

2021 Pennsylvania Statewide Conference for Watershed Organizations - Overview Schedule

Day	Activity	Time Frame	A-Organizational Capacity	B-Aquatic Monitoring & Data Use	C. Watershed Resources & Programs	D -Watershed Policy & Strategies
Day 1 -November 07, 2021	Arrival - Registration	11:00 am - 5:00 pm				
	Exhibitor Set-Up	11:00 am - 2:00 pm				
	Opening Plenary - Telling 'My Watershed Story': An Innovative Way to Make Meaningful Connections Presented by Bethany Wiggon, University of Pennsylvania	1:00 pm - 2:15 pm	This interactive session will explore the power of storytelling using personal and community reflections, experiences, senses, and impacts to connect and build support for your organization's message and calls to action. Our presenter's experiences developing and implementing the My Climate Story project, which includes resource for exploring how diverse individuals are making meaning of changes more typically measured in complex quantitative measures, will be shared to encourage you to consider how asking your existing and potential stakeholders, volunteers, and partners what they are sensing, experiencing, and feeling, can be an effective way to learn more about what they care about, connecting them with your mission, and engaging them in your activities. This Plenary session will bring together both in-person and virtual audiences to get excited and motivated to learn, to explore a new approach to connect people to your watershed work, and to share your challenges and successes.			
	Beverage Break	2:15 pm - 2:45 pm				
	Concurrent Session #1	2:45 pm - 3:30 pm	Stewarding Impact: 3 Steps to Increase Engagement in Your Watershed Kimberlie Gridley, Founder, Earth Integration	Cool Things You Might Not Know about Fresh Water Mussels and Their Recovery in PA Eric Chapman, Director of Aquatic Science, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	Reforestation of Shallow Brook School: A Case Study in Grassroots Engagement Jodi Sulpizio, Penn State Extension	Source Water Protection: What is it and how can YOU get involved? Laura Blood-Source Water Supervisor, MAWC
	Concurrent Session #2	3:45 pm - 4:30 pm	New Frontiers for Fundraising: How Watershed Groups Can Engage Businesses and Unlock New Donors Marshal Carper, Founder, Carper Creative	Winter Salt Watch Monitoring Program Kira Carney, Izaak Walton League And Kevin Roth, Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust	Coming Together to Take Faithful Action to Heal our Environment Katie Ruth, Outreach Coordinator, Interfaith Chesapeake and David Heyn-Menendez, Executive Director, PA Interfaith POWR and Light	Meaningful Relationships and Engagement with Local Government in PA Tali MacArthur, Program Manager and Susan Myerov, Program Director, PEC/POWR
	One-on-one Mentoring	4:40 pm - 5:10 pm	Individual meetings to discuss specific issues with volunteer mentors from a variety of organizations			
	Dinner Reception	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Dinner, networking and a screening of an award winning short film about river conservation, education, and recreation and about sharing memories.			
Day 2 - November 08, 2021	Registration -	7:00 am to Noon				
	Breakfast Roundtables	7:15 am -8:05 am	Informal gently facilitated conversations about specific topics over coffee/tea and breakfast.			
	Welcoming Remarks	8:15 am - 8:40 am	Welcome: Davitt Woodwell, President PEC; Land Acknowledgement: Katelyn Lucas, Delaware Nation Historic Preservation Assistant; Secretaries of DCNR and DEP, Invited			
	Introduction of Keynote	8:40 am to 8:45 am	Tali MacArthur, Program Manager Watershed Outreach, PEC/POWR			
	Keynote Plenary: Urgency & Agency in the Battle to Avert a Climate Crisis Presented by Professor Michael Mann, The Pennsylvania State University	8:45 am - 10:00 am	Human-caused climate change is arguably the greatest threat we face as a civilization. Efforts to attack and deny the scientific evidence have constituted a major impediment to action over the past two decades. At a time when we appear to be moving past outright denial of the problem, we face a multi-pronged strategy by polluting interests to distract, deflect, attack, and divide the climate activist community. This involves, among other things, (a) efforts to deflect attention from systemic change and regulatory policy solutions to personal behavior, (b) doomist framing that disempowers us by exaggerating the threat in such a way as to make catastrophic changes now seem unavoidable, and (c) the promotion of false solutions that seek to enable the continued burning of fossil fuels that is at the very root of the problem. It is important to recognize while there is great urgency in acting, there is also agency. There is still time to for us to avert the worst impacts of climate change if we act now and we act boldly. I will discuss what we can do to fight back, emphasizing the importance of both urgency AND agency in efforts to save our planet.			
	Beverage Break	10:00 am - 10:30 am				
	Concurrent Session #3	10:30 am - 11:15 am	Environmental Justice, Equity, and Inclusion: Lessons Learned from an Urban Community Gardening Program Raqueeb Bey, Founder and Executive Director of BUGS Pittsburgh	Early Detection, rapid response, and mapping and tracking invasive species in PA Mary Walsh, Aquatic Zoology Coordinator, WPC and Sara Stahlman, Extension Leader, SeaGrant	Exploring the Role of Watershed Organizations in Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) Tamara E. Peffer, Environment & Ecology Content Advisor, PADEP	Federal Clean Water Act - Updates and Implications for PA Colleen Walters, River Network and Renee Reber Penn Future
	Concurrent Session #4	11:30 am - 12:15 pm		Monitoring Streams with Visual Assessment Danielle Rhea, Extension Educator, Penn State	Taking Stock of Big Picture, Strategic Priorities for Watershed Restoration Matt Ehrhart, Director Watershed Restoration Program, Stroud Water Research Center	RGGI Update and Roles for Watershed Organizations John Waliser, PEC
	LUNCH	12:15 pm - 1:30 pm				
	Concurrent Session #5	1:30 pm - 2:15 pm	Leadership Development for Meaningful Engagement Hannah Mico, Manager - River Network	Enhancing the Credibility of your Water Quality Monitoring Program Julie Vastine, Executive Director, ALLARM	Maximizing Small-Scale River Restoration Efforts with Dam Removal and Floodplain Restoration Eileen Shader and Jessie Thomas-Blate, Directors of River Restoration, American Rivers	What Drives and Motivates Regulatory Approaches to Managing Trash in Rivers and Streams Jen Adkins, Director, Clean Water Supply, And Sean Jackson, Clean Water Supply Associate, American Rivers
Concurrent Session #6	2:30 pm - 3:15 pm	Using Metrics and Annual Reports to Communicate Successes and Impact Panel Discussion led by Tali MacArthur, POWR	TBD: Art and Conservation	Rethinking Watershed Organization Workflows Panel Moderator: Lori K. Yeich Recreation and Conservation Manager, PADCNR	Introduction to MS4 Program Andy Yench, PSU Extension, Sue Myerov, PEC	
Conference Wrap-Up	3:15 pm- 3:45 pm	A concluding activity to wrap up another great conference.				

Color Key	
Set up, Registration Activities	
Breaks/Food	
Special Events	
Concurrent Session	

Wyndham Garden Hotel - 310 Elks Club Road Boalsburg, PA 16827