



Barnegat Bay Partnership
Science and Technology Advisory Committee (STAC)
Member Expertise FY2020

Ms. Alena Baldwin-Brown, NJDEP Division of Water Monitoring & Standards

Ms. Baldwin-Brown has worked for NJDEP for 32 years and currently serves as the Communications Manager as well as the Executive Assistant to the Director for NJDEP's Division of Water Monitoring & Standards. As such she oversees all communications activities of the Division (including implementation of the Barnegat Bay Restoration, Enhancement and Protection Strategy) as well as works with the Director on all aspects of division management and operations. She is also the Coordinator for the statewide NJ Water Monitoring Council. Her areas of expertise include scientific communication, information and data dissemination, strategic planning, outcome-based management, environmental policy development, and environmental indicators and trends. She holds a B.S. in Biology from Trenton State College (now TCNJ) and a M.S. in Management from Thomas Edison State University.

Ms. Linda J. Brennen, PP/AICP – Monmouth County Division of Planning

For over 25 years, Ms. Brennen has served as the Supervisor of Environmental & Sustainability Planning for the Monmouth County Division of Planning. Her areas of experience include Land Use Planning and Zoning; Coastal Resiliency and Climate Adaptation Planning; Agricultural Sustainability and Right-to-Farm issues; Water Quality, Wastewater and Stormwater Management Planning; Environmental Review; and Education and Outreach for Environmental and Sustainable Planning initiatives. Ms. Brennen participates in numerous regional and state-wide committees and partnerships and has served on several state rule drafting Technical Advisory committees. She previously worked for private consulting firms as both a Land Use and Environmental Planner. Ms. Brennen received her B.S. degree in Environmental Studies from Stockton State College and her MS in Physical Geography from Rutgers University. She is a licensed New Jersey Professional Planner and a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Mr. Rich Bushnell – ReClam The Bay

Rick is the volunteer founder of RCTB and in 2015 was honored as the Rutgers Volunteer of the Year. He was President of the LBI Foundation of the Arts and Sciences and serves as the Chair of the Science Committee. Rick is very active with a number of environmental organizations and NGO's. He founded and ran a consulting firm dealing in supply chain management. Rick is an avid sailor and is deeply interested in shellfish. He is a Rutgers Certified Shellfish Gardener and frequently lectures on shellfish and the various ecological benefits that they provide. As a citizen scientist he has studied shellfish aquaculture in various locations around the world. He encourages stewardship as he assists the public to become

involved in issues dealing with sustainability of the shellfish, the water quality that they improve and the shorelines that they frequently protect.

Mr. Charles Caruso – Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Mr. Caruso is a member of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of Issues Committee of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA), a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of the resources of the New Jersey Pinelands. He advises and comments on the legal, policy and management issues confronting the PPA. Previously, he was a patent attorney for 30 years with the pharmaceutical company Merck & Co., Inc. and has extensive experience in protecting and commercializing intellectual property, developing international laws and policies and managing legal affairs for pharmaceutical healthcare firms. He has specific expertise in patent litigation, licensing, legislation and government affairs. He has a B.S. in Chemistry from Fordham University, a M.S. Candidate in Chemical Oceanography/Environmental Chemistry from UNC at Chapel Hill, and a J.D. from Rutgers School of Law.

Mr. Michael Danko – New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium

Mr. Danko is the Assistant Director of the Extension Program and Marine Recreation Agent – Fishing and Boating for the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium. He has participated in numerous coastal zone management, fishery, sediment, water quality and bathymetry projects. He is interested and involved assisted with the design and implementation of numerous programs directed at reducing the impacts of recreational boating, including the development, funding and installation of vessel wash wastewater systems.

Mr. Keith Hanson – NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

Mr. Hanson is a disturbance ecologist who has been with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for approximately 5 years. During this time, he has worked to conserve and manage the nation's marine, estuarine, and anadromous fishery resources. Pursuant to the authorities of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act he routinely works to avoid and minimize impacts of coastal development projects on federally managed fish species, their habitats, and other aquatic resources under NMFS' purview. Prior to his work with NMFS, he worked to avoid, minimize, and monitor anthropogenic impacts to terrestrial and aquatic environments from oil, natural gas, and highway/roadway projects. He has a B.S. in Biology and M.S. in Environmental Studies.

Mr. Rob Karl – Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority

Mr. Karl works for the Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority, which provides drinking water to Brick Township, Point Pleasant Borough, Point Pleasant Beach Borough, and portions of Howell and Lakewood Townships; and sewer collection services to Brick Township. His areas of experience and expertise include water supply management, drinking water treatment, watershed management, stormwater, water quality monitoring, regulatory compliance, GIS, and hazardous materials.

Ms. Becky Laboy – Ocean County Soil Conservation District (Alternate)

Ms. Laboy works for the Ocean County Soil Conservation District, where she installs native plant demonstration gardens through the watershed and organizes, facilitates, and implements workshops on soil health issues. She also coordinates initiatives for soil health and

best landscape management practices throughout Ocean County. Ms. Laboy is also an instructor for the “Volunteer Master Naturalist” course at Ocean County College. She holds a BS in Biology and a MA in Education.

Dr. Elizabeth Lacey – Stockton University

Dr. Lacey is an Associate Professor of Marine Science at Stockton University. Her research is broadly interested in shallow benthic ecosystems and the services these habitats provide to nearshore water quality and commercially and recreationally important species throughout New Jersey coastal bays. In order to understand these ecosystems, plant-herbivore dynamics and the impacts of various stressors on each of the habitat components are considered (largely submerged aquatic vegetation beds and drift macroalgal fields). Dr. Lacey is responsible for the monitoring of essential fish habitat within Barnegat Bay and collaborates with local state and national agencies on developing larger scale monitoring and restoration strategies.

Ms. Amber Mallm – Monmouth County Division of Planning (Alternate)

Ms. Amber Mallm is an Environmental Specialist at the Monmouth County Division of Planning. Ms. Mallm is staff advisor to the Monmouth County Environmental Council as well as the Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee. Ms. Mallm conducts environmental education and outreach through the facilitation of bi-annual educational roundtable events, and the execution of the monthly Monmouth County Environmental Newsletter. Ms. Mallm also prepares Department of Housing and Urban Development Part 58 Environmental Reviews. She assists in planning of wastewater management, stormwater management, and coastal resiliency and climate adaptation. Prior to joining the Monmouth County Division of Planning, Ms. Mallm served as the AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador in the Monmouth Coastal Watersheds. Ms. Mallm holds a BS from Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Science in Environmental Policy Institutions and Behavior with a Minor in Sustainability.

Mr. Keith Marcoon – Ocean County Utilities Authority (Alternate)

Mr. Marcoon has worked for the Ocean County Utilities Authority for twelve years and currently serves as Executive Director. In this role he is responsible for general supervision and direction of the administrative, engineering, construction, and operational functions of the Authority, overseeing a staff of 265 employees. The Authority provides regional wastewater conveyance and treatment to over 620,000 persons in Ocean and southern Monmouth Counties. Mr. Marcoon also served as Director, Engineering and Construction for the Authority. His areas of experience include capital program management, civil/sanitary engineering design and construction, infrastructure funding, wastewater management planning, budgeting and rate forecasting, stormwater infrastructure, and groundwater resource management. Mr. Marcoon participates in various organizations including the Water Environment Federation, New Jersey Water Environment Association, and the Association of Environmental Authorities. He previously worked for private consulting firms as a Project Manager and Engineer in the water, wastewater, stormwater, environmental remediation, and site/civil engineering fields. Mr. Marcoon received his B.S. degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering from the University of Vermont and his M.S. degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering from Rutgers University. He is a licensed New Jersey Professional Civil Engineer.

Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan – Clean Ocean Action

Dr. Muthukrishnan serves as the Staff Scientist for Clean Ocean Action, NJ, where she leverages her scientific expertise to plan the direction of the science/policy research and advocacy issues on diverse and critical environmental issues of concern, both chronic and emerging. These include water quality and nonpoint source and stormwater runoff under the Rally for the Waterways, marine debris and microplastics research, monitoring, education and prevention to name a few. Prior to her tenure at Clean Ocean Action, Swarna was a postdoctoral research scientist (ORISE) at the Office of Research and Development in USEPA at Edison, NJ, where she worked on urban stormwater runoff management using BMPs; BMP maintenance; efficacies of various BMPs in pollutant attenuation. Swarna is the Joint inventor of NPXpress, an innovative and sustainable energy- and cost-efficient technology for nutrient removal in wastewater treatment systems (US8747671, US8012352B1) during her stint at American Water. She has also worked in determining the efficacy of drinking water disinfectants to help model microbial risk from main break events.

Ms. Victoria K. Pecchioli, PP - Ocean County Department of Planning

Ms. Pecchioli has worked for the Ocean County Department of Planning for about 25 years and currently serves as Principal Planner. Her areas of expertise include land use planning, stormwater and transportation. She has administered a number of grants involving the restoration of stormwater facilities. Ms. Pecchioli also administers the County's pumpout boat program. Ms. Pecchioli holds a B.S. degree in Landscape Architecture from the Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. She is a licensed New Jersey Professional Planner.

Ms. Christine Raabe – Ocean County Soil Conservation District

Ms. Raabe is the Director of the Ocean County Soil Conservation District, a post she has held since 2012. As Director she is responsible for the design, execution, and evaluation of numerous projects and programs for the District related to soil, natural resources, and stormwater education. She coordinates "*Discovering Barnegat Bay*," a comprehensive activity guide about the natural, cultural and historical resources of the watershed, as well as working with multiple local partners on educational initiatives. She has facilitated workshops throughout Ocean County related to natural resource education and soil health, and develops and organizes the annual Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable which attracts 100+ educators. Ms. Raabe holds a BS in Environmental Science for Rutgers University.

Dr. Ryan Rebozo – Pinelands Preservation Alliance (Alternate)

Dr. Rebozo is the Director of Conservation Science for the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. He brings scientific expertise to conduct research on important ecological and policy matters related to the New Jersey Pinelands, organizes community support and advocates before public agencies for the Pinelands. He has teaching experience in biology, botany and ecology at Princeton University, Philadelphia University and Drexel University. His research interest is in plant ecology and is the recipient of numerous awards and grants in ecology. He has a PhD in Environmental Science from Drexel University and a BS in Ecology and Natural Resources from Rutgers University.

Dr. Peter Rowe – NJ Sea Grant Consortium

The NJSGC mission is to promote the wise use of New Jersey's marine and coastal resources through research, education and outreach. Dr. Peter Rowe is the Associate Director of NJSGC and Director of its Research and Extension Programs. Dr. Rowe's interests are in coastal/estuarine ecology and the early life history of marine/estuarine fauna, in particular finfish and shellfish.

Mr. Will Ruocco – Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority (Alternate)

Mr. Ruocco serves as the Watershed Foreman at Brick Township MUA. His expertise includes water supply, watershed management, sampling methodology, and drone operations. He has a B.A. in Biology from Arcadia University and is currently enrolled in the Hydrology & Water Security graduate program at the University of Oklahoma.

Mr. Gregg Sakowicz – Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve

Mr. Sakowicz has expertise in environmental monitoring, (water) nutrient sampling and analysis, data management, project design, coordination and execution of field surveys (specifically marsh vegetation and SAV), and educational outreach. He has a B.S. from Eckerd College and an M.S. from Rutgers University.

Mr. Bob Schuster – NJDEP (Alternate)

Mr. Robert Shertenlieb - Ocean County Utilities Authority

Mr. Shertenlieb is the Senior Director of Operations and Maintenance for the Ocean County Utilities Authority. He has worked for the OCUA for 24 years in the operation of the treatment plants. He has been the Licensed Operator of Record for both the Northern and Central Water Pollution Control Facilities. In his current position he oversees the overall operation of the Laboratory, Industrial Pretreatment Program, NWPCF, CWPCF, and SWPCF. He also possesses both a S4 and C4 NJDEP license.

Ms. Barbara Spinweber – US Environmental Protection Agency

Ms. Spinweber is EPA Region 2's Barnegat Bay Program Coordinator, assisting in the implementation of the Clean Water Act National Estuary Program in the Barnegat Bay watershed. She is also Region 2's overall National Estuary Program coordinator. She has previous experience in EPA's wetlands, nonpoint source, Great Lakes, National Environmental Policy Act, and Urban Waters programs. She obtained a B.S. in Biology at Rutgers University with a minor in Natural Resource Management and a M.A. in Environmental Management from Montclair State University.

Mr. David Steinmann - US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (Alternate)

Mr. Rob Tunstead – US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service

Mr. Tunstead is a soil scientist with the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He is a co-leader on a special focus team for [Coastal Zone Soil Survey \(CZSS\)](#) and also the Hammonton Soil Survey Office leader. He has produced and published several subaqueous soil survey products through NRCS's [Web Soil Survey](#) and most notably Barnegat

Bay. As soil survey office leader he oversees soil survey production within the Major Land Resource Areas of 149A, 153C, and 153D (coastal plain of DE, MD, and NJ). He obtained a B.S. in Soil and Water Resources at the University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Jim Vasslides – Barnegat Bay Partnership

Dr. Vasslides's areas of expertise include field sampling for estuarine and riverine fish, ecosystem modelling, and data management and analysis. His research interests include the role of estuaries as nurseries, the restoration of shallow water habitats, the use of ecological models in management applications, citizen science, and climate change effects on aquatic species distributions and assemblages.

Ms. Christine Wieben – US Geological Survey

Ms. Wieben has been a hydrologist with the New Jersey Water Science Center for more than 15 years. Ms. Wieben has worked on a variety of water resource topics and has experience with water-quality sampling, analyzing water-quality data, data management, developing water budgets, and mapping the water table. Ms. Wieben is currently working primarily with pesticide data, estimating pesticide use on crops.

Dr. John Wnek – Save Barnegat Bay

Dr. John Wnek has a B.A. in Biology, a Masters in Teaching from Monmouth University, NJ, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from Drexel University, PA. He serves as Supervisor of Science and Research at the Ocean County Vocational Technical School's Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) and earned the 1998-1999 Ocean County Teacher of the Year Award. He was a member of the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Programs Citizen Advisory Committee from the inception of the Program in 1996, and serves on the boards and advisory committees of numerous other organizations including the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Program and serves as co-chairman of the mid-Atlantic Diamondback Terrapin Working Group. His research focus is on the nesting ecology of diamondback terrapins and essential habitat. He is also a research coordinator for the Save Barnegat Bay Student Grant Program where he coordinates a seasonal water quality team focusing on non-point sources throughout Barnegat Bay and its watershed.

Dr. Steven Yergeau – Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Dr. Yergeau is the Environmental & Resource Management Agent in Ocean & Atlantic Counties for Rutgers Cooperative Extension. He works with municipalities, farms, schools, residents, researchers, and non-profits developing programs and solutions to environmental issues affecting these coastal counties. He has been involved in watershed management throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regions over the past 20 years. His focus is on implementing sustainable practices that improve water quality and conserve water resources, especially practices that will improve the environmental and economic health of coastal bays and rivers.