy Homes Initiative and has recently joined a team for a Brownfield to Greenfield project in Perth Amboy. She is a part-time lecturer at Bloustein and co-taught a graduate planning studio on land-use for a project in the Raritan Center. Prior to joining the EAC Group, Sara was

Director of Finance and Human Resources for Rainier Investment Management, Inc., a Seattle based privately held investment firm managing separate accounts, collective trusts and the Rainier Funds. She has a background in regional planning, project management, accounting, and human resources management and has training in ecological restoration and landscape design. Ms. Malone holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Massachusetts/Boston and she received a Master of Environmental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania in 2012 where her academic focus was on ecology, wetlands restoration, and damaged lands reuse. She is a member of the Franklin Township Shade Tree Commission in Somerset County.

Debbie Mans, Baykeeper and Executive Director, NY/NJ Baykeeper. Debbie Mans has been Baykeeper and Executive Director since April 2008. NY/NJ Baykeeper is the citizen guardian of the Hudson-Raritan Estuary. Prior to joining NY/NJ Baykeeper, Debbie was the Environmental and Energy Policy Advisor for NJ Governor Jon S. Corzine. Debbie is a graduate of The University of Michigan and holds a J.D. from Vermont Law School. She is the Chair of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, Treasurer of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, and a board member of New Jersey Future.

John A. Miller, P.E., CFM, CSM, Associate Water Resources Engineer, Princeton Hydro, LLC. John Miller is an Associate Water Resources Engineer with Princeton Hydro in Ringoes, New Jersey. In that capacity, Mr. Miller manages projects involving stormwater, floodplain and wastewater management. Mr. Miller is a licensed professional engineer and is a Certified Floodplain Manager as administered by the national Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and a Certified Stormwater Manager under the American Public Works Association. He has been qualified as an expert in stormwater and floodplain management by courts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Mr. Miller recently served on the seven-member Passaic River Basin Flood Commission, created in 2010 by the Governor of New Jersey.

Kerry Miller, Assistant Director, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions. Kerry Miller is Assistant Director of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, where their mission is to achieve responsible and sustainable use of New Jersey's natural resources through leadership, education, and support of environmental commissions and other local boards, public officials, environmental organizations and concerned citizens.

Beth Ravit, PhD, Co-Founder, Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Beth Ravit spent three decades as a corporate executive before entering graduate school and earning her Masters (2001) and Ph.D. (2004) degrees in Environmental Science from Rutgers University. She joined the Rutgers faculty in 2005 and is currently an Instructor in the Department of Environmental Sciences, School of Environmental & Biological Sciences (SEBS), New Brunswick, NJ, where she has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Environmental Science and Microbial Ecology. Her specific focus is rehabilitation of the Hudson-Raritan Estuary, with emphasis on the region's wetlands and coastal resiliency. A research priority is the re-introduction of native Eastern Oysters to this urban ecosystem. Dr. Ravit is working in collaboration with NY/NJ Baykeeper at Naval Weapons Station Earle to install up to 11 acres of Eastern Oyster reef, leading an interdisciplinary research team to determine the effect of this native species with respect to shoreline stabilization and protection from erosion and storm surges in the Hudson-Raritan Estuary. In 2006 Dr. Ravit co-founded the Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES), a unique collaboration established jointly by the Departments of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Sciences. As Co-Director of CUES, Dr. Ravit collaborates and coordinates interdisciplinary teams

composed of Rutgers faculty, staff, and students who participate in CUES research initiatives. She is also the primary CUES liaison with New Jersey's environmental non-governmental organization (NGO) community. Dr. Ravit is also Co-Chairperson of the Sustainable Jersey Brownfields Task Force. This Task Force is developing Action Items for municipal Green Team volunteers that support the reduction and reuse of NJ's Brownfields inventory. Dr. Ravit has authored or co-authored over a dozen scientific peer-reviewed articles, and co-authored two book chapters. She is the Managing Editor of the scientific journal *Soil Science*.

Carlos Rodrigues, City Planner and Instructor, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Carlos Rodrigues is a Princeton, NJ based urban designer, professional planner, writer and educator. His planning practice represents local governments, private development clients and civic groups involved in (re)development and preservation projects of merit. He also teaches a graduate planning studio – focused on the Raritan waterfront and on Sandy-afflicted communities -- at the Bloustein School at Rutgers. He has worked in senior management positions in the private, public and non-profit sectors, is a charter member of the Congress for the New Urbanism, Past President of APA-NJ, past board member of Preservation New Jersey and a current board member of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History.

Elizabeth Schuster, Environmental Economist, The Nature Conservancy. Elizabeth joined the Conservancy in 2013 to bring expertise in economic valuation and assessment to our conservation work. Since joining the Conservancy, Elizabeth has supported our Marine program in a variety of projects including quantifying the value of natural infrastructure in coastal areas for flood reduction and community economic development through nature-based tourism. She supports the Freshwater program with an emphasis on water quality research and market-based approaches to watershed protection. Prior to working with the Conservancy, she gained a breadth of experience in conservation and business management in both the private and non-profit sectors. Since 1998, she has been working in project design and implementation with a focus on natural resource management and water resources in the United States and internationally. Several multi-stakeholder projects aimed towards improving the environment while maintaining agricultural profitability have brought her to Venezuela, Honduras, and Mexico. She earned a Bachelor of Arts, Environmental Studies, from Oberlin College and a Master of Science in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Arizona.

Judy A. Shaw, PhD, Program Director, Sustainable Raritan River Initiative, Environmental Analysis and Communications Group, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Judy Auer Shaw joined the staff at the E.J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy, Rutgers University in 2008 after a career with the New Jersey's Departments of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and Community Affairs. She currently serves as the Director of the Sustainable Raritan River Initiative and conducts research in the fields of redevelopment and security management. Her career spans research and practice in risk communication, urban environmental planning, public participation and site remediation. Her career in public service includes Deputy Director of the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment for the Department of Community Affairs, NJDEP Urban Coordinator and the first Administrator of the NJDEP Office of Brownfield Reuse, which she led for two years. In 2004, she transitioned to the Office of Community Relations to chair the Public Participation in Site Remediation Task Force. She is active in the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association and serves on the Burlington County Agricultural Development Board. Judy received her doctorate in Urban and Environmental Planning from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey in 2002. Her latest book, *The Raritan River: Our Landscape, Our Legacy* will be published by Rutgers University Press in the fall of 2014.

Amy Soli, PhD, Science Director, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association. Amy joined the Watershed Association as Science Director in 2010 and guides our work monitoring water quality, restoring ailing habitats and protecting our natural resources. Prior to coming to the Watershed Association, Amy was an environmental consultant specializing in ecology and aquatic sciences. Amy received her Ph.D. in the Marine-Estuarine-Environmental Sciences Program at the University of Maryland and completed a post-doctoral research position at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is currently the co-chair of the Environmental Business Council's Water and Land Use Committee; President of the NJ Chapter of the American Water Resources Association; and active with the NJ Society of Women Environmental Professionals. She is also a member of the Hillsborough Township Environmental Commission.

Benjamin L. Spinelli, New Jersey Field Representative, The Conservation Fund. Ben is currently the NJ Field Representative for the Arlington, VA based organization The Conservation Fund. He is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Sustainable Studies at Kean University. Recently he was appointed as a Senior Policy Adviser to the President's Hurricane Sandy Recovery Task Force concentrating on issues of land use and local and state government. His career includes 20 years as a trial attorney where he handled a wide array of litigation matters as well as representing clients in the areas of municipal law, land use, real estate and planning. He was the executive director of the New Jersey Office of Smart Growth, served three terms as the mayor of Chester Township where his accomplishments included the permanent preservation of over 3,000 acres of environmentally important open space and farmland. He was an original member of the Highlands Council, the founder and president of the Raritan-Highlands Planning Compact and is a Senior Fellow with the Environmental Leadership Program in Washington D.C. He graduated from Muhlenberg College with a B.A. in Political Science and History and received his J.D. from Seton Hall University-School of Law.

Julie Ulrich, Watershed Restoration Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy. Julie joined the Conservancy in early 2013 and is responsible for helping to develop and implement freshwater and urban conservation strategies across New Jersey. Prior to joining the Conservancy, she was a Sustainability Specialist for the City of Portland, Oregon, working to clean and protect the Willamette River Basin, Oregon's largest watershed. Focusing on the urbanized portion of the watershed, she developed strategies and projects to incorporate green infrastructure and quantified ecosystem service benefits of nontraditional stormwater approaches. With an interest in cultivating community based restoration methods, Julie assisted efforts restoring Louisiana coastal habitats by engaging volunteers and stakeholders and by promoting the multiple risk reduction benefits of marshes among southern Louisiana industries, land owners and business leaders. With over ten years of experience working at the intersection of design, ecology, and the public, Julie has extensive experience developing and designing nature-based solutions as a way to improve the ecology while educating and inspiring residents. She is a Senior Fellow with the Environmental Leadership Program and was recently named as one of Next City's Vanguard, a selected group of 40 best and brightest young urban leaders whose ideas for cities, experience in the field and ambition for the future all show great promise to improve cities across sectors. She has a Master's of Urban Design and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia's School of Architecture and a B.S. in Environmental Engineering from The Catholic University of America.

Fran Varacalli, Land Preservation and Management Consultant, FAV Consulting. Fran Varacalli has been working in NJ's environmental field for over 17 years. Previously, Fran worked at NJ Department of Environmental Protection in Watershed Management where she created the NJ Watershed Ambassadors AmeriCorps program. This program, started in 2000, continues today. After leaving NJ DEP, Fran served as the Executive Director of the

South Branch Watershed Association. After two years as the Executive Director for South Branch, Fran went to work for Rutgers Cooperative Extension as a Program Manager in the Water Resource Program. She then switched focus from the water to the land and went to work as a Program Manager for the Monmouth Conservation Foundation preserving land in Monmouth County. In 2012, she started FAV Consulting and currently serves as Franklin Township's Land Preservation and Management Consultant where she also currently resides. Fran has gladly served on the NJ Land Rally Planning Committee for many years. She also moonlights as a DONA certified birth doula and has assisted in over 30 births.

Brian Wahler, Mayor, Piscataway Township. Brian C. Wahler became the Mayor of Piscataway in 2000, was reelected in 2004, 2008 and reelected in 2012. He was first elected to the Township Council in 1992 and served as Vice President and President of the Council. He is currently a member of the Piscataway Planning Board and is on the Executive Committee of the American Parkinson Disease Association-NJ Chapter. Under his leadership, Piscataway was chosen Sportstown New Jersey, by Sports Illustrated Magazine and in August 2008 Piscataway was designated by Money Magazine as one of the 100 best places to live in America. Mayor Wahler is a member of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) and served on their Transportation and Communication Committee, Homeland Security Task Force and in 2006 was appointed USCM Membership Chair. In 2006 Mayor Wahler was appointed to the League Executive Board and is currently Chair of the Telecommunications Committee and the Utilities Task Force. Mayor Wahler is a graduate of Rutgers, The State University.

Photo of Somerset Mitigation Bank by Mark Gallagher, Princeton Hydro, LLC

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