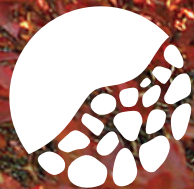


# 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum

The Renaissance Allentown Hotel, Allentown, PA  
October 16-17, 2019



*Coalition for the*  
**Delaware River**  
**Watershed**









## Coalition *for the* Delaware River Watershed

**Welcome to Allentown for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum!** Allentown is on the banks of the Lehigh River, a major tributary of the Delaware River and home to the rich history of the Lenape Indian Tribe, the first stewards of our watershed. I am so excited to have the Coalition's membership and partners together to learn, explore, and collaborate toward a cleaner and more inclusive watershed.

At this year's Forum, we celebrate several major milestones for the Delaware River Watershed. This time last year, we cheered historic, first-time funding for the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP). This year, we celebrate a 20 percent increase for the DRBRP to \$6 million for Fiscal Year 2019 and look ahead to acquiring an appropriation of \$10 million for Fiscal Year 2020. The program has already funded a total of 54 on-the-ground projects designed to conserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality, reduce flood damage, and improve public access. Throughout the span of our two days together, you'll hear much more about the recipients of these awards and anticipated restoration and conservation outcomes.

Earlier in 2019, we also celebrated the re-introduction of the Environmental Justice Act by Senator Cory Booker and the passage of the 2019 Public Lands Package, which included the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Despite conventional thought that little can be achieved in this political climate, our collaborative advocacy efforts have continuously proven conservation can still be bipartisan.

Our Forum will integrate several working sessions to focus on goal setting and policy strategy to drive our collective watershed-wide vision. Additionally, we will focus on integrating new audiences and voices into our work as we continue to focus on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice.

I encourage you to think about how to bridge gaps, keep an open mind, and foster new connections throughout our time together. Remember to take the experiences you have and information gained back with you as we continue to share, shape, and advance our priorities together. I look forward to working with you all as we build a better future for people and wildlife.

**Sandra Meola**

Director, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed

## DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

8:00 AM

### Registration and Breakfast

Renaissance Ballroom, 5th Floor

Participants should check in at the registration desk upon arrival at the Renaissance Allentown Hotel. Please visit the desk at any time throughout the conference if you need assistance. A continental breakfast will be served.

9:00 AM

### Welcome Remarks

**Sandra Meola**, Director, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed

**Eric Stiles**, President and CEO, New Jersey Audubon

Sponsored by:



9:15 AM

### Opening Remarks

**Lorne Possinger**, Eastern Region Manager, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

**Mariska Van Aalst**, Outreach Liaison, Congresswoman Susan Wild

9:30 AM

### Plenary: Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund – Some Early Wins and Looking Ahead

The Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund, established by the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program (DRBRP) has funded 54 unique on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects throughout the watershed to date. Grantees have coordinated with partner organizations to leverage limited resources to amplify the collective impact of their work. Speakers will share the nuts and bolts of the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund, including what aspects contribute to a compelling proposal and creative ways to achieve program requirements.

Presenters: **Mike Slattery**, Delaware River Basin Coordinator,  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**Rachel Dawson**, Program Director, Delaware River,  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation





### The Basin-Wide Implications of Managing the Lower Delaware River Salt Front | Innovation #1

The effects of climate change are increasingly impacting the northward migration of the salt front out of the Delaware Bay. This can pose threats to drinking water supplies in Philadelphia and Trenton and to the ecology of the river. 200 miles to the north, water releases from the New York City Delaware Basin reservoirs are the primary management tool used to control the movement of the salt front as governed by the Flexible Flow Management Program (FFMP). This approach to managing the salt front highlights significant challenges involving public water supplies, reservoir management, fisheries protection, and the implications of climate change in the Delaware River basin. In this breakout session, water supply managers from NYC, Philadelphia, Trenton, and the Delaware River Basin Commission will discuss the challenges of managing the salt front and the implications for multiple watershed stakeholders.

Moderator: **Jeff Skelding**, Executive Director,  
Friends of the Upper Delaware River

Presenters: **Amy Shallcross**, Manager, Water Resource Operation,  
Delaware River Basin Commission

**Jennifer Garigliano**, NYCDEP, Chief of Staff, Bureau of Water Supply,  
NYC Department of Environmental Protection

**Molly Hesson**, President, Sage Services LLC

### Growing Clean Water: Public and Private Conservation Organizations Partnering with Farms | Innovation #2

Agriculture land use (cultivated crops, pasture and hay) accounts for twenty-five percent of the area of the Delaware River Watershed basin. Applied to these lands are commercial fertilizers (and to a lesser extent animal manures and biosolids) for plant nutrients and chemicals for weed and insect controls. Much progress has been made by individual farms to manage the loss of these nutrients and chemicals to streams. However, additional conservation practices are needed to improve local in-stream water quality and stream-side wildlife habitats. This breakout session will explore successes and barriers to engage farmers and landowners for adoption of agricultural conservation practices.

Moderator: **Dr. Andrew Smith**, Chief Scientist, Rodale Institute

Presenters: **Lamonte Garber**, Watershed Restoration Coordinator,  
Stroud Water Research Center

**Katie Turner**, Agricultural Program Manager,  
The Nature Conservancy, PA and Coordinator for PA 4R Nutrient  
Stewardship Alliance

**Dr. Emmanuel Omondi**, Director of Farming Systems Trial,  
Rodale Institute







**Facilitated Discussion: Session 1, continued**

**Revisiting Conservation Narratives | Innovation #3**

The Lenape Indian tribe of Delaware is working to restore their original water culture, encourage good citizenry, and redefine public service using the tools of interactive participatory cultural mapping. Bartram’s Garden is partnering with local residents to inspire more minority community involvement in water stewardship and the breeding and seeding of freshwater mussels. Speakers will share their interactive and thought-provoking examples followed by a question and answer time.

Moderator: **RuthAnn Purchase**, Water Advocate & Cultural Mapping Program Manager, Lenape Tribe of Delaware

Presenters: **Chief Quiet Thunder Gilbert**, Past Chief, Nanticoke Leni-Lenape of Bridgetown, NJ

**Aseel Rasheed**, Interpretation and Visitor Experience, Bartram’s Garden

**Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution – Maximizing Advocacy Efforts for Local and State Success | Think Tank**

Single-use plastics have become ubiquitous in our lives and pervasive in our watershed. Panelists will discuss various solutions and success stories from bans to fees, and will provide tools for you to advocate at the local and state levels. Panelists will also dive into regulatory solutions; e.g., plastic trash as a stormwater pollutant.

Moderator: **Sean Jackson**, Associate, Clean Water Supply, American Rivers

Presenters: **Stephanie Wein**, Clean Water and Conservation Advocate, PennEnvironment

**N.Dini Checko**, Project Director, ANJEC

**Liz Magill Peer**, Chair, Lambertville Environmental Commission

**12:00–1:00 PM**

**Lunch and Lightning Rounds**

Renaissance Ballroom

During lunch, several Coalition members will participate in Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund Lightning Rounds hosted by Mike Slattery, Delaware River Basin Coordinator, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Participants should take this time to network, reconnect with partners and friends, and meet some of the diverse stakeholders working in the watershed.

Sponsored by:





## Facilitated Discussion: Session 2 — Coalition Priority Action Groups

Collaboratively strategize how to move the Coalition's four overarching priorities forward during interactive group discussions. Participants will split up and put their heads together to dig into the components of each of CDRW's four overarching priorities to identify accomplishments, gaps, and opportunities for engagement and partnerships. Following roundtable discussions, participants will regroup and report out on next steps.

### Watershed-Wide Planning | Innovation #1

- Delaware River Basin Restoration Program
- Flexible Flow Management Program

Moderator: **Grant La Roche**, Director of Conservation Partnerships, National Wildlife Federation

Discussion Leads: **Jeff Skelding**, Executive Director, Friends of the Upper Delaware River

**Kathy Klein**, Executive Director, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

### Federal Policy and Funding | Innovation #2

- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Water Infrastructure

Moderator: **Kimberly Witt**, Mid-Atlantic Conservation Policy Manager, Appalachian Mountain Club

Discussion Leads: **Alan Hunt**, Executive Director, Musconetcong Watershed Association

**Liz Deardorff**, Director, American Rivers

### State Policy and Funding | Innovation #3

- Single-Use Plastics
- Stormwater Management
- State Clean Water Funding

Moderator: **Ed Potosnak**, Executive Director, NJ League of Conservation Voters

Discussion Leads: **Laura Miller**, Outreach Coordinator, Delaware Nature Society

**Mike Pisauo**, Policy Director, The Watershed Institute

**Ellie Ezekiel**, Outreach Coordinator, Delaware Nature Society

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice | Think Tank

- Getting Comfortable with Being Uncomfortable
- Getting your Board on Board with DEIJ

Moderator: **Kandyce Perry**, Planning & Policy Manager, New Jersey Future

Discussion Leads: **Regan Dohm**, Natural Resource Coordinator & the Alliance for Watershed Education's Development Specialist, Berks Nature

**Todd Pride**, Managing Director, The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County





2:45 PM

**Site Visits**

*Participants should gather in the Renaissance Ballroom by 2:45 PM. If you did not select a field trip during the online registration process but are still interested in participating, please see the Forum Registration desk, located outside of the Renaissance Ballroom on the 5th floor to inquire about availability.*

**Trip One: Lehigh River Bike Tour**

Experience the Lehigh River by bike! Join Wildlands Conservancy on a guided tour of the Lehigh River to learn about the history and environment surrounding the Lehigh River Corridor. Participants will peddle 3.5 miles on the D&L Trail, stopping in the Borough of Freemansburg, a historic canal town along the Lehigh Canal. Learn about Wildlands Conservancy’s 11-acre Freemans Island Nature Preserve, located in the middle of the Lehigh River. This island is completely wooded and only accessible by boat. This island provides refuge in an urban setting for several bird species including Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons, and Kingfishers.

**Hosted by: Wildlands Conservancy**

**Trip Two: The Musconetcong: River Restoration Tour**

The Musconetcong River descends from lakes in its headwaters and proceeds 42 miles downstream to the Delaware River through a valley dotted with farms, hamlets, and mills. Dammed for over 300 years, the Musconetcong Watershed Association formed the Musconetcong River Restoration Partnership to facilitate removal of obsolete dams. Visit three removal sites and learn how this partnership of private dam owners, permitting agencies, engineers, funders, and NGOs has worked together to restore the aquatic environment and migratory fish habitat of the Musconetcong River.

**Hosted by: Musconetcong Watershed Association, Princeton Hydro, Army Corps of Engineers, and US Fish & Wildlife Service**

**Trip Three: Delaware River Film Festival**

The Delaware River Watershed serves a diverse set of communities throughout the region. Take a breather before our reception and join us for a film screening to see the Delaware through their lens. Literally! This field trip will feature 4 short films from each basin state. Popcorn, beer, and blankets will be provided!

**Hosted by: Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed**

**Trip Four: Blue Mountain Restoration**

As a result of decades of air pollution resulting from 20th century industrial zinc smelting in Palmerton through the 1970’s, much of the mountain at the Lehigh Gap Refuge and in surrounding areas was deforested, eroded, and left with high levels of zinc and other heavy metals. Join others for a hike up Blue Mountain and learn how the Lehigh Gap Nature Center converted this superfund site next to the Lehigh River. This is the only conversion of a Superfund site to an environmental education center in U.S. history.

**Hosted by: Lehigh Gap Nature Center**







### **Trip Five: Villa Milagro Tour: Wine, Cheese, and Conservation**

Villa Milagro Vineyards, meaning “Home of Miracles,” sits by the confluence of the Delaware and Musconetcong Rivers. It is among the smallest wineries in the state and is the first farm to plant and harvest organic grain in New Jersey. It takes pride in its strides to regain organic certification for the vineyard as well as its low-to-no input strategies to protect clean water and the earth. Learn how Villa Milagro produces their hand-crafted artisan blended wines while working to preserve the Delaware River. And of course, enjoy a wine tasting while you’re there!

**Hosted by: Villagro Winery**

**6:30 PM**

### **Reception and Dinner featuring our Student Poster Session**

Renaissance Ballroom, 5th Floor





**PennFuture**

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## **Reception and Dinner**

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**Wednesday, October 16**

**6:30–10:00 PM**

**Renaissance Ballroom, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor**

*Hosted by: PennFuture*

Join our fellow participants for a reception celebrating the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum and bringing partners together from around the watershed

Live music performed by  
**Esteem Entertainment**





## DAY 2: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

7:00–7:30 AM

**Gentle Yoga with Kimberly Witt, Appalachian Mountain Club  
| Innovation #1**

8:00 AM

### **Registration Opens**

Participants should check in at the registration desk upon arrival at the Renaissance Ballroom on the 5th floor if they have not done so already. Please visit the desk at any time throughout the conference if you have any questions or need assistance.

8:15 AM

### **Breakfast Roundtables**

Renaissance Ballroom

Join us for informal discussions on issues important for the future of the watershed.

#### **New Member Orientation: Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed**

hosted by **Kelly Knutson**, State Policy Manager, CDRW

**Federal Clean Water Rulemaking: Updates and Opportunities** hosted by **Liz Deardorff**, Director, American Rivers

**Policy and Advocacy Mapping Tools** hosted by **Sophia Hull**, Clean Water Associate, Environment New Jersey, **Dave Kinney**, Eastern Policy Director, Trout Unlimited, and **Gayle Killam**, Deputy Director of Science and Policy, River Network

**Best Databases for Watershed Groups and Stakeholders** hosted by **Baird Straughan**, Principal, Lead Green

**Building a Channel for Young Professionals in Conservation** hosted by **Rupika Ketu**, Environmental Program Coordinator, Glen Foerd on the Delaware

**CDRW Communications Workgroup Gathering** hosted by **Rita Yelda**, Outreach & Communications Manager, CDRW

**Watershed Signage Throughout the Basin States**, hosted by **Joy Bergey**, CDRW

**RCPP: Challenges, Successes, and New Proposal Ideas** hosted by **Stephanie P. Dalke** and **Ellen Kohler** from the UMD Environmental Finance Center and **Sue Currier**, Consultant

9:00 AM

### **Keynote Address**

Renaissance Ballroom

**Chanté Coleman**, Director of Equity and Justice, National Wildlife Federation





10:00–11:30 AM



**Facilitated Discussions: Session 3**

**Effective Metrics for Advocacy | Innovation #1**

In a field where success is increasingly measured by the ability to achieve quantifiable targets, how do we articulate progress and celebrate success in work that does not lend itself to numeric benchmarks? This session will discuss ongoing efforts to establish meaningful metrics for policy and advocacy efforts.

Moderator: **Carol Collier**, Senior Advisor for Watershed Management and Policy, Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

Presenters: **Chari Towne**, Director, Awareness-to-Action Campaign; Schuylkill Watershed Specialist, Delaware Riverkeeper Network

**Kristin Zilcosky**, Director of Digital Engagement, Conservation Voters of PA

**Ann Hutchinson AICP**, Senior Director of Community Planning, Natural Lands

**Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Triple-Bottom Line Benefits for the Delaware River Watershed | Innovation #2**

Urban localities have been managing stormwater through increasingly more protective permits, known as Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits. Yet, urban stormwater continues to be a leading cause of pollution to our waterways. Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) is an effective approach to stormwater management that incorporates natural processes and provides multiple benefits for communities such as environmental, economic, and social benefits. Panelists will discuss how to work with municipal leaders and community members to elevate GSI to improve water quality throughout the watershed and how to ensure that infrastructure investment is equitable.

Moderator: **Glen Abrams**, Deputy Commissioner Communications and Engagement, Philadelphia Water Department

Presenters: **Lena Smith**, Campaign Manager, Clean Water Advocacy, PennFuture

**Renee Reber**, Associate Director, American Rivers

**How to Leverage Non-Traditional Partnerships for Watershed Protection | Innovation #3**

To build and maintain a successful coalition involves including all voices that work, play, and serve throughout the region. This session will explore how bringing businesses and municipalities to the table in support of protecting the watershed strengthens advocacy and weakens the power of the opposition. Learn where unique strategic collaboration is paying off and join the discussion on how to amplify collective impact.

Moderator: **Brenna Goggin**, Mid-Atlantic Leadership Development Manager, River Network

Presenters: **Richard Lawton**, Executive Director, NJ Sustainable Business Network

**Pola Galie**, Owner/Brewer, Lower Forge Brewery Inc.

**Shelly Johnson-Bennet**, Director, Delaware County Planning Department

**Sam Masotto**, Bonn Place Brewing Company



### **Electroshock or Instagram?: Monitoring and Observation to Support Swimmable, Fishable Waterways | Think Tank**

Under the authority of the U.S. Clean Water Act, there are different categories of clean water reliant uses for recreation and aquatic life that have been recognized and “designated” for protection by each basin state and the Delaware River Basin Commission. These uses may be active and existing, or they may be aspirational, but all have their own specific and data-driven water quality standards and measurement criteria. From the heavily urbanized mainstem to the smallest headwater tributaries, this session will explore how different stakeholders use monitoring and observation to protect the Delaware’s waterways for a variety of recreational uses and is sure to provide some ideas for engaging your organization and your community in these important Clean Water Act processes.

Moderator: **Nathan Boon**, Senior Program Officer, William Penn Foundation

Presenters: **Gayle Killam**, Deputy Director of Science and Policy, River Network

**Dave Kinney**, Eastern Policy Director, Trout Unlimited

**John Yagecic**, Manager of Water Quality Assessment, Delaware River Basin Commission

11:45 AM–12:45 PM

### **Networking Lunch and Municipal Awards | Renaissance Ballroom**

*Participants should take this time to network, reconnect with partners and friends, and meet some of the diverse stakeholders working in the watershed.*

Sponsored by:



#### **Municipal Awards hosted by Kelly Knutson, State Policy Manager, CDRW**

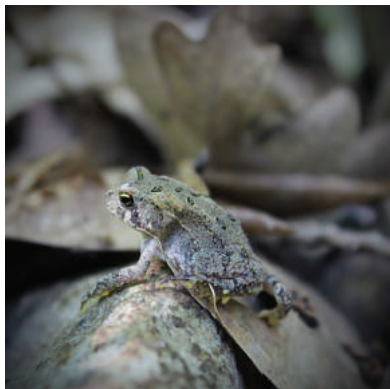
Our municipal awardees have designed or implemented a water quality improvement project in partnership with a member of the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, leveraged partnerships to extend dollars, and actively engaged residents throughout the process.

#### **AWARDEES:**

##### **Colchester, New York**

##### **Art Merrill, Town Supervisor**

In the last six months, the Town of Colchester in Delaware County, NY has received funding from the State of New York and the Federal Government, which has been matched by a variety of local entities, to implement a series of projects along the East Branch of the Delaware River (EBDR) and Downs Brook, a tributary of the EBDR that crosses under Main Street in the Hamlet of Downsville. This work includes improvement of water quality through berm removal and floodplain reconnection, bank stabilization, and native plantings, as well as several related community benefits, including development of a walking trail and a boat launch.





**Networking Lunch and Municipal Awards, continued**

**City of Bridgeton, New Jersey**

**Mayor Albert Kelly**

The City of Bridgeton has been partnering with the American Littoral Society to improve the water quality in the Cohansey River for over 4 years. The City's staff has worked with the Society to survey potential sites and to plan, organize and support installation of rain gardens, riparian buffers, cisterns and rain barrels throughout the city, including at the police station, Memorial park, and 3 schools in the school district. To date, the City has supported the installation of 8 residential rain gardens at Bridgeton Commons housing authority property, 2 rain gardens at the police station, 1 rain garden at the Bridgeton zoo, 1 rain garden and cisterns at Buckshutem Elementary School, and a riparian buffer at Memorial Park. They have hosted, in partnership with the Society, 2 rain barrel workshops and 3 community clean-ups. The City has been a strong advocate for green stormwater infrastructure in their community and an amazing partner to make a difference in the water quality in the tributaries and the river running through their community.

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**Randy E. Hayman, Water Commissioner**

The City of Philadelphia's Green City, Clean Waters program seeks to address the City's combined sewer overflows with a first-of-its-kind combined sewer overflow compliance approach based primarily on Green Stormwater Infrastructure. By relying on GSI to reduce the amount of polluted stormwater overflows discharging into the creeks, streams, and rivers in and around the City of Philadelphia by 85% by 2025, residents will not only see clean water improvements, but also other "triple bottom line" benefits, including more green spaces, reduced heat island effects, and more local jobs to maintain the sites. To date, the Philadelphia Water Department has successfully surpassed its targets of installing enough GSI to manage runoff of over 800 impervious acres across the City of Philadelphia's combined sewer areas.

**Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative**

**Karen Holm, Consultant**

The Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative has created a Joint Pollutant Reduction Plan that includes 9 municipalities in the Darby Creek Watershed. The PRP is based on a Temple University GSI Prioritization Plan study created to focus limited dollars for greatest water quality benefit. The plan includes innovative projects in all 9 member municipalities with unique funding strategies. The collaborative effort represents the necessary cooperative approach needed to tackle tough water quality issues in urban watersheds that struggle with socio-economic challenges.

**Wilmington, Delaware**

**Bryan P. Lennon, Assistant Water Division Director**

The purpose of the South Wilmington Wetlands Park is to create a stormwater management facility and to restore and enhance existing wetlands while creating a park for the community. The site for this park is currently a brownfield and filled with invasive species that does not provide great habitat for wildlife nor benefit the community at all. This wetland park will reduce flooding in the area, trap and filter stormwater before it reaches the Christina River, and increase recreational opportunities and walk-ability in the Southbridge community.



## Wilmington, Delaware

### Bryan P. Lennon, Assistant Water Division Director

Historic dams from the 18th and 19th centuries along the Brandywine River are being removed in order to upgrade and replace water mains and allow migrating fish such as the American shad and river herring access to the river. Just a few decades ago migrating fish couldn't even reach the dams due to industrial pollution and dead zones in places like the mouth of the Delaware River. Now they are already being seen in the Brandywine River. Dams are being removed along a 17.6 mile stretch of the river and are also expected to reduce flooding and increase recreation opportunities. This project will be partially funded by the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act.

12:45 PM

### Goal Setting: Planting the Seeds for Action | Renaissance Ballroom

Together we are forging a return to America's Founding Waterway through initiatives like the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program. In May 2019, the Governors of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware committed to supporting the Delaware as the national model for cross-state collaboration for restoration and conservation. What can we do as a community to leverage the leadership of our states to move our conservation agenda forward for all people? This session will enable attendees to strategize how to transform watershed goals into reality.

**Wendi Weber**, Northeast Regional Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**Grant La Rouche**, Director of Conservation Partners, National Wildlife Federation

### DISCUSSION TABLE TOPIC "HEADLINES"

#### Cross-State Leadership Becomes Powerful Link in the Build-Out and Advancement of the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program

hosted by **Mike Slattery**, Delaware River Basin Coordinator, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and **Rachel Dawson**, Program Director, Delaware River, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

#### Delaware River Watershed: Most Climate Resilient in the US: Cross-State Invasive Species Control Plan Celebrated as a Major Milestone

hosted by **Alan Hunt**, Executive Director, Musconetcong Watershed Association and **John Cecil**, Vice President of Stewardship, New Jersey Audubon

#### Watershed States Demand Fundamental Water Infrastructure Investments Post-2020 Election

hosted by **Peter Marx**, CDRW

#### States Collaborate to Tackle Delaware River Watershed Stream Designations for Fishable Swimmable Water to Benefit all Communities

hosted by **John Yagecic**, Manager of Water Quality Assessment, Delaware River Basin Commission

#### Delaware River Watershed States are Highlighted as the Nationwide Model for Phasing Out Single-Use Plastics

hosted by **Stephanie Wein**, Clean Water & Conservation Advocate, PennEnvironment

#### Cross-State Stakeholders Utilize the "Our Shared Waters" Campaign to Educate and Influence Elected State Officials to Invest in the Delaware River Watershed

hosted by **Peter Eschbach**, Director, External Affairs and Communications, Delaware River Basin Commission

1:50 PM

### Session Close

**Dave Kinney**, Eastern Policy Director, Trout Unlimited



@DelRivCoalition



@DelRivCoalition



#DelRivForum2019

2:15–3:45 PM

**Workshops**

**How to Win Friends and Influence People: Mastering Your Communications Plan to Achieve Your Goals | Innovation #1**

Whether you’re celebrating a grant award, urging legislators to support a bill, or want to promote an event, how you communicate your message is critical to achieving your goals. In this session, learn how to best share information using different platforms so that people listen and take action. This workshop will also cover best practices for social media, particularly when it comes to reaching out to press, raising money, and elevating your campaigns’ key messages.

Presenters: **Hillary Mohaupt**, Social Media Strategist and Inclusion Manager, Conservation Voters of PA

**Eva Piatek**, Digital Campaigns Manager, Conservation Voters of PA

**Self-Care for Activists in the 21st Century | Innovation #2**

Through the use of structured experiences, group discussions and practical activities, this dynamic, engaging and interactive session invites participants to understand the science of stress and happiness and build skills to thrive at work. Participants will be given the opportunity to identify and evaluate their own strategies, select specific tools from a menu of activities, and create a personal self-care plan. The workshop allows for team-building activities that create a support network at work. Participants can leave the workshop with a clear plan and specific skills to be happy at work.

Presenter: **Aisha Moore**, Founder, Self-Care by Aisha

**Building Leadership Skills for Young Professionals | Innovation #3**

Our work to protect and restore the Delaware River Basin is fueled by the efforts of people working together, and the people doing the work need support too. Foster your development as a leader now and in the future in this interactive workshop for young professionals. We’ll focus on ways to support your own growth and learning using one of the most powerful tools you have — yourself. Leave with practical tools and approaches that support you in goal-setting, building your network, decision-making and problem solving.

Presenter: **Sarah Clarke**, Senior Associate, Institute for Conservation Leadership

**How to Grow Your Organization: Volunteer Recruitment, Engagement and Retention | Think Tank**

You want to grow your organization, but what are reasonable expectations and what should you do first? During this workshop, attendees will explore volunteer retention guidelines as well as Cooperative Extension’s volunteer management services.

Presenters: **Baird Straughan**, Principal, Lead Green

**Brad Kunsman**, Extension Education, Penn State Extension

**Erin Lee Frederic**, Statewide Master Watershed Steward Coordinator, Penn State Extension

3:45 PM

**Conference Concludes**

Thank you to all participants and stay tuned for our report out and opportunities to turn conversation into action! Stay in touch with the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed by joining our email list: [delriverwatershed.org/email-list](http://delriverwatershed.org/email-list)







## SPEAKERS



### Rachel Dawson

Rachel joined the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in 2014, where she manages a growing \$13 million fund for habitat and water quality restoration projects in the Delaware River watershed. She is responsible for program development and fundraising, partner and collaborator coordination, and regional investment strategy and planning. Previously, she was the legislative representative for the water restoration team at the National Wildlife Federation where she advocated on behalf of clean water laws, policies and programs for large-scale ecosystem restoration, and a policy analyst at the Northeast Midwest Institute, focusing on issues in the watersheds of the mid-Atlantic, including the Delaware River Basin.

Rachel received her Master's degree in Environmental and Natural Resources Policy from the George Washington University and her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Planning from the University of Miami. In her free time, she's an avid hunter, angler and outdoor mentor.



### Chante Coleman

Chanté is the Director of Equity and Justice at the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) where she ensures equity is embedded across the organization by advising on strategies, structure and processes. She leads the development and implementation of comprehensive and integrated strategic equity plans and activities that drive culture change.

Prior to this, Chanté was the Director of the Choose Clean Water – Chesapeake Bay Coalition at NWF where she led strategies on a regional scale to support the Coalition and its members evolve to have an intentional focus on equity and justice. She also serves as a co-lead of National Wildlife Federation's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Steering Committee. In addition to training and facilitating at conferences across the country, Chanté is a member of the Green Leadership Trust and was named as a "rising star" by Green 2.0. She is a strong collaborator, and brings great passion and dedication to this role—and she is a firm believer in self-care, regularly practicing yoga and meditation.



### Lorne Possinger

Lorne Possinger is the DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation's Eastern Region Manager. His career began 37 years ago on the Delaware River as a seasonal ranger. He is a graduate of East Stroudsburg University, has worked for municipalities and for-profit entities, and has been with DCNR for 17 years. His office serves as DCNR's outreach and grant advisers, and they coordinate a grant program that gave 40 million dollars in grant assistance to recreation and conservation projects last year. He is an avid cyclist, hiker, kayaker, and outdoorsman.





### **Mike Slattery**

Mike is the lead for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's work efforts in the Delaware River Watershed, as authorized by the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act of 2016, including administration of a basin-wide conservation and restoration grant program known as the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund. In his role as part of the Service's Science Applications Program, he previously served as Chesapeake Coordinator for the Service since August 2010. Prior to becoming FWS's Chesapeake Coordinator, Mike was the Director of the Eastern Partnership Office for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, where he was responsible for conservation grant making and financing activities across a 24-state region that extends from Maine to Texas.

During a 30+ year career as a conservation professional, he has also served as Assistant Secretary for Forests, Parks, Fish and Wildlife at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Director of Maryland DNR's Wildlife and Heritage Service; and, Director of the Maryland Natural Heritage Program.



### **Eric Stiles**

Eric is President and CEO of New Jersey Audubon (NJ), the state's leading and largest conservation organization. With a staff of 70 and over 20,000 members, the 119-year-old organization is the state's premier conservation organization. NJA connects people with nature through transformational experiences and conserves wildlife, habitat, natural areas and waters through innovative, best in practice policy, education stewardship, and research initiatives. Through his leadership, NJ Audubon has seen significant growth in staffing, donor support, and endowment while focusing its efforts to serve people and deliver conservation where people work, live and play.

Eric has two decades of experience in conservation and non-profit leadership. He received a M.S. in Ecology and Master of Public Administration from Rutgers University. A fellow of Lead New Jersey, he also serves on a number of foundation and non-profit boards and local advisory committees.



### **Wendi Weber**

Wendi Weber was appointed Northeast Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2011, where she oversees activities in 13 states from Maine to Virginia, and the District of Columbia. She leads more than 800 Service employees working in more than 130 field offices, including 73 national wildlife refuges and 11 national fish hatcheries that protect more than 550,000 acres. She also oversees management of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Director Weber oversees many high priority conservation efforts including projects to help species and local communities be more resilient to a changing climate, restore river systems, conserve species at-risk, connect people with nature, and use science to protect and restore species and habitats at landscapes scales. Prior to joining the Service in 1998, she worked for the states of Florida and Georgia as a field biologist. Originally from Rochester, New York, Director Weber has a bachelor's degree in zoology from the University of Rhode Island and a master's degree in fisheries from the University of Georgia.

# Thank you to our Sponsors

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## Basin Champion



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## Watershed Warrior



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## Spirit of the River





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## Sustainable Stream



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## Bridge Builder



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- Page 2-3: CDRW Staff, "5.16.19 Governors Leadership Summit - Philly Seaport Museum (2)"  
CDRW Staff, "3.6.19 CCW Lobby Day"  
CDRW Staff, "February Visit to D.C. with Rep. Delgado"  
Nicolas A. Tonelli, "Sky View"
- Page 4-5: CDRW Staff, "4.29.19 Bog Turtle Visit (2)"  
Nicolas A. Tonelli, "Red Eft"  
Nicolas A. Tonelli, "Wild Turkey"
- Page 6-7: CDRW Staff, "Blue Jay"  
CDRW Staff, "10.24.18 FY19 DRBRP Funding Lardner's Point Park Press Conference (1)"  
CDRW Staff, "January Annual Member Meeting in Philadelphia (3)"
- Page 8-9: Nicolas A. Tonelli, "Lehigh River Headwaters (Revisited) (14)"  
Nicolas A. Tonelli, "Frank Gantz Trail (Revisited) (2)"  
Alan Hunt, Villa Millagro tour
- Page 10: Nicolas A. Tonelli, "Devils Hole Creek (Revisited) (15)"
- Page 12-13: CDRW Staff, "6.21.19 Delaware River Sojourn"  
Grant La Rouche, "Untitled (2)"  
Nicolas A. Tonelli, "Short Hike (9)"  
Nicolas A. Tonelli, "Luna Moth (1)"
- Page 17: Nicolas A. Tonelli, "Hemlock Run (6)"  
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CDRW Staff, "5.2.19 PDE Oyster Shell Bagging"  
Nicolas A. Tonelli, "Black-Eyed Susan"  
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- Page 22-23: Grant La Rouche, "Bartram's Garden Clean-Up"  
Nicolas A. Tonelli, "East Fork Martins Creek (2)"









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**Save the date for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Delaware River Watershed Forum:  
September 17-18, 2020  
in Philadelphia, PA**

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**Jeff Skelding**, Friends of the Upper Delaware River  
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**Rita Yelda**, Outreach & Communications Manager  
**Olivia Le Warn**, Outreach Coordinator



**Coalition for the  
Delaware River  
Watershed**

The mission of the Coalition is to unite organizations and enhance their capacity to effectively advocate for protecting and restoring the Delaware River Basin by coordinating communications, messages, and actions, and fostering accountability for success at the federal, state, and local levels.

[DelRiverWatershed.org](http://DelRiverWatershed.org)