



Kristen Saacke Blunk

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HEADWATERS LLC GOOD WORK FLOWS DOWNSTREAM

Areas of Expertise

Watershed restoration and management, agriculture and pollution prevention, stream (riparian) condition and watershed assessment, best management practice (BMP) evaluation, selection, and monitoring, environmental markets, Delaware River Basin and Chesapeake Bay initiatives, Mid-Atlantic geography, ecosystems services, environmental priorities and policy development. Strategic development, priority evaluation, team building and team-based approaches as well as project and proposal facilitation, development, review, selection and management.

Education

Virginia Tech, Bachelors of Science, Biology, 1984

Penn State, Masters of Forest Resources, Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences. Thesis: *Integrating response variables to evaluate the aquatic condition for the Spring Creek Watershed, Centre County, Pennsylvania*

Professional Experience

Headwaters LLC Principal and Field Liaison, Richmond, VA and State College, PA (9/12 to present) focusing on project development, assessment and support for watershed restoration both working lands and urban landscapes, largely in support of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Chesapeake Bay Stewardship and Delaware River Restoration funds. Currently facilitating development of VEE's James River Water Quality Improvement Program's strategic investment plan. Also facilitated development of business plans for NFWF in both the Delaware basin and the Western Pennsylvania geographies through collaboration with regional and national conservation partners.

Penn State Director, Senior Extension Associate, Director. Penn State Agriculture and Environment Center, Cooperative Extension. The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA (1/08 – 9/12). Developed outreach and partnerships with state-regional-federal agencies-, university researchers and educators, nongovernmental organizations, local government, and citizens to increase science delivery to policy decision makers and others relevant to environmental problems stemming from working lands. Developed university-wide initiatives for improving air and water quality outreach and integration of research and best practices, delivering tools to conservation practitioners, producers, and other land managers.

Prior at Penn State: Extension Associate, Nutrient and Water Policy Program, Cooperative Extension, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA (6/06

to 1/08) Conducted extension program on policy issues related to agriculture and the environment including programs related to environmental markets, ecosystems services, and emerging issues and regulations.

Prior at Penn State: Research Assistant, Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center, University Park, Pennsylvania (1/01-5/05) Developed an integrated assessment of ecological condition of the Spring Creek Watershed utilizing biological-, chemical-, and physical indicators of health. Integration model was utilized in subsequent regional projects including the Atlantic Slope Consortium.

Other Relevant Experience

Environmental Consultant, Stormwater and floodplain protection projects, OPP, CCHS, Centre Co Planning Office, Centre County, PA (1999 – 2001).

Program Developer and Coordinator. Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, State College, PA (1/99-9/99) Developed programs and facilities for the Centre Region Council of Government's Park and Recreation.

Executive Director (initially served as Coordinator). Clearwater Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania and Spring Creek Watershed Community, State College, Pennsylvania (8/94-12/98).

Program Manager. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Awareness, Department of Conservation and Environment, Nashville, TN (7/93-7/94). Managed the start-up of Tennessee's first pollution prevention initiatives targeting businesses and industries in source control.

Project Biologist, EMPE Inc. Consulting Engineers and Environmental Scientists, Nashville, TN (1/86-7/93) Developed and managed biological monitoring program for NPDES permit requirements

Environmental Planner, Central Virginia Planning District Commission, Lynchburg, VA (9/84 – 1/86)

Partial Listing of Publications

Kleinman, P., Saacke Blunk, K., Bryant, R.B., Saporito, L.S., Beegle, D., Czymmek, K., Ketterings, Q., Sims, T., Shortle, J., Mcgrath, J., Coale, F., Dubin, M., Dostie, D., Maguire, R., Meinen, R., Allen, A., O'Neill, K., Garber, L., Davis, M., Clark, B., Sellner, K., Smith, M.C. 2012. [Managing manure for sustainable livestock production in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#). Journal of Soil and Water Conservation. 67:54A- 61A. DOI: 10.2489/jswc.67.2.54A.

Saacke Blunk, K; Franklin, N. & Shortle, J. 2010 Pennsylvania and Green Infrastructure: Existing and Gaps, *The Speakers Journal on Pennsylvania Policy: Building for the Future – Strengthening Pennsylvania's Critical Infrastructures*, 9: 103-118

Abdalla, C., J. Drohan, J. Becker, and K. Saacke Blunk, 2008. Access and allocation of water resources in Pennsylvania. Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension, College of Agricultural Sciences, Pennsylvania State University. pp.20.

<http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/ua445.pdf>

Abdalla, C., Borisova, T., Parker, D. and K. Saacke Blunk. Water Quality Credit Trading and Agriculture: Recognizing the Challenges and Policy Issues Ahead. *Choices*. Second Quarter, (June 2007). <http://www.choicesmagazine.org/>

Arrington, C. Abdalla, D. Beegle, R. Graves and K. Saacke Blunk. 2007. Nutrient budgets for Pennsylvania cropland: What do they reveal and how can they be used Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension, College of Agricultural Sciences, Pennsylvania State University. pp10

Saacke Blunk, K., T. Borisova, C. Abdalla and D. Parker. 2006. Primer on water quality credit training in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension, College of Agricultural Sciences, Pennsylvania State University. pp 6. <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/ua438.pdf>

Abdalla, C.W. and K. Saacke Blunk. Pennsylvania Local Government and Water Resources Management: 1991 and 2006. Center for Rural PA. pp 20. (May 2007). http://www.ruralpa.org/Local_Gov_Water_Resources.pdf

Brooks, R. P., and K. Saacke Blunk. 2000. *Riparia & Biodiversity. A teaching guide to the Riparia Biodiversity Poster*, Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center, University Park, PA. 8pp. Full color poster available

Professional Service and Affiliations

Member, Board of Directors, Sustainable Chesapeake, 2016-Present

Member, Administrative Council, Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, 2015 – Present

Participant (and past co-chair), Agriculture Workgroup, Water Quality Goal Implementation Team, Chesapeake Bay Program, 2010 – 2016.

Coordinating Committee, Delaware River Watershed Initiative, 2013 – Present

Participant, Stream Health Workgroup, Habitat Goal Implementation Team, Chesapeake Bay Program, Beginning 2016.