



## **Member Brief Biographies (updated February 2022)**

### **DELAWARE**

#### **Brenna Goggin**

Growing up and working within both the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River Watersheds, Brenna has spent her career working to protect and improve water quality across the Mid-Atlantic region. Prior to joining River Network as the Mid-Atlantic Leadership Development Manager, Brenna spent over a decade educating various environmental nonprofit organizations on the importance of professional advocacy, best management practices for building an advocacy campaign, and how to utilize advocacy strategies for maximum results. As the former Director of Advocacy and External Affairs with Delaware Nature Society, Brenna advocated for access to clean drinking water, improved public access to open spaces, and funding to expand and maintain Delaware's natural areas. In addition to overseeing and implementing the organization's environmental advocacy efforts, she served as the primary voice of the organization to elected and appointed officials, reporters and other news media; served on statewide and regional Task Forces and Steering Committees; and trained individuals and organizations alike on effective grassroots advocacy practices. Brenna currently serves on the Chesapeake Executive Council's Citizen Advisory Council, providing advice to the leadership of the Chesapeake Bay Program partners on the progress, policies, and approaches to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers. Brenna received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Bridgewater College and a Master of Public Affairs (MPA) from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She enjoys hiking in our beautiful National Parks, gardening, playing Ultimate Frisbee, and hanging out with her husband and two Westies.

### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

#### **Xavier Brown**

Xavier Brown is a native of Washington, DC. Xavier is a graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and received his Master's of Science from the University of Vermont Grad School. Xavier is currently a fellow with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Leaders program and is the cofounder of new worker owner cooperative called South Eats. Xavier operates at the boundaries of urban agriculture, environmental sustainability, and African Diasporic culture. His work intertwines sustainability with the issues and social justice issues that affect stressed communities from gun violence to mass incarceration to climate change. The guiding question is how the wisdom of nature and different ways of knowing can be used to dismantle these problems. Xavier views nature as a tool that can uplift and heal stressed communities.

#### **Chuck Herrick**

Retired in December 2016, Chuck has consulted extensively with a wide range of U.S. government agencies and water utility organizations, providing analytical input and strategic direction on issues including climate change adaptation, natural resource damage assessment, sustainable fisheries management, valuation of ecosystem services, and control of invasive species. A leading expert in program evaluation, he designed program theories of

change, logic models, and real-time evaluation frameworks to elucidate and characterize a wide variety of program delivery mechanisms, process outputs, outcomes, and impacts for major foundations and government agencies. Dr. Herrick is a seasoned executive with oversight experience across all corporate functions, including accounting and finance, human resources and benefits management, legal affairs, facilities management, business development, IT, administration and professional support services, contracts management, corporate communications, mergers and acquisitions, and risk management and audits. Throughout his career, Dr. Herrick has maintained an active association with academia, teaching regularly and publishing frequently in the peer reviewed literature. He is also active in non-profit board service.

#### **Julie Lawson- Chair**

Julie is an environmental professional and education advocate in Washington, DC. She is currently serving as the DOEE's liaison to the University of DC. recently served as Director of the Office of the Clean City under Mayor Muriel Bowser. Clean City develops interagency strategies and community engagement on issues of trash, rodents, pet waste, and civic stewardship. As the co-founder and former executive director of Trash Free Maryland, she spearheaded passage of legislation to ban polystyrene foam food packaging around the DC Metro area, and expand public space recycling and strengthen penalties for illegal dumping in Maryland. The Chesapeake Bay Trash Trawl project identified a severe problem with microplastics pollution in the Bay and supported passage of a strong ban on microbeads in personal care products in Maryland. As the former chair of the DC Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, she organized a citywide grassroots campaign to support passage of the Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act, the first law in the nation to require a fee for single-use shopping bags. She previously worked at the Anacostia Watershed Society and ran Communication Visual, a small marketing and design studio. Julie is also active in her community, serving as president of the PTA at Whittier Education Campus. She holds a bachelor's degree in linguistics from Haverford College. She lives in the Takoma neighborhood with her son, Owen.

#### **Bill Matuszeski**

Bill Matuszeski (BMAT) retired in 2001 after 33 years of Federal service in environmental programs, the last ten as Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program for EPA. Prior to that assignment, he worked at the Council on Environmental Quality, NOAA (where he was head of coastal zone management programs, Deputy Director of the National Ocean Service, and Executive Director of Marine Fisheries), and EPA as a deputy for water.

B-MAT, as he is known to all, was the 2001 recipient of the Lee Thomas Award, EPA's highest honor for distinguished public service. He also received the 2008 Sustained Achievement Award from the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, a consortium of national environmental science organizations. In 2015, he was chosen for the Environmental Leadership Award by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. B-Mat serves on the Board of the Hudson River Foundation and is Chair of the Environmental Committee for the Friends of the National Arboretum. He also writes about the Anacostia River for two local DC monthlies, the Hill Rag and East of the River.

### **MARYLAND**

#### **Andrew Der**

With a total of 30 years of experience working within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Andrew is currently principal of Andrew T. Der and Associates, LLC practicing in the water resources consulting industry regionally and nationally since 2013. Prior to that, Mr. Der was Director of Environmental Services for two civil engineering firms, and previously completed 18 years of service at the Maryland Department of the Environment leaving as a manager in the Wetlands and Waterways Program. His specialties include regulation, environmental assessment and watershed studies, advocacy, compliance, permitting, feasibility studies, nonpoint source pollutant management, wetland and stream mitigation, water quality monitoring, NEPA, NPDES, and TMDL. Mr. Der also teaches seminars, publishes industry-related and natural resources articles, a member of several industry and citizen advisory committees, recipient of numerous awards of recognition, and provides expert testimony.

#### **Verna Harrison**

Verna is principal of Verna Harrison Associates, LLC, a consulting and philanthropic advising firm, specializing in helping foundations and advocates achieve goals to provide clean water for all. Between 2003-2010, as the first Executive Director of The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment, she guided the establishment of the Foundation and managed the development and execution of its \$65 million grant making in the Chesapeake region. She was

co-founder and co-chair of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network. For the previous 20 years she served as Assistant Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, with responsibility for Maryland's Forest, Park and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Police, Maryland Environmental Trust, and Tidewater Administration. During that period, she had lead responsibility for state-wide coordination/implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Program for three MD Governors. Earlier in her career she was Assistant Legislative Officer for the Governor of Maryland, Legislative Officer of the Maryland Department of Transportation and staff of the Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

### **Kate Patton**

Kate Patton has been Executive Director of Lower Shore Land Trust since 2006. Prior to coming on as ED of LSLT, she owned and operated the Globe Theater, in Berlin, MD, for 17 years. Her experiences in the business community include serving as President of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the Worcester County Arts Council and she was instrumental in developing longstanding Berlin events, including the monthly Arts Night and the successful application for Berlin's designation as an Arts and Entertainment District. In 2002 she received the Governor's Award of Excellence for Small Business in the Arts. Kate's environmental background includes working with the citizen's group Clean Water Action after graduating from the University of Richmond in 1986.

### **Daphne Pee**

Daphne Pee is an environmental professional with 20 years of experience as a science communicator. With a B.S. in Marine Biology (University of Maryland) and a Masters of Environmental Management in Coastal Environmental Management (Duke University), she spent 13 years conducting water quality education and programming in a pretty traditional manner: provide information to the public and hope they do something. They usually don't. She is currently completing a Certificate in Applied Research in Communication at Johns Hopkins University with the goal of improving how environmental organizations foster behavior change and engage diverse audiences.

### **Abel Olivo**

Abel Olivo is the Executive Director of Defensores de la Cuenca, which translates to Watershed Defenders, a non-profit dedicated to engaging Latinos and Spanish-speakers in watershed-related issues and experiences. A community activist in Prince George's County, MD, Olivo uses his insights and perspectives as a former lobbyist & advocate and non-profit executive to bring resources to the Latino community. Olivo has extensive experience in developing and implementing policy and engagement campaigns to maximize reach, impact, and message. Prior to founding Defensores de la Cuenca, Olivo worked in the environmental non-profit sector engaging the Latino community, he was a stay-at-home dad for four years, and previous to that, he lobbied at the federal level and advocated in the highest levels of government on issues from large infrastructure projects and environmental impacts to banking and housing finance to education policy. Abel is very active in his community, teaching English as a Second Language at his church, serving as a member of the Cheverly Planning Board, a member of the Board of Directors for the Cheverly Swim and Racquet Club, and a member of the Board of Directors for Audubon Naturalist Society. He was recognized as a Regional Environmental Champion in 2020 at the Naturally Latino Conference for his outstanding work to engage the Latino and Spanish-speaking communities in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. The son of migrant farm workers and the first in his family to graduate from college, Olivo earned his BA in Political Science from The Ohio State University and is a proud Buckeye. He now lives in Prince George's County, with his spouse Aimee, and their two sons.

### **Charlie Stek**

Charlie served for 28 years as project director and policy advisor for Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD), Rep. Clarence Long (D-MD) and assisting Senator Ben Cardin's transition to the U.S. Senate. In those capacities he played a role in shaping numerous federal environmental, transportation and public works statutes; bringing federal assistance to the State of Maryland and its local governments; and enacting many bills to advance the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Charlie played a key role in winning Administration and Congressional support for the \$700 million Poplar Island restoration project – the largest habitat restoration project ever undertaken in the Chesapeake Bay. He retired from the Senate in 2007 and established his own consulting business – Environmental Stewardship Strategies – and serves as an advisor on policy for numerous organizations. He was awarded a NOAA Environmental Education award in 2009, the Captain John Smith Explorer Award by the Chesapeake Bay Commission and The Conservation Fund in 2007, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Environmental Leadership Award in 2007, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Conservationist of the Year in 2004, and numerous other awards and recognitions.

## **NEW YORK**

### **Mike Lovegreen**

Mike is currently the Stream Team Leader for the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC), which is a coalition of 20 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in NY and Conservation Districts in PA. The USC shares resources, technical, financial and informational, between members resulting in increased capacity and implementation accomplishments. Mike was instrumental in the USC's formation in 1996. Mike served as the Manager of the Bradford County Conservation District for 35 years. Mike has also served as the chair of the PA DER Hydromodification advisory committee for Section 319, President of the PA Lakes Management Society, PA Leadership Development Coordinator for the PA State Conservation Commission, Keystone Stream Team founding advisory board member, PA Volunteer Monitoring Program Advisory Board member, PA Dirt and Gravel Roads Policy and Planning Committee and numerous other state, regional and local boards and advisory committees. Mike has been active in the Chesapeake Bay Program in PA since its beginning in the state as well as helping to establish the program in NY. Mike is currently on the CBP Stream Health Workgroup and focuses much of his current efforts on training and providing technical capacity building for member USC Districts.

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### **John Dawes**

John is the Administrator for the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds. Grants from this foundation have resulted in the restoration of over 900 miles of rivers and streams in the Commonwealth. He served as an alternate Commissioner on Governor Ridge's 21st Century Commission on the Environment and was part of a policy team for the Heinz Endowments Environmental Program. He serves as Board Chair of the Environmental Integrity Project, which has done well respected work on data sets which apply to actual outcomes of Bay restoration. John was Chairman of the PA Abandoned Mine Lands Campaign which was successful in getting the industry-supported funds reauthorized in Congress in 2006. John is an Angus breeder on his Huntingdon County farm. John is the former Chair of CAC.

### **Matt Ehrhart**

Matt is the Director of Watershed Restoration at the Stroud Water Research Center. He manages Stroud's multi-state restoration program, advises numerous funders and their grantees on restoration efforts, and provides training for conservation professionals and volunteers on restoration initiatives throughout the region. Prior to moving to Stroud in January, 2013, Matt served as the Executive Director for the Pennsylvania office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) for over a decade. He currently serves as Past President for the Penn State College of Agriculture Ag Council and on the Steering Committee for the PA in the Balance Initiative to improve PA's efforts on Chesapeake Bay restoration. Matt received his undergraduate degree in Environmental Resource Management and his Master of Engineering in Engineering Science from the Pennsylvania State University.

### **Bill Fink**

Bill Fink is the Environmental Management Specialist for the Clemens Food Group and Country View Family Farms. Before joining CFG / CVFF, William has worked as an agricultural environmental consultant and prior to that as the Chesapeake Bay Technician at the Fulton County Conservation District. William serves on various state and nation committees related to agricultural environmental stewardship.

## **VIRGINIA**

### **Donna Harris-Aikins**

Donna Harris-Aikens was born and raised in the Commonwealth of Virginia, enjoying the outdoors and the waterways. She currently works in the federal government, and previously served as Senior Director for Education Policy and Practice at the National Education Association where she advocated for students, educators, and working families to support equity and excellence in education, including advocacy for No Child Left Inside to support environmental education. Prior to joining NEA, she served in leadership roles for the Service Employees International Union and Advance CTE, and was an attorney in an

education boutique law firm. Born in Hampton, VA and raised in Gloucester, VA, Harris-Aikens is an alumna of James Madison University and Howard University School of Law. She resides in Northern Virginia with her husband and their two kids.

### **Ann Jurczyk – Vice Chair**

Ann Jurczyk is the Virginia Director of Outreach and Advocacy for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). Her responsibilities include educating and engaging citizens for CBF's Save the Bay efforts and advocating for water quality legislation in the Virginia General Assembly. Prior to joining CBF fulltime in 2010, Ann served as the organization's Clean Water Campaign Organizer, rallying citizen support for clean water legislation pending in the U.S. Congress. She also is a graduate of CBF's Volunteers as Chesapeake Stewards program and, as a volunteer, headed a successful effort to fund and implement a living shoreline project that now protects 400 feet of the James River shoreline in James City County, Va. Since joining CBF full time, she has completed many restoration projects, including designing and implementing buffers, vegetated swales, community gardens and rain gardens. Earlier, Ann spent more than twenty years as a marketing executive for an international software firm before shifting her focus toward "marketing the environment." She holds degrees in landscape horticulture and English from North Carolina State University and lives with her family in Fredericksburg.

### **Anna Killius**

Anna is the Policy Analyst for the James River Association, a conservation organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the James River and the 15,000 miles of tributaries that flow throughout its 10,000 square mile watershed. Selected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 2014 as one of ten fellows to work on Capitol Hill, she joined the office of Congressman Carol Shea-Porter of New Hampshire to support her work on the House Natural Resources Committee. Anna went on to serve as legislative counsel for Congressman John Sarbanes of Maryland, advancing his leadership as co-chair of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Caucus. She holds a juris doctor degree from William and Mary Law School, where she was a member of the first class of the Virginia Coastal Policy Center.

### **Esi Langston**

Esi is the Environmental Sustainability Manager for the City of Norfolk, a coastal city in Virginia with close to 250,000 residents. A resident of Norfolk for over 6 years, Esi is excited to push the City to further commit to meaningful and equitable action around climate change. Esi has over 10 years of experience in the sustainability space. She started her career as a green building consultant in Washington DC before moving on to internally implementing corporate sustainability programs in industries like food and beverage, hospitality, transportation and live music events.

Before starting her role at the City in January 2020, Esi led the sustainability program at a Fortune 250 company where she focused on employee engagement and increasing operational transparency through climate risk disclosures. She also served as the Chair of the Sustainability Task Force for the national industry trade group. Esi holds two degrees from Duke University: a Masters in Economics and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science. Esi has served on many environmental boards in Virginia.

### **Joe Maroon**

Joe is the Executive Director of the Virginia Environmental Endowment, a position he has held since 2013. VEE is a philanthropic foundation based in Richmond that makes grants to improve the environment. Until recently, he also taught graduate courses in environmental policy and Chesapeake Bay issues at the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech. He has over 35 years of experience in Chesapeake Bay and natural resources leadership. Joe previously served as the State Agency Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for eight years during which time he also served on the Bay Principals Staff Committee. He also was the first Virginia Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and had his own environmental consulting practice. He has helped to pass or implement a number of environmental and conservation initiatives. Joe has received several awards including being named outstanding environmental leader in Virginia in 2000. In 2010, the Virginia General Assembly passed a resolution commending him for his years of service. In 2018, Joe was inducted into the National Association of Conservation Districts Hall of Fame in recognition of his career and service.

**BeKura Shabazz**

Hampton Roads native and mother to 4 biological children plus 4. BeKura W. Shabazz has over 2 decades of dirtroots advocacy and activism in the areas of criminal injustice, policy, environmental injustice, child welfare reform, housing and economic injustice work. She previously served as State lead for federal legislation on climate change and sea level rise with the Virginia Conservation Network. Since leaving that role she has been vigorously fighting against oppressive and systemic nonprofit culture against African Americans alongside all of her other areas of interest. She is currently the Social Justice and Health Disparities committee chairwoman of the Va. Green New Deal, Chesterfield NAACP Criminal Justice committee chair, Internal Policy Committee of the Va Environmental Justice Collaborative and Board Member, an Advisory Board member of the Virginia Human Rights Network and just recently expanded her advocacy to the state of Maryland by becoming the Legal Empowerment Director of Life After Release. Ms. Shabazz is the Founder and President of First Alliance Consulting LLC, The Criminal Injustice Reform Network and Mothers Against Mandatory Minimums. She is also a certified mediator, conflict resolution specialist and provides legal advocacy services for legally underrepresented community members.

**Dana Wiggins**

Dana Wiggins received a B.S. in Integrated Science and Technology from James Madison University with an emphasis on environment and biotechnology policy. She served in the US Peace Corps in West Africa addressing health and environmental issues through outreach and education. She worked for the Conservation Fund and eventually the Chesapeake Bay Foundation working on environmental policy initiatives through grassroots advocacy in Virginia. In 2007 She shifted to working on consumer advocacy in financial services around predatory lending with the Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC) at the state, local and national levels. As part of that effort, she coordinated the Virginia Partnership to Encourage Responsible Lending (VaPERL) coalition and began the predatory loan hotline, the first of several begun by the Center. She has assumed various roles at VPLC, including launching the organization's coordinated communications efforts and social media presence to help the public and policy makers better understand how public policies are formed and how they affect those living in poverty. In 2016, she began an effort to address the imbalance in Virginia's electric utility system, after seeing how utility obligations encouraged many to seek out predatory loans. Currently, Dana serves as the Director of Outreach and Consumer Advocacy at the Center and coordinates communication and education programs, the Affordable Clean Energy Project, and the Virginia Partnership to Encourage Responsible Lending (VaPERL) coalition. Through education, advocacy, and coalition work, she works to stop efforts to divide consumers from their hard-earned money. In her spare time, Dana spends time with her son and husband, is active with her faith community, and works on global-reaching humanitarian projects as part of a sister city community. She also serves as board chair for the Virginia League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, a non-profit organization that promotes voter registration and engagement.

**WEST VIRGINIA****David Lillard**

David Lillard lives in Jefferson County, West Virginia, where there is a thriving outdoor culture focused on the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. His favorite pastime is exploring the creeks and streams of the Potomac Highlands and the Ridge and Valley on foot or in the water. For five years, he was West Virginia Rivers Coalition's Potomac Headwaters field staff, coordinating advocacy and capacity-building in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. He also served WV Rivers' field staff in their role as state lead for the Choose Clean Water Coalition. He is on the board of directors of Conservation West Virginia, the Land Trust of the Eastern Panhandle and the Robert and Dee Leggett Foundation, and is a founder of the American Conservation Film Festival..